

OFFICER DECISION IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

Scheme of Delegation No: 210, Page 144

Officer: Richard McGuckin

MUIRFIELD ROAD AREA, EAGLESCLIFFE – TRAFFIC CALMING

SUMMARY

The Community Engineer has been working with Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Parish Council to investigate their requirements with regards to traffic calming in the Muirfield Road area. This report presents the findings of consultation exercises carried out to determine the public support for the scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The result of the Consultation Exercises be noted.
- 2 Approval of the School Zone Scheme on Carnoustie Drive to be a contender for future funding.
- 3 The Corporate Director of Law and Democracy be authorised to process the necessary Traffic Regulation Order and Notice of Works in 2009/10 and receive any objections submitted.
- 4 The Ward Councillors, the Parish Council and the residents consulted be informed of your decision.

DETAIL

Background

- 1 Members of Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Parish Council expressed concern with regards to the speed of some of the vehicles using the roads in the vicinity of Muirfield Road. The Community Engineer has worked with the Parish Council to develop a scheme that should alleviate the problems. The final scheme has been presented and approved by the Parish Council.
- 2 Prior experience has indicated that consultation with all residents affected is required to ensure that all parties are aware of the proposal and have the opportunity to comment on the proposals.
- 3 The Links Primary School is located on Carnoustie Drive and concern has been expressed by the residents in the area with regards to the problems associated with guardians parking their vehicles to drop off and pick up their children, some of this parking is indiscriminate and causes problems for residents. The school had requested an extension of the 'School Keep Clear' markings and the imposition of school time parking restrictions on the opposite side of Carnoustie Drive to alleviate road safety problems for the children. The Network Safety Team at the Borough Council had received a number of complaints about school parking from the residents of Glenluce Close, Hazel Slade and Hindhead, in this respect it was considered that any proposed school time waiting restrictions should extend into this

culs-de sac. These proposed school time waiting restrictions were included within the consultation.

- 4 In this respect a letter which enclosed a plan of the proposal, a questionnaire and a prepaid return envelope was delivered to 1032 homes within the area. The letter was dated 30 October 2008. Responses were requested to be made within 14 days of the date of the letter. A copy of the consultation letter, plan and questionnaire is included as **Appendix 1**. The effective closing date for the consultation exercise was therefore 13 November 2008.

Response to first Consultation

- 5 In all 323 responses have been received to the questionnaire, of which 214 indicated support for the scheme, 109 were against and six gave inconclusive indications or were considered as spoilt papers.
- 6 One-hundred-and-fourteen of the responses supporting the scheme included comments, ninety-two responses against the scheme also included comments/requests (a précis of these comments is included as **Appendix 2**):
- 7 Responses in favour of the scheme: -
 - a. Thirty of the respondents indicated that it was either a good idea, should have happened sooner, pleased with the scheme.
 - b. Twenty-one respondents indicated that they would like to see the scheme extended to other streets within the area or additional humps provided; in particular Dinsdale Drive and Nicklaus Drive were mentioned.
 - c. Parking issues were raised by eighteen respondents, mainly were concerned about parking problems around the Links School but there were indications that problems exist at other locations on the estate with the Health Centre being mentioned. Five responses suggested extending the proposed waiting restrictions around the bend on Carnoustie Drive.
 - d. Although respondents were in favour of the traffic calming scheme there were indications that they would have preferred other measures to have been considered i.e. chicanes. The possibility of reducing the number of speed humps was also mentioned. Concern was expressed about the proximity of two of the proposed speed humps near to Yarm Road by 9 respondents with a further four requesting the removal of the first two humps on Sunningdale Drive when entering from Yarm Road. There were three indications that Muirfield Road was used as a 'rat run' to avoid Yarm Road. Requests were made by four people for the provision of a 20mph limit throughout the area.
 - e. Requests were made by three respondents to provide traffic signals at the junction of Yarm Road and Sunningdale Drive, together with measures on Yarm Road to slow the traffic.
 - f. Five respondents made general comments. There was some confusion about the parking restrictions at the school and requests were made for improved signing for Panmore Walk and Pannal Walk. Concern was also expressed about cyclists using the footpaths.

