



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones
26 February 2021

**Proposed Traffic Calming Measures –
A196 North Seaton Road / B1334 Newbiggin Road, Ashington
Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson – Leader of Council**

Purpose of Report

To consider the introduction of Traffic Calming Measures on the A196 North Seaton Road and B1334 Newbiggin Road, Ashington due to traffic safety concerns.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Traffic Calming Measures are introduced on the A196 North Seaton Road and B1334 Newbiggin Road, 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. Serious accident occurred in September 2019 when a car travelling south on North Seaton Road at excessive speed failed to slow down for the existing roundabout. The car is reported to have collided with the roundabout and street lighting column, causing the vehicle to "take off" before landing in the front garden of an adjacent property.
2. Several other damage only incidents are reported to have occurred at this location in recent years.
3. Previous High Risk Local Safety Scheme carried out in 2017/18.

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4. Residents have raised safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists caused by speeding traffic on North Seaton Road and Newbiggin Road Ashington
5. The scheme is supported by Cllr Gallacher and the Ashington Town Council.

Background

In September 2019 a serious road traffic accident occurred when a car travelling south on North Seaton Road at excessive speed failed to slow down for the existing roundabout. The car is reported to have collided with the roundabout and street lighting column, causing the vehicle to “take off” before landing in the front garden of an adjacent property.



Figure 1 – Aftermath of Accident

Following this incident, a site meeting was arranged to discuss this issue and the wider road safety concerns at North Seaton Road / Newbiggin Road with Councillor Gallacher and the affected resident. It was agreed that an appropriate scheme would be investigated with the aim of reducing vehicular speeds in the area and creating a safer environment for all residents and road users.

Consultation

In May 2020 residents were consulted on the measures under consideration. In the letter they were informed that in response to the serious road traffic collision which occurred in September 2019, officers had been working closely with their local County Councillor to agree appropriate measures intended to help improve road safety in the area. We stated in the letter that the main issue is that of excessive speed which is a regular concern of residents and most likely a contributory factor to this incident, and the others which have occurred since.

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Our experienced road safety design engineers proposed the following measures in order to address this issue:-

North Seaton Road - Narrowed carriageway lane widths through introduction of ghost island right turn lanes and central hatching as well as raising the existing puffin crossing onto a table.

Newbiggin Road - A "raised junction table" is proposed, mid way between Newbiggin Road/Milburn Road mini-roundabout and North Seaton Road/Newbiggin Road Roundabout together with a pedestrian buildout feature at the existing School Crossing Patrol site, this will assist the School Crossing Patrol person being seen by approaching drivers, and improve pedestrian safety particularly at school start and finish times. Unfortunately the build out features will result in the loss of a small amount of on-street parking provision. In addition, advisory interactive "20mph when lights flash" signage will be introduced. These will be operational at school start and finish times.

Approximately 140 consultation letters were sent out to residents and business as well as statutory consultees, 29 responses were received with 25 in favour and 4 against the proposals.

A number of concerns, requested that additional traffic calming measures were added on North Seaton Road, this has been investigated and one additional set of 65mm high three abreast cushions have been included 88 metres north of the roundabout.

Concerns were raised about the impact the build out features would have on on-street parking provision on Newbiggin Road. These have now been reduced in size to minimize impact. It should be noted that road safety is the primary concern rather than providing parking outside properties. The build out feature will significantly improve road safety at this school crossing patrol site. In addition, as stated in the Highway Code, vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres, so should not be parking here by law.

A copy of the initial scheme design and consultation letter is attached as Appendix A.

A copy of the final scheme design is attached as Appendix B. The scheme is supported by Councillor Gallacher and Ashington Town Council.



Figure 2 – Existing layout of North Seaton Road, Ashington (southbound approaching Newbiggin Road)



Figure 3 - A196 North Seaton Road/B1334 Newbiggin Road Junction, Ashington

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Figure 4 - B1334 Newbiggin Road Junction, Ashington (in vicinity of School Crossing Patrol Site where build outs are to be provided)

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Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through LTP 2020/21 allocation for Local Safety Schemes
Legal	Notice of the Introduction Traffic Calming Measures (ref: NRH_003)
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 in order 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	Haydon

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Background papers:

S:\Highways\PROJECT\19\HF Local Safety Schemes\Countywide Schemes\HFD19545 - North Seaton Road & Newbiggin Road, Ashington\

Appendix A – Consultation letter and initial scheme design

Appendix B – Final scheme design

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Neil Snowdon - Principal Programme Officer**

Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Service Director, Local Services

Subject: Proposed Traffic Calming Measures on the A196
North Seaton Road and B1334 Newbiggin Road,
Ashington

Consultation: 140 letters send to residents / businesses consulted
as well as statutory consultees.
29 responses received
25 in favour
4 against

