

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED 20mph SPEED LIMIT – HOLYWELL DENE ROAD/HOLYWELL AVENUE AREA, HOLYWELL

Purpose of report:

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise regarding the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit at the Holywell Dene Road/Holywell Avenue area of Holywell.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, the 20mph speed limit should be introduced as proposed.

Key issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by Councillor Pidcock.
- 2) The scheme will improve road safety in the area as the 20mph speed limit will reduce vehicle speeds.
- 3) Supported by Local Councillor, Seaton Valley Parish Council, Holywell Village First School and the vast majority of residents who responded to the consultation.

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BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by local residents about excessive vehicular speed and road safety at the Holywell Dene Road/Holywell Avenue area of Holywell Village. In view of this, Councillor Bernard Pidcock requested officers consult residents on the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit.
- 2) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 160 households, and approximately 30 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 A).

CONSULTATION

- 3) The consultation exercise ended on 1st January 2015, and responses were received from 49 consultees, with 44 in favour and 5 against the proposals. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix B.
- 4) North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee who responded to the consultation, they supported the proposals, however they indicated that response times may be affected.

IN FAVOUR

- 5) Whilst indicating their support of the proposals on the response form provided, the following comments were made:-
 - Scheme cannot be introduced soon enough.
 - Scheme will significantly improve road safety in the area.
 - Physical Traffic Calming Measures are needed.
 - Parking problems in the area need to be investigated.
 - Concerns over enforcement of the 20mph speed limit
- 6) In response to these comments, where appropriate, requests have been added to the Directory of Requests for consideration in a future Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme.
- 7) With regard to the request for physical traffic calming measures, Councillor Pidcock also asked for such measures to be considered on conclusion of this consultation exercise. This has been investigated, and given the road layout, such measures will be difficult to implement. A chicane or build out feature would have a detrimental impact on parking, and road humps or speed cushions are likely to be unfavourable with residents. Such measures will therefore not be considered at this time, although the situation will be monitored following the implementation of the 20mph speed limit.

OBJECTIONS

- 8) Whilst objecting to the proposals on the response form provided, the following comments were made:-
- Scheme is a waste of money
 - School traffic should be restricted
 - Signage would be unsightly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9) 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 results of the consultation exercise show that the majority of residents who responded support the proposals. It is therefore recommended that the 20mph Speed Limit is introduced as proposed.
- 10) 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 A – Consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix B – 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 Bernard Pidcock's Local Members Small Schemes Budget
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. The measures may marginally affected response times of Emergency

**Sustainability
Consultation**

Services.

None

Seaton Valley Parish Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.

Wards

Holywell

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 20mph Speed Limit – Holywell Dene Road/Holywell Avenue area, Holywell


Consultation:

49 Responses:
44 For
5 Against

Decision Taken:

To approve the proposed 20mph speed limit in the Holywell Dene Road/Holywell Avenue area of Holywell Village

Signature of Executive Director

 PAUL JONES

Date

24/6/15

APPENDIX 1 – COPY OF 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: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Thursday 20th November 2014

Dear Sir / Madam

Proposed 20mph Speed Limit – Holywell Dene Road / Holywell Avenue area, Holywell

Concerns have been raised by Holywell Village First School and local residents about traffic speeds and road safety in the above area. Councillor Pidcock has also expressed his concerns and has agreed to fund the introduction of a 20mph Speed Limit at the Holywell Dene Road and Holywell Avenue areas of Holywell subject to favourable consultation with residents.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit on the Holywell Dene Road and Holywell Avenue areas of Holywell as shown on the attached plan.

The following streets will be governed by the 20mph speed limit:- Holywell Dene Road, Holywell Avenue, Holywell Close, East Grange, Seaton Crescent and Valley Road.

