



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones
10 August 2020

Proposed Traffic Calming Measures - High Market, Ashington

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson - Environment & Local Services

Purpose of Report

To consider the introduction Traffic Calming Measures - High Market, Ashington due to road safety concerns.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Traffic Calming Measures are introduced on High Market Ashington

Link to Corporate Plan

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

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

Learning - "We want you to achieve and realise your potential"

Key Issues

1. Residents have raised safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists caused by speeding traffic on High Market.
2. The scheme is to be partly funded by Councillor Grimshaw, through her Members' Local Improvement Scheme allowance.

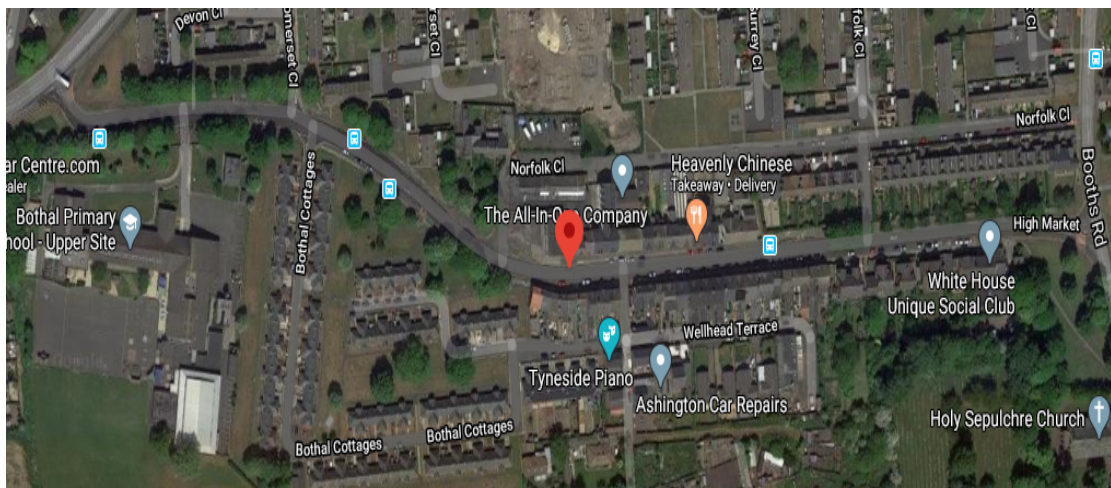
Delegated Decision

Background

Concerns have been raised by local residents and Councillor Grimshaw about excessive vehicular speed and road safety in the High Market area of Ashington.

Given the concerns raised, speed surveys were undertaken and these have provided evidence that vehicles are exceeding the current 20mph speed limit. As such, Councillor Grimshaw has requested that officers consult residents on the possible introduction of traffic calming measures. The measures under consideration are 75mm high three abreast speed cushions. In addition, we will be providing "raised crossings" at the existing toucan and zebra crossings. Details and results of the consultation are detailed below and in Appendix A and Appendix B.

The scheme proposed is anticipated to help reduce speeds in a busy area of Ashington. The area is also home to Bothal Primary School.



Satellite view of High Market



Heading east along High Market approaching Bothal Primary School

Consultation

A consultation letter was sent to 304 residents and 27 statutory consultees inviting comments on the viability of introducing Traffic Calming Measures on High Market Ashington. A copy of the consultation letter and plan are attached in Appendix A.

39 responses were received with 33 in favour 6 against the proposal. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.

The results of the consultation were discussed with Councillor Grimshaw, who agreed that the restrictions should be introduced.

The scheme is supported by Councillor Grimshaw and funded through her Members' Local Improvement Scheme allocation and LTP funds.

