



Northumberland

County Council

CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 11 MARCH 2019

PETITION - SPEEDING THROUGH ELLINGTON VILLAGE FROM A1068
ROUNABOUT TO WAYSIDE POINT DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Director of Local Services, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment & Local Services

Purpose of report

To respond to the petition received by the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council regarding residents concerns over constant speeding through Ellington Village from the A1068 roundabout along Front Street through Ellington Village onto Lynemouth Road to the Wayside Point Development.

Recommendations

It is recommended that officers will work with the local ward member and parish council to investigate and consider whether there is any opportunity to improve signage and road markings.

The Local Area Council should note that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit is not supported by officers, as in this location it is unlikely to be effective in slowing drivers down unless it were implemented in conjunction with additional physical traffic calming measures - and the use of physical measures is not supported by the petitioner.

Link to Corporate Plan

How - "We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone"

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Connecting - "We want you to have access to the things you need"

Key Issues

1. A petition has been received raising concerns about speeding and requesting the introduction of a 20mph limit.
2. Speed cushions were introduced at this location in 2002.
3. These speed cushions were removed in 2012 after complaints from residents.
4. The current traffic speeds are not high enough to warrant enforcement by the police.
5. For the 20mph limit to work effectively in this location further physical traffic calming measures would be required - however this approach does not have local support.

Background

On 10th December 2018 the County Council received a petition from Councillor Liz Dunn on behalf of the lead petitioner. The issue identified in the petition was that “residents are greatly concerned over constant speeding by vehicles through Ellington Village from the A1068 roundabout along Front Street onto Lynemouth Road to the Wayside Point Development”.

The petition was signed by 122 people and claims that the current speed limit of 30mph is not regularly adhered to. The petition asks that Northumberland County Council consider implementing a 20mph zone through the village. Those who have signed the petition believe that this would have a beneficial impact not only on road safety but also on other key areas of health and well being within the community. The petition claims that speeding traffic is a major social concern for residents.

In 2002 speed cushions were introduced in response to a fatal accident which occurred in 1997. Following numerous requests from residents and the County Councillor to consider the removal of the speed cushions they were removed in 2012 as part of a resurfacing scheme. The main concerns were that speed cushions were damaging vehicles resulting in costly repairs.

Following extensive consultation with residents and discussions with the ward member, Ellington and Linton Parish Council, and senior Council officers it was agreed that the speed cushions should be removed and replaced with two chicane features on Lynemouth Road. In addition red strips were provided across the full width of the road at the locations of the former speed cushions on Front Street, and two interactive signs were installed. These were funded by Cllr Douglas with maintenance costs borne by the Parish Council.

Northumbria Police records demonstrate that in the last three years, only one personal injury collision has occurred. Unfortunately this was a serious accident and was the result of a car travelling west on Front Street colliding with the rear of a parked car. Speeding was not found to be a contributory factor in this case. The driver of the parked car was leaning into the vehicle via the open driver’s door. From the resulting collision they were thrown into the air before coming to rest in the carriageway, sustaining injury.

The current speed limit is 30mph and the enforcement of any speed limit, as with all traffic movement offences, is the responsibility of the police. Issues of excessive vehicular speeds are regularly brought to the attention of the Council. Numerous speed surveys

have been carried out on Front Street and Lynemouth Road in recent years, and officers have met on site with Councillor Dunn and Ellington and Linton Parish Council on numerous occasions, including one meeting which involved the lead petitioner.

The most recent survey on Front Street was completed in August 2018, results were as follows:-

Direction of travel	Average Speed	85th Percentile	Highest recorded speed
Eastbound	26.8mph	30.6mph	36-41mph
Westbound	27.3mph	31.4mph	41-46mph

The most recent survey on Lynemouth Road was completed in May 2016, results were as follows:-

Direction of travel	Average Speed	85th Percentile	Highest recorded speed
Eastbound	23.7mph	32.6mph	46-51mph
Westbound	28mph	32.7mph	41-46mph

These results did not meet the criteria required by the Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative (NSRI) for consideration of additional enforcement measures because they fall just outside the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) limits.

With regard to ACPO limits NSRI can only enforce at sites where the 85th percentile is at or above ACPO limits, these limits are the Speed limit + 10% + 2mph. This means that for a 30mph speed limit surveys are only sent to NSRI for enforcement when the 85th percentile speed is at or above 35mph.

Officers are concerned that the introduction of a 20mph limit could lead to the road becoming more dangerous. We have had reports at other locations where drivers who are adhering to a 20mph speed limit on through routes such as this have been overtaken by impatient drivers.

The most successful way to encourage drivers to drive at reduced speeds in this type of location is arguably physical measures. It is worth remembering that issues of excessive speed have been reported more frequently since the removal of the speed cushions in 2012. It is understood that those who have signed the petition have also already indicated that they are against physical traffic calming measures.

The petition suggests that Vehicular Activated Signs or Speed Indicator Display Signs are considered. The County Council's current policy is that this type of sign would normally be funded by County Councillors or Town and Parish Councils. There is also a requirement

that the Town and Parish Council agrees to be responsible for the future maintenance costs of these signs.

It has been noted that the existing 30mph terminal signs (as shown in the image overleaf) which are mounted on a circular backing board are now outdated and will therefore be renewed to bring them in line with current standards.



Figure 1 - Image showing current outdated terminal signs at Ellington which will be renewed.

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	Any scheme could be funded through the LTP or through the Members' Local Improvement Scheme funding.
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None

Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	None
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Lynemouth

Background papers:

None

Report sign off

	initials
Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Director	PJ
Portfolio Holder(s)	GS

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