8 Responses against the scheme

- a. The majority of concerns related to damage and environmental concerns. Twenty-one respondents indicated that they had been told/heard that speed humps can cause damage to vehicles, particularly the suspension. Five respondents indicated that problems can occur with regards to back pain and other ailments, particularly in older people. Environmental concerns covered air quality and extra noise caused by vehicles slowing down and accelerating and also the aesthetics of the proposals these items were indicated by 18 respondents. The possible affect on slower response times for the emergency services was raised by three respondents.
- b. With regards to the actual proposals, 16 respondents indicated that they considered that the two humps nearest to Yarm Road were too close to the road junction and this would cause problems. Twelve respondents indicated that other measures would be more acceptable, i.e. chicanes, blocking off Muirfield Road etc. Nine people thought that there were too many speed humps. A 20mph speed limit throughout the estate was requested by 9 respondents and one respondent requested a very low part time speed restriction in the vicinity of the school. More Police enforcement was requested by six respondents and the provision of speed cameras by two. Two respondents indicated that the proposals were acceptable apart from some of the measures on Sunningdale Drive i.e. the first two near to Yarm Road.
- c. The proposals outside the school were acceptable to twelve respondents as they indicated that a safe zone should be available around the school. Twelve responses indicated that they could not support the restrictions outside the school as this would either restrict their parking or move the problem to another location. Three other respondents indicated that there was a problem with parking at the school. A dedicated area for school parking was requested and also the provision of parking restrictions on the road outside the shops.
- d. A number (seven in total) indicated that there was no problem, it was not required and there was no speeding problem.
- e. Three respondents indicated that if there are problems on Muirfield Road install the features on that road only with another two accepting the proposal for this area only. Four respondents requested traffic calming on Dinsdale Drive with one respondent indication support for speed humps
- f. Four responses requested that the money be spent on highway maintenance in the area.
- g. Two requests were received for traffic lights or a roundabout at the junction of Sunningdale Drive and Yarm Road.

Discussion/Revisions to Scheme

- 9 The results of the consultation indicate that approximately 63% of residents responding support the proposed traffic calming scheme. In this respect it was considered that the scheme should progress subject to the following two amendments: -
- a) The 'School Keep Clear' markings should be extended to cover the length of carriageway from the eastern end of 21 Carnoustie Drive to the western end of 23 Carnoustie Drive, with school time waiting restrictions covering the same length on the southern side of Carnoustie Drive.
 - b) The first speed hump on Muirfield Road near to Yarm Road and the first two speed humps on Sunningdale Drive near to Yarm Road be deleted from the scheme.
- 10 The original scheme covered the main entrances to the estate; consideration could be given in the future to extend the scheme within the estate once the revised scheme was implemented. The Police will only support a request for a 20mph limit within the estate once traffic calming has been installed on all the roads to restrict the speed of vehicles to 20mph. The Police will be made aware of the contents of the report with regards to the enforcement of the existing speed limits in the area.
- 11 The traffic calming and parking adjacent to the Links School is an emotive issue. A number of responses against the scheme accepted the installation of a school zone in order to ensure safety of the children, however, the provision of the waiting restrictions has raised serious concern from the residents in the immediate vicinity of the school and in this respect they should be reduced to provide a solution that will be acceptable to the majority of residents. The provision of a dedicated parking area is difficult to achieve due to the restricted land available in the vicinity of the school and the cost of provision of such a facility.
- 12 Quite a number of responses supporting the installation of the scheme indicated that they would prefer other means of traffic calming. At the initial stages of development consideration was given to other methods i.e. the provision of chicanes to reduce the speed of vehicles; however these were discounted as they would cause a reduction in the parking provision in the area.
- 13 Respondents both for and against the installation of the scheme were concerned about the proximity of the speed humps to Yarm Road. In certain locations within Newcastle-upon-Tyne severe speed humps are located on the junctions of side roads of busy main roads and there does not appear to be a serious problem, however, in view of the concern of residents it is considered that the first one in Muirfield Road and the first two in Sunningdale Drive should be deleted from the scheme.
- 14 The provision of some facility, traffic lights etc, at the junction of Yarm Road and Sunningdale Drive is outside the remit of the Community Engineer, this matter will therefore be passed over to the Network Safety Team at the Borough Council.