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Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Members Local Improvement allocation for Councillor Grimshaw and LTP 20/21 funds
Legal	None required
Procurement	
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	The scheme has been designed to minimise the road safety concerns that are caused excessive speeds of motor vehicles
Crime & Disorder	Traffic safety concerns i.e. speeding traffic
Customer Consideration	Scheme is anticipated to improve road safety for residents and road users in the area
Carbon reduction	Reduced speeds will contribute to carbon reduction
Wards	Bothal

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Background papers:

S:\Highways\PROJECT\19\HE Minor Improvements\HED19324 High Market,
Ashington Traffic Calming

Appendix Index

Appendix A - Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix B - Consultation Responses

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Terry Luck - Programme Officer**

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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services

Subject: Proposed Traffic Calming Measures on High Market Ashington

Consultation:

For:	33
Against:	6
Neutral:	0

Decision Taken: To introduce the Traffic Calming Measures as proposed

Signature of Director



pp Paul Jones

Date
21st August 2020

Appendix A - Consultation Letter

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[Dismiss](#)



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Highways Programme

Email:

highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 0345 600 6400

Date: 20/03/2020

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Proposed Traffic Calming Measures - High Market, Ashington

Concerns have been raised by local residents and Councillor Grimshaw about excessive vehicular speed and road safety in the above area of Ashington. Given the concerns raised, speed surveys were undertaken and these have provided evidence that vehicles are exceeding the current 20mph speed limit. As such, Councillor Grimshaw has requested that officers consult residents on the possible introduction of traffic calming measures. The measures under consideration are 75mm high three abreast speed cushions. In addition, we will be providing "raised crossings" at the existing toucan and zebra crossings. Proposals are shown in the attached plan.

It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation exercise and all comments received will be carefully considered. Comments are encouraged by email, responses should be sent to highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk marking the subject "Proposed Traffic Calming Measures - High Market, Ashington". For those who don't have access to emails, a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report to the Director of Local Services and Housing and may be available for public inspection.

The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is **Friday 1st May 2020**.

I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this matter as the decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents.

Yours sincerely,
Highways Programme Team

Consultation Plan



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Appendix B - Consultation Results

F O R T	A G A I N S E R	N E I T H E R	
			Other Relevant Comments
1			I agree with the traffic calming as I have been over took a few times on that stretch of road
1			Hello, I'm so happy to hear this news I'm for it 100% especially when we live a primary school too !!! Its an accident waiting to happen. I was cleaning my windows the other day and talking to my neighbour and we both had to jump in the doorway as a car went far to fast!!!! So hope it goes a head the sooner the better for me
1			Thank you for the letter explaining your plans for the traffic calming measures. They sound fantastic and I am looking forward to seeing them in action. Hopefully you get plenty more responses also in favour.
1			I fully support the measures proposed to slow down the traffic on High Market. Unfortunately there are many people who drive at a very high speed down this road, putting pedestrians and other drivers at risk. This include parents doing the school run and some day and night doing in excess (I estimate) of 50mph on occasion. I was overtaken very aggressively on this road a week or two back, although I was probably doing about 24 mph and I often have people driving right up behind me dangerously close. I would also ask that more is done to stop parking up to the school gates. There is a cycle lane for part of the distance that is full of cars. I also see people regularly driving up onto the pavements whilst children are walking past and parking right up to the pelican crossing in front of Bothal School, and right up to the junction. It's only a matter of time before a child is injured. My only concern is for emergency vehicles. Fire engines use this as a route into Ashington, and we get more than our fair share of emergency ambulances, especially calling into Bothal cottages. I hope that the effect on these services isn't too great.
	1		Ref the proposed scheme I feel it is out of proportion in relation to a relatively small problem.I drive or walk along High Market almost every day.With some rare exceptions most vehicles are driven responsibly per the prevailing traffic situation.The central section usually has cars parked on both sides of the road which slow the traffic as it has an effect on two way traffic/vehicles passing.The volume of traffic,except when the Middle School is opening/closing for a short period morning/afternoon on weekdays,is very light. I am not aware of any accidents. Put the money to better use in a more deserving location.
1			These are excellent and much needed measures. The area between the White House Social Club and Bothal School is a race track even at 06.45 in the morning!!! People use the area as a rat run to avoid the KFC and ALDI, and assume that the area is people/car free....it is not!!!