The start of the limit will be identified by means of 20mph terminal signs. 20mph repeater signs will be introduced at intervals throughout the extent of the proposed limit.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

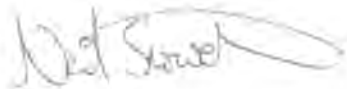
Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Thursday 1st January 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Snowdon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Neil Snowdon
Transport Projects Officer

CONTRACT 1 OF 1
DRAWING No. A3



KEY: —
EXTENTS OF PROPOSED
20MPH SPEED LIMIT

600mm TERMINAL SIGNS
LOCATED ON NEW POST

300mm REPEATER SIGNS
LOCATED ON EXISTING
LIGHTING COLUMNS

20MPH ROUND EL ROAD
MARKING

REVISION Drawing Status By Date Rev.
CONSULTATION

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

Job Title
HOLYWELL DENE ROAD /
HOLYWELL AVENUE AREAS,
HOLYWELL

Drawing Title
PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

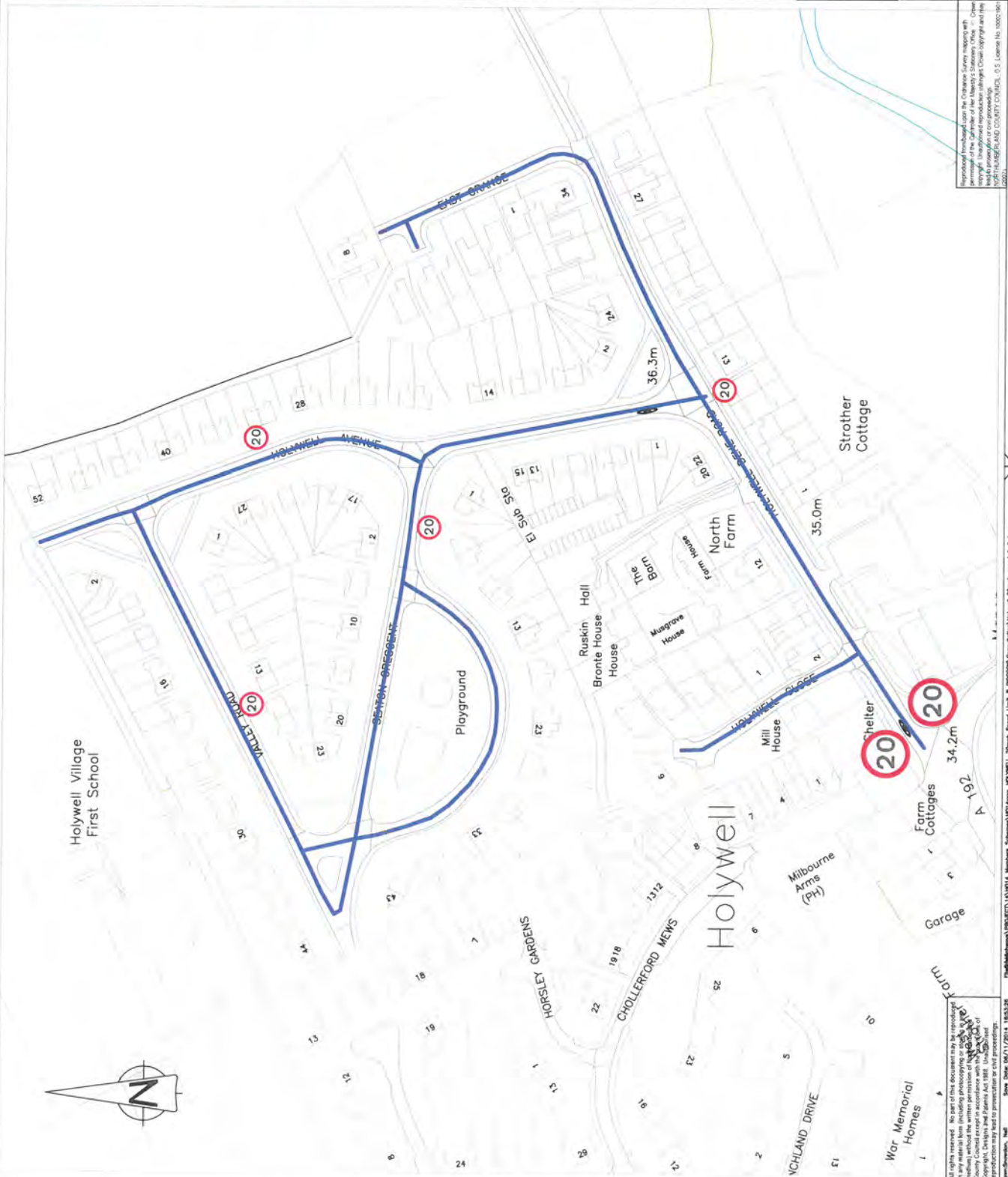
Scales SCALE



Drn NS Date NOV 14 Checked Passed

Drawing Number HO14xxxxx Rev

Negative Number/Job Number/File Number Rev



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Sheets: 06/17/2014 18:53:28
Drawn: [Name] Scale: 1:1000

APPENDIX 2 - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
		1			Speed is not only problem. Number of residents have complaints about school cars parking on the grass circle Area from the beginning of the play area all the way up and around the circle curve in the last month cars have turned the grass into Mud with deep ruts We have asked for some sort of barrier from beginning of start of play area as it is flat the cars Just drive straight on the school sent parents letters but it was a waste of time At this rate the destruction of the grass area will soon be achieved The residents take pride in the estate for village in bloom but if nothing is done as usual The residents will no long care about the look of the estate I agree about speed reductions but who will enforce them flash speed signs are just ignored Just as dog fouling is
Valley Road			1		This will do nothing to improve safety. There needs to be a constructive solution for the volume of school traffic. A turning circle is needed on the school field.
Holywell Close	NE25 0LD	1			The proposed speed limit is very welcome and long overdue - my wife and I have campaigned vigorously for calming measures and have welcomed two personal visits from Councillor Pidcock to discuss our concerns. I understand the financial limitations in carrying out measures of this nature and hope that these 20 mph limits will be enforced by Police and not just recommendations as we already have mandatory 30 mph limits which are almost totally ignored particularly when traffic is entering and leaving Holywell Dene Road. I suspect they will not be enforced however and would welcome your comments on these doubts and how you intend to proceed from here in the event that they are not. My wife and I have already expressed concerns to Councillor Pidcock about the blatant disregard for conformance to speed limits in this area and the hope that it will not take a serious accident to make control work.