- 15 With regards to the concerns about damage to vehicles and environmental concerns, the round top speed humps have been tested by the Road Research Laboratory and it was determined that providing a vehicle was driven over a speed humps at appropriate speed damage to the vehicle should not occur. It is accepted that vehicles accelerating and braking will cause more noise and air pollution, if the vehicles were driven through the estate at a steady slower speed there should be no increase in levels of noise or air born pollution.
- 16 The contention that the scheme would progress whatever the result of the consultation exercise is not accepted, the schemes consulted on will only proceed if a majority of the respondents support the proposals. The proposed alterations to the scheme clearly indicate that the consultation exercise is taken account of.
- 17 Taking into account of the responses received the scheme was amended to reflect the public's perception of the scheme. In view of the alterations it was considered that a second consultation exercise should be carried out and in this respect letters were sent out to all the previously consulted properties. The letter was dated the 7 July 2009. Responses were requested to be made within 14 days of the date of the letter. A copy of the consultation letter, plan and questionnaire is enclosed as **Appendix 4**. The effective closing date for responses was therefore 21 July 2009.
- 18 The second consultation exercise included two questions, the first requesting expressions of support for the main (revised) scheme. If a respondent was against the main scheme they were requested to answer a second question to gauge their support for the proposals on Carnoustie Drive adjacent to the Links School.

Response to the second Consultation

- 19 In all 318 responses were received, of these 3 were not considered as they had not put an address on the form. A further 4 did not vote either way for the main part of the scheme. In view of the comments received previously respondents were requested not to include comments with this consultation, however, 36 responses included comments, 16 of which supported the scheme with 20 being against.
- 20 For the main part of the scheme 311 responses were received of which 185 supported the scheme with 126 voting against, this results in 59.5% of those responding supporting the scheme.
- 21 Of the 126 respondents who opposed the main scheme, 106 indicated support for the proposals on Carnoustie Drive, 19 were against and one did not indicate any view. A further 4 did not vote for the main scheme. This results in 92.4% of all those voting supporting the scheme on Carnoustie Drive, in front of The Link School.
- 22 Of the comments received the majority re-iterated the comments that had been received during the first consultation and need not be considered further, however, a number of further comments were received as follows: -

Concern was expressed with regards to the number of responses received and the fact that they considered it was not democratic as those who did not respond were not counted.

A respondent voted against the scheme as it did not extend into their street.

A number of residents in the three culs-de-sac opposite the school, who supported the original scheme, were concerned that the reduction in waiting restrictions from the previous scheme would result in more vehicles parking in front of their homes.

Parish Council Comments

- 23 The result of the consultation has been considered by Egglecliffe and Eaglescliffe Parish Council at their meeting of the 22 October and the following was agreed: -

The Parish Council are in support of the School Safety Zone on Carnoustie Drive which should be treated in isolation from the rest of the scheme.

Given the outcome of the consultation exercise, the Council do not support the traffic calming scheme for Muirfield Road at the present but this does not preclude them from revisiting/reconsidering the scheme at some time in the future.

Discussion

- 24 The question with regards to the percentage response to any consultation is a difficult point to consider; those opposing the scheme tend to indicate that the scheme does not have majority support as only a certain percentage vote. This could be the same in elections at any level. Experience indicates that people opposed to traffic calming are more vociferous in their responses and are more likely to vote than those who would support the scheme or have no strong opinions either way.
- 25 With regards to the area covered by any particular scheme it is difficult to highlight where all the speeding problems occur and it is usual to impose restrictions on the busiest streets and follow up if required in other areas at a later date.
- 26 The concern of residents in the three culs-de-sac opposite the school can be understood due to the indiscriminate parking of some motorists, however, the problems that could be caused by the imposition of waiting restrictions in this area particularly for residents with no off street parking could be profound as they would have to ensure that their cars were parked away from the restrictions at the relevant times.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of the school zone is £14,000. At the present time finance is not available for this scheme so it is considered that it should be placed on a list of schemes to be considered for future funding. Statutory consultations will however commence in 2009/10 to be funded from the Safer Routes to School Budget.

POLICY CONTENT

The proposals are consistent with the Community Plan (to ensure a Safer Borough), the Council's Road Safety Plan and the Local Transport Plan. Reducing road traffic accidents is a key objective of the Council's Public Service Agreement.

