

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES – MAPLE STREET / CHESTNUT STREET BACK LANE, ASHINGTON (BETWEEN THIRD AND FOURTH AVENUE)

Purpose of report:

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise regarding the proposed introduction of traffic calming measures in the form of 75mm high 'Round Top' Road Humps at Maple Street / Chestnut Street between Third and Fourth Avenue in Ashington.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, traffic calming measures should be introduced as proposed.

Key issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by Councillor Wilson.
- 2) The scheme will improve road safety in the area as the traffic calming measures will reduce vehicle speeds.
- 3) Supported by Local Councillor, Town Council, and all residents who responded to the consultation.

Report Author

Neil Snowdon – Senior Programme Officer
(01670) 624128
Neil.Snowdon@northumberland.gov.uk

PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES – MAPLE STREET / CHESTNUT STREET BACK LANE, ASHINGTON (BETWEEN THIRD AND FOURTH AVENUE)

BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by local residents about excessive vehicular speed and road safety on Maple Street / Chestnut Street, between Third and Fourth Avenue) in Ashington. In view of this, Councillor Wilson requested officers consult residents on the possible introduction of traffic calming measures in the form of 75mm high 'Round Top' Road Humps.
- 2) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 50 households, and approximately 25 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix 1).

CONSULTATION

- 3) The consultation exercise ended on 3 November 2014, and responses were received from 3 households, all of which were in favour of the proposals. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4) North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee who responded to the consultation, they supported the proposals, however they indicated that the measures may affect response times.

IN FAVOUR

- 5) Whilst indicating their support of the proposals on the response form provided, residents commented that the measures would significantly improve safety for all residents especially to children who regularly play in the street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6) From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concerns raised in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. The assessment of the results in any consultation exercise can be a contentious matter, but experience has shown that when levels of opposition are much above 30%, those opposed to the scheme can engender support from neighbours, which can create difficulties in implementing a scheme. The results of the consultation exercise show that all consultees who responded support the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the traffic calming measures are introduced as proposed.

- 7) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix 1 – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

File Ref: M/GEN/124(C)

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from Councillor Wilson's Local Members Small Schemes Budget (LTP)
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Residential area, route to schools, speeding traffic and associated visibility issues.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will reduce vehicle speeds and promote a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	Residents will benefit from reduced vehicle speeds; however they will need to negotiate traffic calming measures. The measures may marginally affected response times of Emergency Services.
Sustainability	There is a potential for increase in vehicle emissions due to vehicle acceleration and deceleration between the measures.
Consultation	Ashington Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Ashington Central

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member and Executive Director:

Executive Director of Local Services, Barry Rowland
Executive Member, Ian Swithenbank, Streetcare and Environment

Subject:

Proposed Traffic Calming Measures – Maple Street / Chestnut Street, Ashington (between Third and Fourth Avenue)

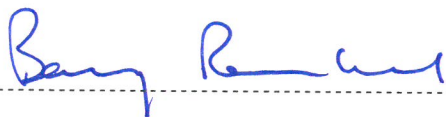
Consultation:

3 Responses from residents
3 For

Decision Taken:

To approve the introduction of traffic calming measures at Maple Street / Chestnut Street, Ashington (between Third and Fourth Avenue)

Signature of Executive Director



Date

3/12/14.

APPENDIX 1 –CONSULTATION LETTER AND PLAN

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/GEN/124(C)
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon
Direct Line: 01670 624128
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysDesign@northumberland.gov.uk
Friday 19th September 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Traffic Calming Measures – 75mm high ‘Round Top’ Road Humps - Maple Street / Chestnut Street Back Lane (Between Third and Fourth Avenue) Ashington

Concerns have been raised by local residents about excessive vehicular speed and road safety in the above area of Ashington. In view of this, the local County Councillor for the area, Councillor Wilson, has requested officers consult residents on the possible introduction of traffic calming measures. The measures under consideration are 75mm high ‘Round Top’ Road Humps as shown on the attached plan.

It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation exercise and all comments received will be carefully considered. A freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process.

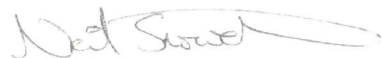
Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Monday 3rd November 2014.

Experience shows that whilst residents may request and accept traffic calming in principle, there is often hostility towards proposals, particularly when individual properties are affected by the proximity of traffic calming measures.

I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



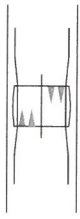
Neil Snowdon
Transport Projects Officer

CONTRACT
DRAWING No. 1 OF 1
DRAWING SIZE
A3

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

NOTES

① TO ④



PROPOSED 75mm HIGH 'ROUND
TOP' ROAD HUMPS

(NOTE: MEASURES WOULD NOT BE
LOCATED ACROSS ACCESSES)

REVISION
Drawing Status
By Date Rev.
CONSULTATION

Client
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, MORPETH,
NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF Tel. 01670 533000