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1		<p>Thank you for consulting Arriva on the above proposals.</p> <p>Arriva fully supports any initiative to improve road safety including management of speed.</p> <p>In most cases on bus routes we would prefer to see chicanes rather than vertical traffic management measures as these give less discomfort to drivers and bus customers. Where this is not an option speed cushions are preferred to speed tables or ramps. We would look for these be not higher than the 75mm proposed and an approach gradient of no more than 1:15.</p>
		<p>As of the above about vehicles drive to fast we at wellhead court wellhead terrace have asked for years about getting the road sorted out and there could do with speed bumps fitted where I have marked aswell Phillip's plumbing van drivers speed very fast down this lane and leave hell of a mess it unfair we get fobbed off as you lot say you have no money to spend on doing anything on the road but have money to fit speed bump I will be getting into Lynne Grimshaw on Monday about this</p>
		<p>I think an 'access only' should be put in place. The amount of cars, etc that use High Market as a 'through road' and speed is ridiculous. That is what the bypass road is for. The sooner something is done to stop the speeding up High Market the better. I have grandchildren that live on High Market and cross over the road to visit me in Somerset Close. I would hate to think that they would be hit by a speeding car if nothing is done.</p>
1		no comments
1		Ill judged parking outside White House club & on 1st Row side & electricity house next to club.
1		no comments
1		no comments
1		very pleased with the proposals as lots of traffic with Bothal School being on High Market. At peak times very scary to cross the road when not a designated crossing.
1		<p>About time something like this was done. We have lived up here for 11 years now and all of a sudden the amount of traffic speeding down High Market is getting worse. I'm sure if the police target cars coming down High Market they would get loads of speeding fines. The 20 miles an hour has made no difference, so yes speed bumps is a definite.</p>
1		no comments
1		In total support Bear in mind the adjacent school and the number of children. Elderly residents with inpaired mobility and a busy dental practise.
1		no comments
1		I have nearly been hit by a speeding vehicle
1		I lived in High Market since 1976 and this is the sort of things we need, the only safe drivers are bus drivers. 20 mph is a joke, what you need is cameras, over 20mph flash and fined hit them in the (pocket)
1		good idea
1		Could a light up speed-alert also be considered
1		no comments
1		no comments

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1		We in High Market definatley need these traffic calming measures as there is no regard for the 20 mph speed limit. I have lived here for 29 years and the speeding problem is getting worse. My property is on the front of High Market directly facing the road and I am waiting ploughing through my front room. There will be a serious accident one day as some are using High Market as a race track with speeds of 80 mph+ at the most. There is a junction leading to the back of High Market to Wellhead Terrace, and it is very risky pulling out onto High Market as parked cars block your view and cars being driven well above the speed limit are just an accident waiting to happen, in fact there has been an accident there in the past. I do hope these traffic calming measures are enforced as we do need them especially as there is a school with children and the elderly needing to cross the road as it is no longer safe.
1		no comments
	1	Does the council not realise that people who speed will do so regardless. These measures have been implemented along Park Road & Wansbeck Road and have made no difference. Another waste of taxpayers money. Why don't you try cleaning some of the rubbish littering the streets, roadsides and woodlands !!!
1		On school mornings it is difficult to cross the road. Cars parked both side dropping off & taking children into school. I go to Aldi most mornings & find it difficult to get over & back safely.
1		no comments
1		no comments
1		1. Traffic signs i.e 20mph to be made bigger (i.e 2ft around) 2. Speed limit signs to be displayed so they can be seen.
1		1. If the majority of High Market residents are in favour. then so am I 2. All over Ashington drivers park over parking cushions and on the white clearway lines and nothing is ever done about those illegally parked vehicles. It is hardly worth spending public money on parking cushions if you are not bothering to challenge offenders. 3. I do believe that speeding drivers need to be prosecuted by the speeding camera van. It is the only way that those who are not conforming to the rules can be made to keep their speed down. 4. Mark the 20mph on the road surface in white paint like 20 as they have done in very many other areas. 5. Put street signs that show you what speed they are travelling at in Red - for over the speed limit and Green - when you are at the correct speed. Your service has done this in other areas, so why not in High Market
	1	I am disgusted at this proposal. For years now we at Wellhead Terrace have asked for this road to be done. Its disgusting how many times other roads have been done. Most of us are old or disabled and we don't seem to matter even though we pay like everyone else. This road is so bad we can't even walk on it or use my wheelchair as nowhere is even enough to do so. Car is the only way out and the potholes are so bad they damage the cars. I have only been asking for 6yrs but other residents tell me they have asked a lot longer than that. DO WE NOT MATTER because it is just a small road and only the old and disabled live here. As for Lynn Grimshaw it doesn't matter how many times I contact her I get no reply. I wait for your reply.