The scheme is supported by Councillor Gallacher and
Ashington Town Council

Decision Taken: To introduce Traffic Calming Measures

Signature of Director



Date

3 March 2021

Appendix A – Consultation letter and initial scheme design

1

Your ref:
Our ref:
Enquiries to: Neil Snowdon
Email: highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel direct: 0345 600 6400
Date: 15th May 2020

Dear Resident

Road Safety Concerns - A156 North Seaton Road / B1334 Newbiggin Road, Ashington

In response to the serious road traffic collision which occurred in September 2019, officers have been working closely with your local County Councillor - Brian Gallacher to agree possible appropriate measures which are intended to help improve road safety in the area. Clearly the main issue is that of excessive speed which is a regular concern of residents and most likely a contributory factor to this incident, and the others which have occurred since.

Our experienced road safety design engineers have proposed the following measures in order to address this issue:

North Seaton Road

A right turn lane and add central hatching as well as raising the existing pedestrian crossing onto a table.

Newbiggin Road

A "raised table" is proposed together with a buildout feature at the existing School Crossing Patrol site, this will reduce the carriageway width which will improve pedestrian safety particularly at school start and finish times. Unfortunately the build out features will result in the loss of a small amount of on-street parking provision. In addition, advisory interactive "20mph when lights flash" signage will be introduced. These will be operational at school start and finish times.

We are now in a position to consult residents on these possible proposals and all feedback received will be carefully considered. Comments are encouraged by email, responses should be sent to highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk marking the subject "Road Safety Concerns - North Seaton Road / Newbiggin Road". 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 your comments may be included in a Decision Report to the Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection.

The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Friday 12th June 2020.

I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this matter as the decision taken can only be based upon the responses that we receive.

Assuming that the consultation is favourable the works will be carried out during this financial year. Unfortunately, given the Covid 19 restrictions in place at present I am unable to provide an anticipated start date, however, we will make a decision in July and provide you with an update in early August.

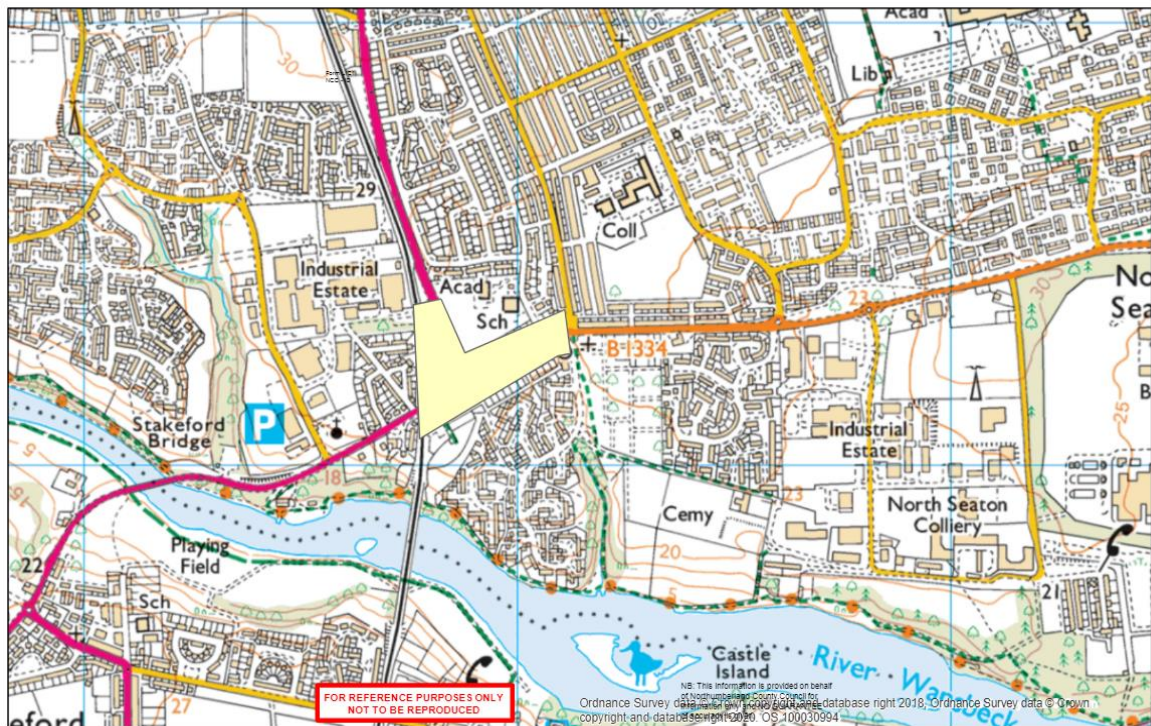
In the meantime, we will continue to work with the police carrying out enforcement of the speed limit with the aim of reducing or eliminating inconsiderate and inappropriate driver behaviour in the area.

