



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

Proposed Traffic Calming Measures, Woodhorn Road, Ashington

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

6 January 2023

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed traffic calming measures on Woodhorn Road, Ashington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed traffic calming scheme for Woodhorn Road, Ashington is introduced as proposed.

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 concerned about the speed of traffic on Woodhorn Road.
2. A petition was received from 80 residents and responded to with a Petition Report 11 November 2020.
3. Speed surveys confirmed that vehicles are exceeding the 30mph speed limit.
4. There have been a number of collisions in recent years.
5. Cllr Parry committed some of his Members' Local Improvement Schemes funding in 2021/22 to enable the development of a preliminary design for consultation. The traffic calming scheme involves a series of speed cushions as Woodhorn Road is used by buses.

Delegated Decision

6. Consultation was undertaken April 2022 and the results showed 82% in favour.

Background

Woodhorn Road, Ashington is a residential street but it serves as a key access route into Ashington town centre from the east, which is used by bus services.



On street parking is accommodated on the north side of the street and the bus stop shown in the image above demonstrates buses used this street.



At the eastern end of Woodhorn Road there are no residential properties that front onto the road, which gives an open aspect and may encourage higher vehicular speeds.

A petition was submitted with 80 signatures expressing concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Woodhorn Road and a Petition Report was published in

Delegated Decision

response in November 2020. The petition cited a number of collisions had occurred. A copy of the Petition Report is attached as Appendix A.

The key actions outlined in the report were a speed survey and the development of traffic calming proposals for consultation funded by Cllr Parry's Members' Local Improvement Schemes budget.

A speed survey was conducted on Woodhorn Road from 16 to 19 August 2021 with eastbound 85th percentile speeds 33mph and westbound 31mph. The results demonstrate the majority of traffic is exceeding the limit.

Consultation

Following the outcome of the speed survey a traffic calming scheme was developed and subsequently consulted upon April 2022. The proposed scheme involves a series of speed cushions as Woodhorn Road is a bus route. The negative comments to the proposals received during the consultation focused on damage to vehicles, while others suggested humps instead of cushions, reducing the speed limit to 20mph and the installation of a speed camera. If vehicles negotiate the cushions at an appropriate speed then no damage to vehicles should occur. The reason for using the cushions is the presence of bus services and bus companies have objected to schemes using humps in the past. The collisions recorded over recent years does not trigger the threshold or satisfy the criteria set by Northumbria Police who carry out speed enforcement. The consultation documents and responses form Appendix B.

The results of the consultation indicate that 82% of the 49 responses support the traffic calming scheme. Since traffic calming can be contentious and emotive the County Council operates a threshold of 70% support for a scheme to proceed.

Recommendation

Given the concerns raised by the petition and on the basis of the overwhelming support for the traffic calming scheme it is recommended that the scheme proceed as proposed. Residents have already been notified of the outcome of the consultation on 14 September 2022. This scheme is yet to be programmed for construction but residents will be updated in due course when a start date for works is known.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

| | |
|---|--|
| Policy | Consistent with existing policies |
| Finance and value for money | Scheme will be financed through the Local Transport Plan 2022/23 programme and Members' Local Improvement Schemes budget |
| Legal | None |
| Procurement | None |
| Human Resources | None |
| Property | None |
| Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A |
| Risk Assessment | The proposal is designed to improve road safety in the area. |
| Crime & Disorder | None |
| Customer Consideration | The proposed scheme will lead to a safer environment for all road users |
| Carbon reduction | None |
| Wards | Hirst |

Delegated Decision

Appendix Index

Appendix A – Petition Report

Appendix B – Consultation documents and responses

Appendix C – Plan showing overall 20mph scheme for area

Background Papers:

None

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Alex Thompson, Highways Improvement Officer**

Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services

Subject: Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme – Woodhorn Road, Ashington

Consultation: 49 responses received
40 in favour (82%)
9 against (18%)
0 neither yes or no

Decision Taken: To introduce the traffic calming scheme as proposed on Woodhorn Road

Signature of Director



Date
09.02.23