		1			Thank you for your correspondence dated 20th November 2014 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. 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. I do appreciate however the need for restrictions to improve road safety. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
Holywell Avenue	NE25 0LE	1			Cars parked in Holywell Avenue between Holywell Dene Road and junction with Seaton Crescent causing problems by parking both sides of road making it difficult to navigate past them. Uneven paving slabs broken by cars parked on pavement and tree roots growing under pavements tarmacking would be better. Trees leaning towards road potential cause of injury or worse as people walking past to school with their children. Most residents do their best to look after this area, council would be trying to work with residents better than they do.
Seaton Crescent	NE25 0LF	1			
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			Great news there are drivers who go at same speed particularly at pick up twice for children. Could I also say that I would love 20MPH for the two bends and straight of Holywell from Milbourne Area to just past the elderly people lane. I don't know how (lights?) I've wondered as out painting the road or even flashing light speed of drivers I've always found there good without being too infuse
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			I and my husband are in full agreement with the proposed 20mph speed limit. Hopefully the signs will be a reminder to drivers to slow down in the area but for those who don't, will there be any checks?
		1			School parking - map enclosed - parking on edge of green - turning it into mud bath in wet weather - at moment looks like a ploughed field - action needed. Also - more trees need planting in village to replace ones that have been removed due to age or disease - possible two more trees on Crescent Green (Seaton Crescent) to enhance further this lovely area. Please pass on to appropriate department note about planning of trees.
Valley Road	NE25 0LG	1			The reason Holywell First school - local residents have this issue is because of the lack of respect and common sense of the (visitors, Parents of Holywell first school pupils, shown between the hours of 8am to 9am weekday mornings then again at 2.30pm to 3.30pm. 1) parking over driveways when occupied. 2) parking on council grass (park area) 3) inaccessible use of pavements (elderly residents) 4) driving too fast for a parking space. 5) congestion on valley road leading to school entrance, through to the lack of parents not walking their children to school whom live within a short radius. As a resident of Valley Road for over 20+ years this is the opinion of the residents.
		1			Overdue!
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			Whilst I agree a 20mph speed limit is a good idea in the village. I believe signs in all your proposed areas are unnecessary and unsightly in our beautiful village.