CONSULTATION

The consultation is as detailed in the report. Two of the Ward Councillors have indicated their support to the proposals the third Councillor did not provide a comment as they were directly affected by the proposal and did not want to appear to be influencing the scheme either way. Members of the Officers Traffic Group have no adverse comments with regard to the proposals. Statutory consultations with respect to the proposed road humps and school time waiting restrictions would be undertaken at the appropriate time.

CONCLUSION

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

Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services

Contact Officer : **Steve Lumb – Community Engineer**
Tel No : **0191 587 0444**
E-mail address : **steve.lumb@a19.uk.com**

Environmental Implications

The scheme should make the estate a safer place for all road users in particular children, thus ensuring that the Borough continues to be a safe, healthy and attractive place in which to live and work.

Community Safety Implications

The provision of the traffic calming measures addresses the concerns of residents within the estate with particular reference to speeding vehicles whilst improving public safety.

Background Papers

None

Education Related Item?

No

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

Eaglescliffe : Councillors John Fletcher, Alan Lewis & Maureen Rigg

Signed by the Delegated Officer.....Date.....

Richard McGuckin
Acting Head of Technical Services

MUIRFIELD ROAD AREA, EAGLESCLIFFE – TRAFFIC CALMING

I accept/do not accept the above recommendations.

Signed.....Date.....

Councillor R Cook
(Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport)

Comments

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Dear Sir/Madam

TRAFFIC CALMING, MUIRFIELD ROAD AREA, EAGLESCLIFFE

Concern has been expressed by a number of residents of the Muirfield Road Area with regards to some vehicles being driven along the roads at excessive speeds. These concerns were notified to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, who have responsibility for highway safety, by Egglecliffe Parish Council.

In response to these concerns the Community Engineer employed by Stockton on Tees Borough Council has been working with the Parish Council on a traffic calming scheme for the area. A scheme has now been presented and agreed with the Parish Council and this will form part of a public consultation exercise with local residents. It is also proposed to include a school zone around The Links Primary School to alleviate problems at school times.

A copy of a plan showing the proposed layout is enclosed detailing the proposals. The proposals include the following: -

The provision of round top speed humps: -

- 6 No on Muirfield Road
- 3 No on Carnoustie Drive
- 5 No on Sunningdale Drive

Relevant warning signs are to be provided at the entrances to the area.

The provision of a School Zone on Carnoustie Drive which will include extended school keep clear markings and school time waiting restrictions in the vicinity of the school.

Also enclosed is a questionnaire together with a pre-paid return envelope. All residents are urged to complete the questionnaire and return it to arrive within 14 days of the date of this letter. If you would like to discuss any points with regards to the scheme you can contact Steve Lumb, the Community Engineer, on 0191 587 0444 or e-mail steve.lumb@a19.uk.com

Yours faithfully

Steve Lumb
Community Engineer

TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME –MUIRFIELD ROAD AREA, EAGLESCLIFFE

I have inspected the plan detailing the proposed traffic calming scheme and I am: -

In favour of the installation of the scheme

Against the installation of the scheme

Please place a tick in the relevant box

If you like to make any further comments please use the box below

Name

Address

.....

.....

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council 100023297



KEY

SIGN No 1
SPEED HUMP
WARNING SIGN
D.557.1 & D.557.2

Humps for
900 yards



SIGN No 2
SCHOOL ZONE SIGN
WITH IMAGE SUPPLIED
BY LOCAL SCHOOL.



