NORTH AREA COMMITTEE
Date: 11 November 2013

PETITION TITLE – COUNCILLOR ISABEL HUNTER’S REVIEW OF THE SPEED HUMPS ON THE PRIOR ESTATE, BERWICK

Report of the Acting Head of Sustainable Transport, Ruth Bendell
Policy Board Member, Ian Swithenbank, StreetCare and Environment

Purpose of Report

To acknowledge the petition recently received by this Committee and outline possible options in relation to improving existing traffic calming measures.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The concerns of all Councillor Isabel Hunter and Prior Park Estate residents are noted. Resurfacing works are currently scheduled to take place on Dean Drive, because these works are programmed we will consult all residents of this street on the future of traffic calming measures. Similar consultation exercises will be undertaken when other streets in the estate are scheduled to be resurfaced.

Report Author

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BACKGROUND

1) Local residents have expressed concerns regarding the condition of the existing traffic calming measures at Dean Drive in Berwick, and have called them a nuisance, an inconvenience and suggest they are damaging vehicles. It has also been claimed that the measures are an easy target for vandalism. The local councillor for the area, Councillor Isabel Hunter has brought these to the attention of Council Officers by way of a petition.

2) It should be noted that these measures were some of the first to be implemented in the County and have severely deteriorated over recent years meaning that they are becoming increasingly expensive to maintain.

3) Dean Drive is included in the Council’s Local Transport Plan Programme for a resurfacing scheme. As part of this scheme, the existing traffic calming measures will have to be removed to allow this work to be done.

OPTIONS AND COMMENTS

4) Because resurfacing works are programmed, this is an ideal opportunity to canvas local opinion on what should happen to the traffic calming on Dean Drive. The following options are potentially available:-

- Replace existing traffic calming measures with new identical measures to correct current specifications.
- Replace existing build out features only to correct current specifications.
- Replace existing traffic calming measures with speed cushions only at same locations.
- Provide raised junctions where possible, however, given current budget constraints this may not be possible.
- Don’t replace any traffic calming measures. If this option is chosen, 20mph repeater signs would need to be provided in Dean Drive to ensure the 20mph speed limit is still legal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5) It is recommended that the consultation exercise is undertaken as soon as possible. However, because the traffic calming measures need to be removed to allow resurfacing works to take place, only residents of Dean Drive will be consulted at this stage. Other streets in the area will be consulted when further resurfacing works are programmed.

6) Given our knowledge of previous traffic calming schemes implemented across the County, the option of raised junctions is likely to prove to be an expensive solution, because of the aforementioned budget constraints, we won’t include this option in the consultation letter. Instead the options available will be: -

- Replace existing traffic calming measures with new identical measures to correct current specifications.
- Replace existing build out features only to correct current specifications.
- Replace existing traffic calming measures with speed cushions only at same locations.
- Don’t replace any traffic calming measures. If this option is chosen, 20mph repeater signs would need to be provided in Dean Drive to ensure to 20mph speed limit is still legal.

7) Similar consultation exercises to other residents of the Prior Park estate will be undertaken when further resurfacing schemes are programmed. However, in the meantime, the request for a review of the traffic calming measures on the Prior Park estate will be added to the County Council’s Directory of Requests Database for consideration in future works programmes.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy: 20mph Speed Limit Policy
Finance and value for money: Any works will be funded as part of the scheduled resurfacing scheme
Human Resources: Officer time will be required to investigate further.
Property: None
Equalities: None
Risk Assessment: Residential area, speeding traffic and associated visibility issues.
Crime & Disorder: None.
Customer Considerations: Motorists will be required to negotiate any new measures implemented
Sustainability: None.
Consultation: To be carried out as soon as possible to ascertain residents of Dean Drive’s preferred option on the future of Dean Drive’s traffic calming measures
Wards: Berwick West with Ord