Valley Road	NE25 0LG	1		Waste of money. Its clear there is a school near by and care should be taken anyways as the streets are narrow. I don't think you can reach 30mph in these streets, so putting up signs will just waste money. The parents are the worst offenders picking their children up.
Holywell Avenue	NE25 0LE	1		Very good id - residents and parents all speed through rest.
Holywell Avenue	NE25 0LE	1		
Valley Road	NE25 0LG	1		I would suggest the parents of the school children would stop coming into this estate by car. They are the ones who speed into this estate! They not only block the roads, park on our pavements block our private drives, they speed! This area has been unhindered by signs for many many years and I think it would be detrimental to this area to now put them up. I was born in this village, we didn't have any of this bother then. Drivers change, yes, but not always for the better! Why should our lived be altered by those who do not even live here!! Let alone residents of the area. Thank you in anticipation.
Valley Road	NE25 0LG	1		There is a resident living in one of the above named streets who drives far too fast, therefore it will be in the best interest of the school children and other pedestrians that there should be a 20mph speed limit enforced before this person injuries or kills someone. I also think the school childrens safety is a first priority and to keep them safe I definately support the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit in the above named streets.
Seaton Crescent	NE25 0LF	1		
		1		This is long overdue. I hope the drivers take notice especially at the times of the school run. I do think all houses here should have a driveway as garages are not allowed at the front here. Very dangerous for children on this estate because of parked cars.
East grange	NE25 0LQ	1		we personally would like to draw your attention to the road from Holywell Avenue into Holywell Dene Road E6 the biggest percentage of vehicles fail to stop and without any consideration for the oncoming traffic (they have the right of way) drive straight out into the path of the main traffic, very dangerous and with 'double' parking on this street (Holywell Dene Rd) it makes it a double danger. Suggestion:- A stop sign for the vehicles exiting the road exiting the school area. E.G. avoiding confusion and in the interest of safety on the 'school run' we are absolutely in favour of 20mph. PS. As there is an equestrian centre horses are frequently on the road with adults and children adding to the danger.
Holywell dene Road	NE25 0LJ	1		Highly necessary.
Seaton Crescent	NE25 0LF	1		
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1		
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1		
Seaton Crescent	NE25 0LF	1		It is the school run drivers themselves who cause most of the problems. They dash to get parked, they park in front if they think you might beat them to a space, they park on the grass and have churned it up, it looks a right mess. They have blocked my drive, several times, if have had drivers stand talking while I am waiting for them to move their cars, when I have had appointments, but they just ignore the fact your cannot get off your drive and drivers watch, laughing, from the park while their children are playing, they don't move their car, even when others have left so they could move their car out of the way. I have a large Jeep and they barely leave enough room for the 4ft bonnet, when I am reversing off my drive, as they park just over the drop kerbs and usually both sides. highly annoying, although I have also had drivers put their own completely over the driveway. these drivers put their own and others children at risk of injury through their own stupidity. they also let children run across the road way a head of them to get to the park, or run back and forth because parents are talking to other parents who's not going to use the park. some of the drivers don't stop or indicate at the junctions either, coming onto the estate and leaving the estate.
Holywell Avenue	ME25 0LE	1		
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1		I'd like to also express my concerns about traffic at the junction of Holywell Ave and Holywell Dene road. I live at No 15 Holywell Dene Road and on many an occasion as I'm leaving for the school run 8:20am, I find myself having to give way to traffic leaving Holywell Ave. Is it possible to have clearer markings/signs on this junction. Traffic just doesn't seem to stop and look left, I'm surprised there hasn't been an accident before now.
Seaton Valley Council - Astley Road	NE25 0DG	1		This is a response from Seaton Valley Council and the councillors are fully supporting this proposal.
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1		Wholeheartedly support. Traffic travels done this road to too fast a speed making children and animals particularly vulnerable.
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1		
Seaton Crescent	NE25 0LF	1		I agree with the proposals but a 10 mph speed limit would be better with speed humps to slow traffic down. I do not think it will stop the speeding coming onto the estate but worth a try. We have other problems on the estate which you may like to consider * When parents bring and pick up children to school some parents think it is ok to park over residents drives stopping residents getting off the drive. They also are now parking on the grass next to park so they can be close to the school *What a mess the grass is there was even a bus dropping off children which could not turn to go down valley road so decided to reverse over grass. As you know Holywell enter the Northumbria in Bloom but if we get people parking on grass all the time we have no chance.
Valley Road	NE25 0LG	1		

Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			I note with some incredulity that concerns have been raised by Holywell village First School! It is my observation and that of several neighbours that the problems are caused by both parents and staff travelling to the school! Not only do they speed but they also do not appear to know how to use their indicators! The residents of Holywell Village respect the village - it really does appear to be visitors and staff to the school that are causing these problems and I would appreciate these comments being belayed to the school! Thank You!
Seaton Crescent		1			
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			The council should consider a parking area close to the school entrance at the junction of Valley Road and Seaton Crescent. This area becomes very congested with cars parked on pavements, grass verges etc. during the period when parents are taking children to school in the morning and again collecting children after school in the afternoon. With regard to the proposal speed limit in this area it is almost impossible to travel at more than 10-15 mph in this area during these busy periods in any event!!
Valley Road	NE25 0LG	1			I welcome the reduction in speed limit to Holywell. The cars for the school behind where I live in Holywell, drive rediculously fast coming in and out of the estate and they are always parking on the end of peoples drive ways. My own included. Also on weekend when the first school has football on the cars speed around and clog up the street making it a nightmare to get on/off your own drives! You would think a parent with a child in the car wouldnt drive so fast.
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			This may not be enough it may require speed humps!!
Seaton Crescent	NE25 0LF	1			As there is a play area in seaton Crescent there are lots of children who use it. The grass area around the park is built up and if a child was to run over the hill and onto the road any oncoming cars would not be able to see them until they came down the hill and possibility onto the road.
Seaton Crescent	NE25 0LF	1			(no comment)
		1			I think it should be residents parking only around school access areas. The traffic is terrible on a Sunday morning when the children are playing football. Quite often parents park across residents driveways just to get closer to the school gates. One of our cars has been crashed into whilst parked by a parent trying to get as close as possible to school gates (On Holywell Avenue)
Holywell Avenue	NE25 0LE	1			Excellent proposal
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			We support the proposal provided that speed bumps are NOT introduced.
East Grange	NE25 0LG	1			I would like
Valley Road	NE25 0LG	1			Parking by people taking children to and from school is quite often a problem. Driving over grass, parking partly on footpaths at times and sometimes blocking or partially blocking access to the hardstand area for 23 Valley Road. If people have been spoken to about the latter issue, quite often (but not always) my Mother, who is 94 years of age, is subjected to verbal abuse. The whole matter of parking for access or egress for the school needs to be given serious consideration by the council. When the school is on holiday there doesn't appear to be any problems with speeding or parking.
Holywell Village First School, Valley Road	NE25 0LN	1			On behalf of the Governing Body: Further traffic calming is required on Holywell Dene Road. Cars enter the estate too quickly and are not slowing enough by the time they reach Holywell Avenue. Rumble strips, a sharper left turn corner onto Holywell Avenue or a chicane on Holywell Dene Road should be considered. We believe the safty of our pupils is paramount and speeding traffic poses a significant risk.
Holywell Dene Road	NE25 0LB	1			This is a n excellent proposal and one which should have been put in operation many years ago. A slight concern for me is that there may not be enough 20mph signs along the full length of Holywell Dene Road.
Holywell Avenue	NE25 0LE	1			
		44	5	0	