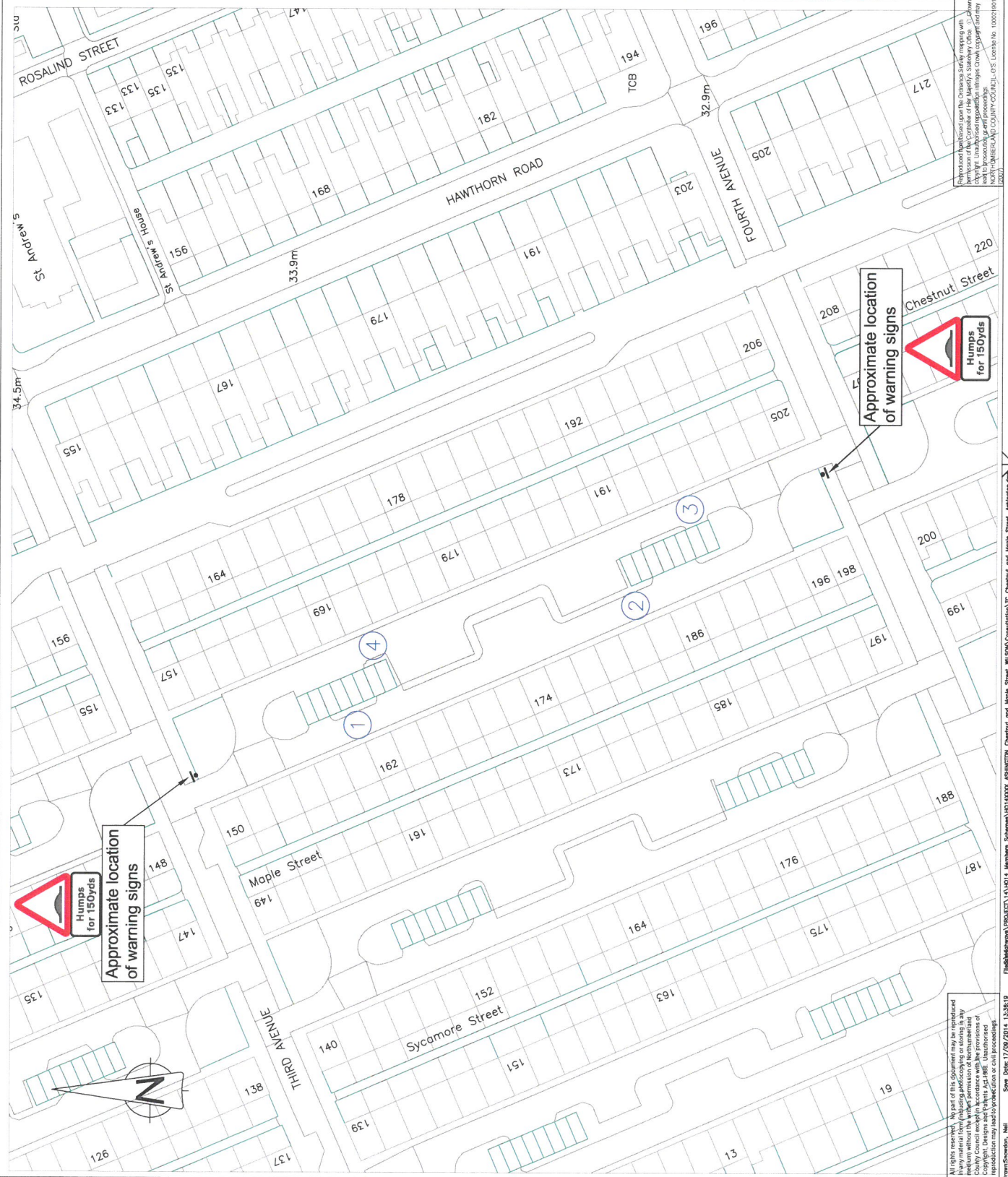
Job Title
U6254 MAPLE STREET / CHESTNUT
STREET, ASHINGTON -
BETWEEN THIRD AND FOURTH AVENUE

Drawing Title
PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME -
75MM HIGH "ROUND TOP" ROAD HUMPS

Scales NOT TO SCALE

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Drn	NS	Date	Checked	Passed	Rev
		SEPT 14			
Drawing Number					DRAWING NUMBER
Negative Number/Job Number/File Number					Rev



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Drawn: S. Swinerton, Nall
Save Date: 17/09/2014 12:36:19
File: H:\projects\14\0114 Members Scheme\14014000_ASHINGTON_Chestnut and Maple Street_WILSON\Consultation\TC_Chestnut and Maple Street_Ashington.dwg

APPENDIX 2 - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
Northumbria Ambulance Service		1			<p>I refer to your correspondence dated 19th September 2014 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal.</p> <p>I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patient appointments. Although I appreciate the possible need for restrictions to improve road safety, I must point out that such restrictions would affect this Service in the following way:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ambulances activating to emergencies within the locality could suffer a reduction in response times, although these times may still be within statutory limits; 2. Patients being transported from the locality could be subjected to some discomfort as a result of the proposed restriction. 3. The maintenance costs of our vehicles may be increased due to the additional usage of shock absorbers and suspension etc. <p>I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.</p>
		1			These lanes need to be made safe for our children playing.
Maple Street	NE63 0BU	1			Could you tarmac at garage between G18-G23 whilst you are doing road humps, this proposed site 1. It will stop unsightly weeds overgrown.
Chestnut Street	NE63 0BT	1			I fully support this proposal as I have children and have to keep constant watch while they are out playing. Some people think our street is an opportunity to test their accelerator out on their cars!
		4	0	0	