Yours faithfully



Highways Programme

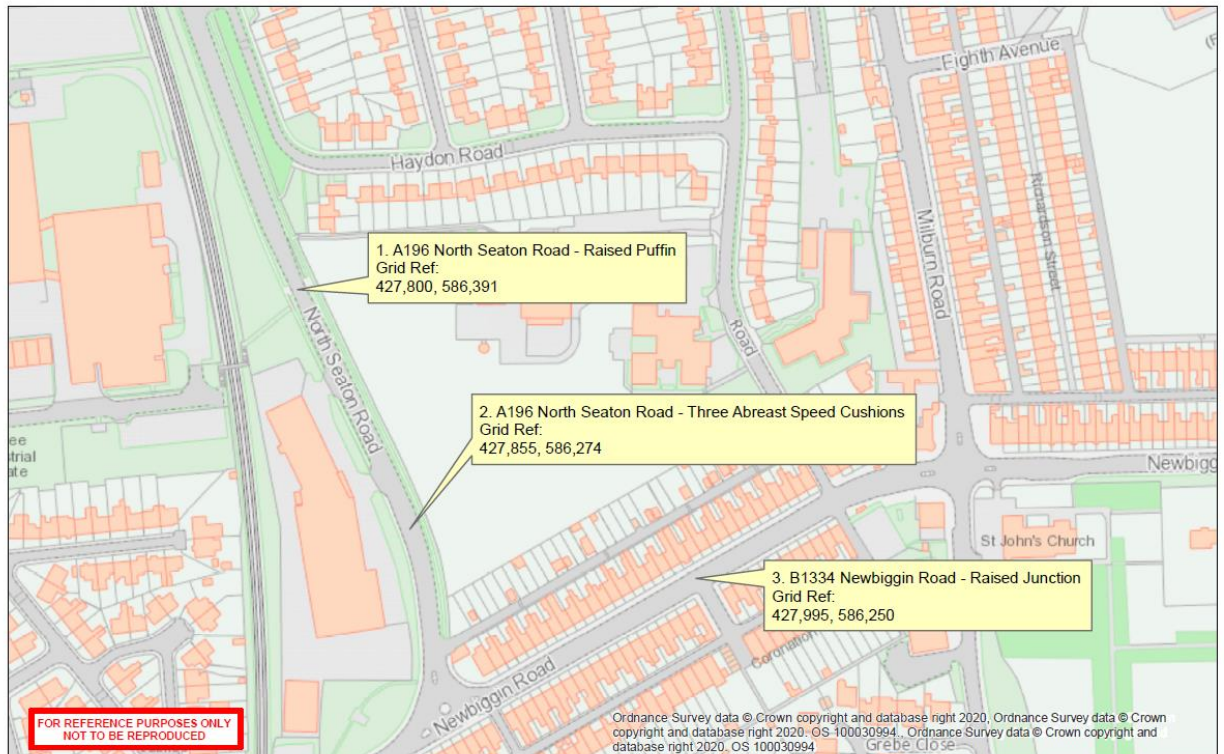
Delegated Decision




<p>Northumberland Northumberland County Council</p>	<p>Network Management Information System</p>	<p>Title: Newbiggin Road Ashington</p>
<p><small>Northumberland County Council Northumberland County Council Northumberland County Council Northumberland County Council Northumberland County Council</small></p>	<p><small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey data and is the copyright of Ordnance Survey. It is provided on behalf of the Council of the County of Northumberland. Ordnance Survey is a registered trademark of Ordnance Survey Limited. Ordnance Survey is a registered trademark of Ordnance Survey Limited. Ordnance Survey is a registered trademark of Ordnance Survey Limited.</small></p>	<p>Drn: MB Date: May 20 Scale: NTS</p>

Appendix B – Final Scheme Design

Location Plan



 Northumberland County Council	Network Management Information System	Title:		
		TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES A196 NORTH SEATON ROAD AND NEWBIGGIN ROAD ASHINGTON Ref: (NRH_003) MARCH 2021		
<small>Northumberland County Council County Hall Newbiggin Road Newbiggin, Ashington, Northumberland, NE51 2JF Tel: 01697 533000</small>	<small>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of the Highway. Ordnance Survey is a Crown Copyright. Ordnance Survey is a registered trademark of Ordnance Survey. No part of this publication may be reproduced or stored in a retrieval system without the prior written permission of Ordnance Survey. Ordnance Survey is a registered trademark of Ordnance Survey.</small>	Dim:	Date:	Scale:

- 1. A196 North Seaton Road - Raised Puffin
- 2. A196 North Seaton Road - Three Abreast Speed Cushions
- 3. B1334 Newbiggin Road - Raised Junction

Please see attached final scheme design plans

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