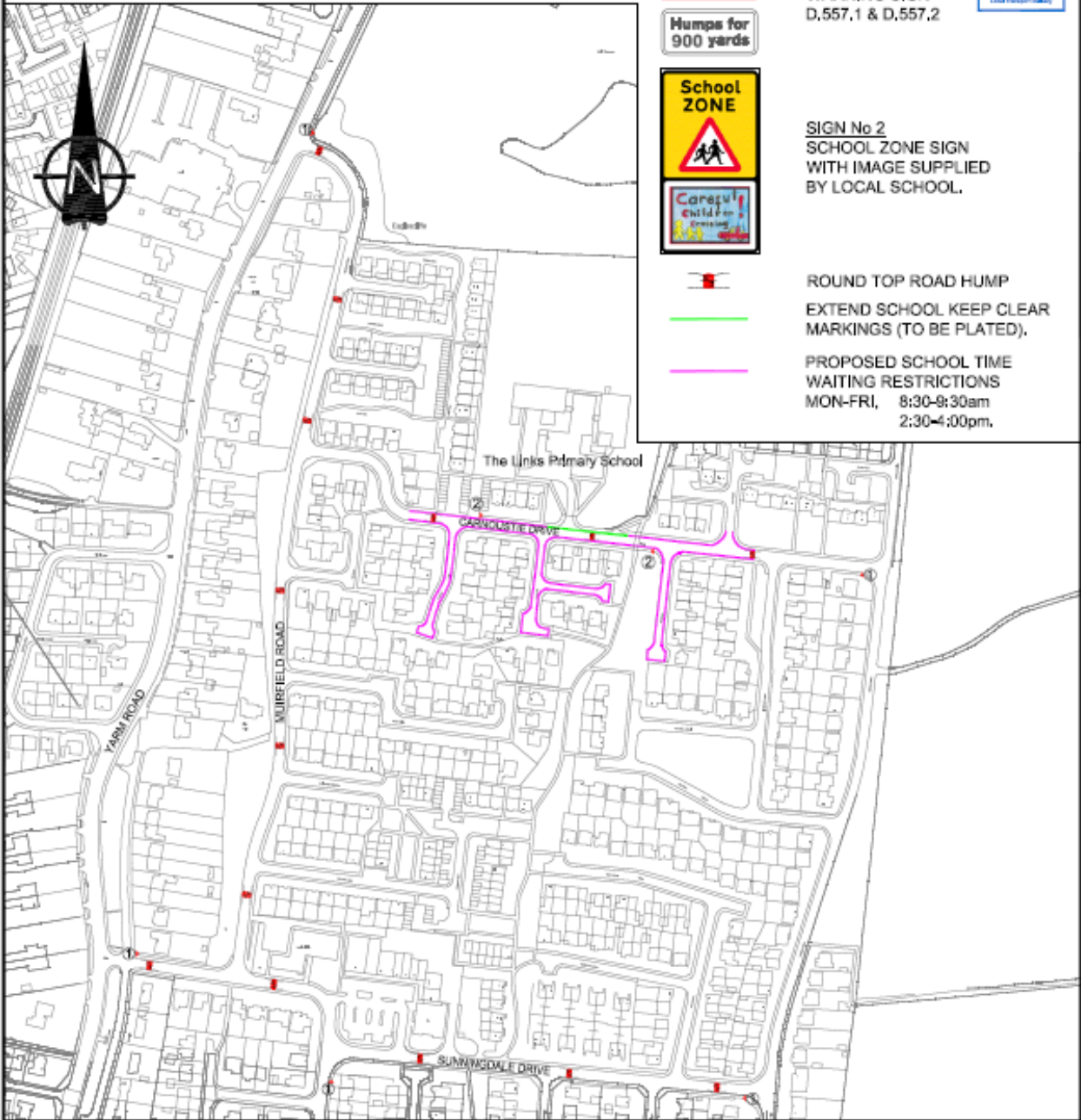
ROUND TOP ROAD HUMP



EXTEND SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR
MARKINGS (TO BE PLATED).



PROPOSED SCHOOL TIME
WAITING RESTRICTIONS
MON-FRI, 8:30-9:30am
2:30-4:00pm.



A		PARKING RESTRICTIONS AMENDED ADJACENT TO THE LINKS PRIMARY SCHOOL.			GCF	MG	22.09.08
Rev	Description				Drn	Chk	Date
Drawing Status	PRELIMINARY <input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TENDER <input type="checkbox"/>	CONTRACT <input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL</p> <p>Development & Neighbourhood Services Head (Technical Services Division) Mike Robinson B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E. P.O.Box 225, Kingsway House, West Precinct, Birmingham, B1523 2YL. Telephone (01842) 360938, E-mail: highways@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>Project MUIRFIELD ROAD EAGLESCLIFFE</p> <p>Content PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING</p>					
Scales	1:2500	Date	MARCH '08	Drawn	GCF	Job No.	SL062 A
				Checked	SL		

