

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO APPEALS & COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2009

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

ELTON ROAD, BILLINGHAM PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

1.0 SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views regarding an outstanding objection received following statutory advertising of vertical deflection traffic calming features on Elton Road in Billingham.

It is not considered appropriate for the Head of Technical Services to consider the objection as he would effectively be reviewing his own decision.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- (i) Members give consideration to the objection raised and the comments of the Head of Technical Services.
- (ii) A recommendation on the merits of the objections is made to the Head of Technical Services.
- (iii) The local Ward Councillors, Billingham Town Council, the Residents' Group and the objector be informed of the Committee's recommendation.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Stockton Council's Community Engineer worked alongside the Billingham West Residents Association to investigate their requirements with respect to the provision of traffic calming on Elton Road and Embleton Road in Billingham. On Elton Road two number full carriageway width round top speed humps were proposed (see Scheme of Delegation Report TS.T.87.08 in **Appendix 1**).
- 3.2 The scheme was subsequently progressed through the relevant consultation procedure including Ward Councillors, public consultation and the police.
- 3.3 As a result, a Notice of Work for the round top speed humps was advertised in the Evening Gazette and on site on 20 February 2009 with the objection expiring on 20 March 2009. Following the publication of the statutory notices, the Director of Law & Democracy received

one letter of objection from Mr J Heward, 15 Carlton Avenue, Wolviston Court, Billingham. A copy of the letter is attached in **Appendix 2**.

4.0 DETAILS OF THE OBJECTION

- 4.1 The main grounds for objection is that this is one of the routes to the objector's property and to the best of the objector's knowledge there have been no motorists convicted of speeding at this location, nor have there been any accidents involving motor vehicles.

Discussion Response

- 4.2 Since 1993 developers are required to traffic calm residential estate roads to ensure an average speed of 20mph. Developers have indicated that this is a positive selling point for prospective buyers, particularly those with young children.
- 4.3 In response to an increasing number of requests to provide traffic calming on residential roads built prior to 1993, the Council developed the Community Engineering initiative. The Council's Community Engineer is authorised to work alongside Parish/Town Councils and formally constituted residents groups to develop environmental traffic calming schemes for their area.
- 4.4 The Community Engineer has worked alongside the Billingham West Residents Association to provide traffic calming in their area. Calming measures were introduced in the Grosvenor Road area, including the southern end of Elton Road, in 2007/08 – a plan detailing the extent of existing traffic calming in the area will be on display at your meeting. As well as ensuring that traffic speeds are commensurate with the residential nature of the roads, the measures may also deter unnecessary through vehicle movements, for example to the Clifton Avenue School base.
- 4.5 The scheme at the northern end of Elton Road was subject to the usual consultation exercise involving a letter drop questionnaire with all directly affected residents. 20 of the 28 responses (71%) supported provision of the calming measures. At their meeting on 28 October 2008 stakeholders of the Billingham Area Transport Strategy steering group agreed to fully fund the scheme.
- 4.6 The proposed round top speed humps are to be installed to current standards for both size and spacing requirements as given in 'The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999'.
- 4.7 The Police have confirmed that no motorists have been fined for exceeding the existing 30mph speed limit on the section of road in question. The result of a check on the accident statistics confirms that there have been no injury accidents on this section of road over the past five years. However, it is recognised that this is an environmental traffic calming scheme, designed to allay residents concerns' with respect to excessive speeds, unnecessary through movements and fear of accidents.
- 4.8 Environmental concerns were raised during the consultation process with regards to noise and environmental problems caused by emissions from vehicles accelerating and slowing down to negotiate the speed humps. Over the past five years, the Community Engineer has received only one complaint with regards to noise from speed humps and this was during the construction period before the final wearing course was installed. The emissions from vehicles is lower at lower speeds, the provision of speed humps to current guidelines should encourage motorists to drive at lower speeds through traffic calmed areas rather than accelerate between the features and then slow down for the next one, thus reducing vehicle emissions.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Finance has been allocated from the Billingham Area Transport Strategy budget for the works to be constructed this financial year at an estimated cost of £7,700.

6.0 POLICY CONTENT

The proposals are consistent with the Community Plan (to ensure a safer Borough), the Council's Road Safety Plan and Local Transport Plan.

7.0 CONSULTATION

The scheme was developed by the Billingham West Residents Association, working alongside Stockton Council's Community Engineer. A public consultation exercise was carried out in the immediate vicinity of the proposals and this resulted in 20 of the 28 responses received supporting the scheme, an approval rating of 71%. The Police and emergency services have no objections to the proposals. The local Ward Councillors have indicated their support. Finally, statutory consultations involving advertising on site and in the local press were undertaken. This resulted in one objection being received. The objector will be invited to the Appeals Committee meeting.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The measures proposed should reduce traffic speeds which should in turn reduce the potential for accidents (or the severity of accidents which do occur).

Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services

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Environmental Implications

The scheme should reduce the potential for collisions thus ensuring that the Borough continues to be a safe, healthy and attractive place to live.

Community Safety Implications

Addresses road safety concerns amongst the local community.

Background Papers

Scheme of Delegation Report TS.T.87.08
Letter of objection from Mr J Heward

Education Related Item?

No

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Billingham West : Councillors Mike Womphrey and Mary Womphrey