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1		First of all we would like to say that we very much appreciate Councillor Grimshaw for taking up this very stressful issue. it seems to us that since the 20 mph speed limit was set up it has energised some drivers to see just how fast they can go without actually knocking someone down or an even worse outcome. It is quite a busy area for children going to and from the two schools in the area and quite a number of elderly people also live in High Market. From the beginning we had thought that it would have been helpful for the Speed Limit sign to be bigger than it is. We would support all of the proposed measures. We look forward to learning about the outcome of the consultation.
1		A one way system through Bothal Cottages
1		no comments
1		My husband and I are in agreement with the proposed traffic calming measures. These will improve safety, particularly for vulnerable people. My husband has poor eyesight and I have mobility problems. There are children walking the High Market to access local schools.
1		These type of speed bumps can cause damage to cars which can be expensive to repair. I suggest more to be done on Morpeth Road to slow traffic coming into Ashington. And more police patrols in the High Market area during peak times, especially between 3-4pm when the local primary school are ending their day. Horrendous congestion, illegal parking, inconsiderate parking etc. On a Sunday or weekend you can hear motorbikes roaring up and down the Morpeth Road between Ashington and Pegswood. I think more should be done here first and perhaps this could prevent speeding down High Market as a consequence.
1		1. speed bumps cause damage to wheel alignment and shock absorbers, negatively impacting car stopping distances. 2. Speed bumps cause cars to speed up and slow down which can cause difficulties to judge when it is safe to cross. 3. Speed bumps cause additional pollution from the additional speeding up and braking. 4. Additional noise pollution would be an issue as bumps are positioned relatively close to bedroom windows. Enforcement of the existing speed limit by cameras/speed guns would be more beneficial. Chicanes would be a better option for traffic calming as this can prevent speeding along with narrowing the road for ease of crossing for pedestrians.
1		I have read your proposals and I agree something has to be done about the speeding but I don't know if all those bumps will help as we have buses through High Market, will it hinder them, or prevent them which would cut us off. Why not use cameras? Having lived here for 35 years I've witnessed quite a bit of reckless driving. Only last week a car refused to stop when I had walked onto the pedestrian crossing. Luckily I stepped back. I watched what happens as cars come off Station Road, past Holy Sepulchre Church, instead of going straight on they turn left into High Market, but they go right through it using it 'a short cut' not to gain access to houses, ridiculous. So they ignore 20 miles an hour as they already have their foot down around that corner. One thing drivers hate, is being told what to do, the 'nobody can stop me' drivers, but start fining them, hit them in the pocket, they'll slow down. You are more of an expert than me, but I didn't tick yes to 'bumps' as I'd prefer cameras, that's all.
1		I've been talking to a lot of my neighbours and we can't wait for these speed bumps to be up and running, there was nearly a crash yesterday morning my god the speed they were going was disgusting!!!
3		
3	6	0 TOTALS