A3 Original

Responses supporting the proposal - Summary

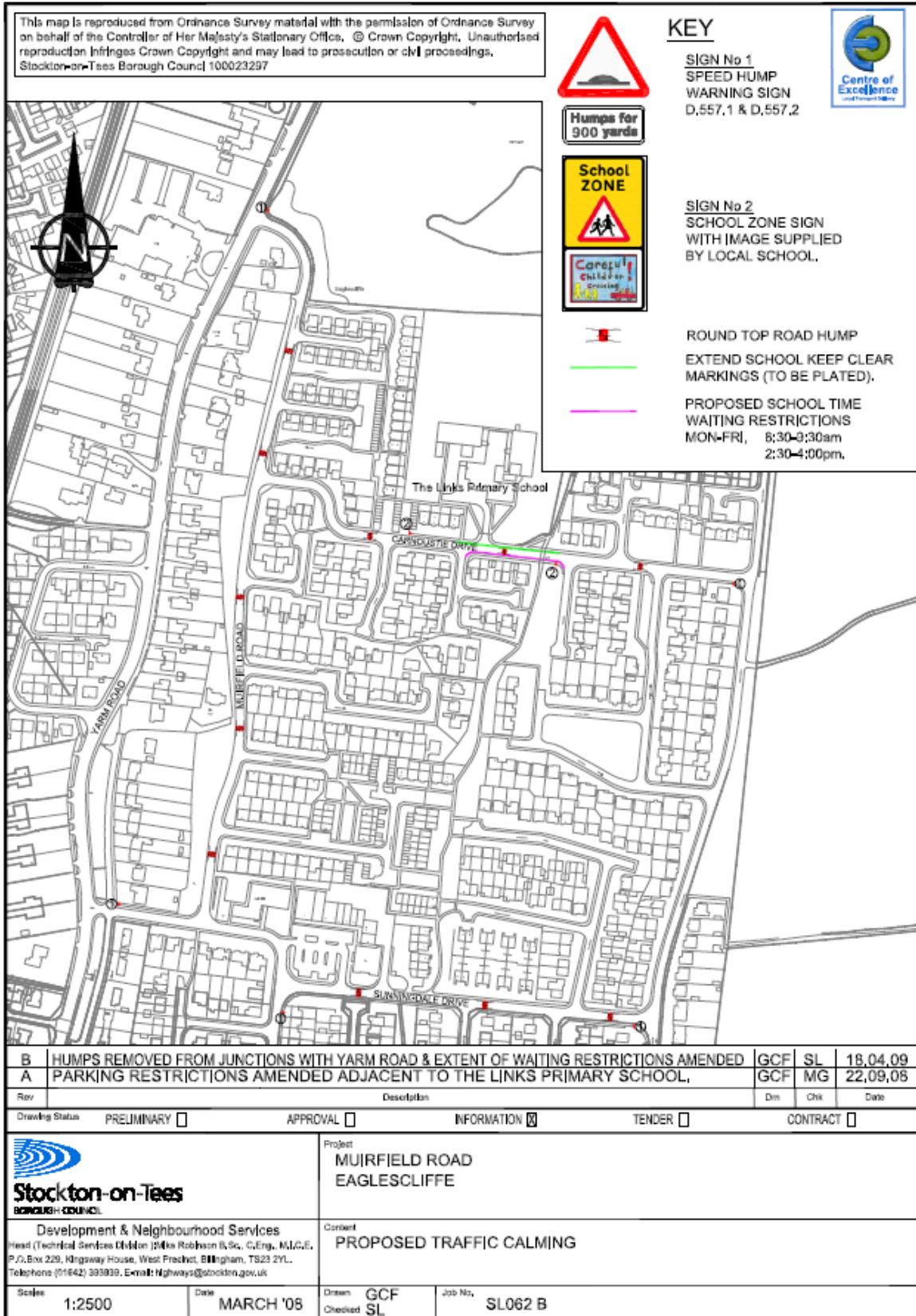
Item	Description	Number of responses
1	Concern about 'rat-runs' include more streets	3
2	Good idea/about time/needed	30
3	Would like chicanes/other methods	5
4	Less speed humps	8
5	Proximity of humps near Yarm Road	9
6	Suggests hump on bend at Carnoustie Drive	1
7	Parking problems caused by the school	14
8	Would like traffic calming extending into other streets	11
9	Other	5
10	Parking problems	3
11	Traffic calming required Dinsdale Drive/Nicklaus Drive	17
12	20mph zone	4
13	Stop parking near Health Centre	1
14	Extend school waiting restrictions around double bend	5
15	Traffic lights on Yarm Road junction	3
16	Improved signing for Panmore & Pannal	1
17	Alter location of humps on Sunningdale Drive	1
18	Review/remove first two humps on Sunningdale Drive	4
19	Problem with cyclists on footpath	1
20	Confusion about proposed waiting restrictions	1

Responses against the proposal - Summary

Item	Description	Number of responses
1	Causes damage to vehicles	21
2	Parking at the school is a problem	3
3	Block off Muirfield Road	1
4	Other measures	11
5	No problem with speeding	4
6	Aesthetics	4
7	Supports traffic calming on Muirfield, Carnoustie and some on Sunningdale Drives	2
8	Against parking restrictions at the school	12
9	Supports speed humps	1
10	Environmental problems	13
11	No speeding problem	1
12	Not required	2
13	Who has requested the scheme	1
14	If there is a problem on Muirfield Road just put them there	1
15	Spend money on maintenance	4
16	Reduce speed humps	1
17	The Council have already made the decision	1
18	Will increase travel times	1
19	Some humps are too close to Yarm Road	16
20	Support school restrictions	12
21	Traffic calming required on Dinsdale	4
22	Provide speed cameras	2
23	Lower speed limit	9
24	Too many humps	9

Appendix 2

25	Educate drivers	1
26	Damage to persons caused by travelling over humps	5
27	Police enforcement required	6
28	Parking area for parents to drop off children	1
29	The proposals for Muirfield are acceptable	2
30	Will delay emergency services	3
31	Traffic lights/roundabout Yarm Road junction	2
32	Parking restrictions at the shops required	1
33	OK apart from Sunningdale Drive	1
34	Part time speed limit required	1
35	More dangerous	1



Dear Sir/Madam

TRAFFIC CALMING, MUIRFIELD ROAD AREA, EAGLESCLIFFE

Following concerns raised by residents to Egglecliffe and Eaglescliffe Parish Council a scheme was developed for traffic calming in the area. A subsequent consultation exercise was carried out with letters going out to affected residents at the end of October 2008 with a response requested within 14 days. In all 1032 letters were sent out and 323 replies received, of these 214 supported the scheme and 109 were against the scheme. The support for the scheme was therefore approximately 66%.

In view of the responses the scheme has been amended and in this respect it is considered that a further consultation exercise should be carried out to confirm support or otherwise for the revised scheme.

The alterations briefly comprise the following: -

- Removal of the first speed hump on Muirfield Road as you enter from Yarm Road.
- Removal of the first two speed humps on Sunningdale Drive as you enter from Yarm Road
- Extension of the School Keep Clear markings and reduction in the waiting restrictions adjacent to The Links School

The revised scheme is as indicated on the plan included with this letter. All the comments from the previous responses have been noted so in this consultation just support or otherwise to the scheme is being requested. Some of the previous responses requested traffic calming on other roads within the estate, particularly Dinsdale Drive, the Parish Council area aware of these concerns and they will be addressed at a later time if there is support for the current scheme.

Also enclosed is a questionnaire together with a pre-paid return envelope. All residents are urged to complete the questionnaire and return it to arrive within 14 days of the date of this letter. If you would like to discuss any points with regards to the scheme you can contact Steve Lumb, the Community Engineer, on 0191 587 0444 or e-mail steve.lumb@a19.uk.com

Yours faithfully

Steve Lumb
Community Engineer

TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME –MUIRFIELD ROAD AREA, EAGLESCLIFFE

Consultation July 2009

I have inspected the plan detailing the proposed traffic calming scheme and I am: -

In favour of the installation of the scheme

Against the installation of the scheme

Please place a tick in the relevant box

If you have indicated that you are against the full scheme could you please complete the following with regards to the proposals on Carnoustie Drive in the vicinity of the Links School: -

Although I do not support the installation of the full scheme I am In favour of the installation of the school zone on Carnoustie Drive

Against the installation of the school zone

Name

Address

.....

.....

July 09