

## OFFICER DECISION IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

Scheme of Delegation No: 210, Page 144

Officer: Mike Robinson

### MIDDLETON AVENUE, THORNABY – TRAFFIC CALMING

#### SUMMARY

The Community Engineer has been working with the Basselton & Bader Residents Group to investigate their requirements with regards to traffic calming on Middleton Avenue. This report presents the findings of a consultation exercise carried out to determine the public support for the scheme and seeks to confirm your approval to the preferred scheme to be a contender for future funding.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The results of the Consultation Exercise be noted.
- 2 Approval to the scheme be given to be a contender for future finance.
- 3 The Corporate Director of Law and Democracy be authorised to process the necessary Notice of Works and receive any objections submitted.
- 4 The Ward Councillors, Thornaby Town Council, the Basselton & Bader Residents Group and residents consulted be informed of your decision.

#### DETAIL

##### Background

- 1 Members of the Basselton & Bader Residents Group expressed concern with regards to the speed of some of the vehicles using Middleton Avenue. The Community Engineer has worked with the Residents Group to develop a scheme that should alleviate the problems. In early December 2006 a consultation event was held at The Griffin Public House with invitations being delivered by the Residents Group. A small number of residents attended the event and support for the scheme was approximately 50/50 of those attending. Following on from this event the scheme was amended to take into account issues raised. The final scheme has been presented and agreed with the Members of the Group.
- 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.
- 3 In this respect a letter which enclosed a plan of the proposal, a questionnaire and a prepaid return envelope was delivered to 288 homes within the area. A copy of the consultation letter, plan and questionnaire is included as **Appendix 1**.

## Response to Consultation

- 4 In all 91 responses have been received to the questionnaire, of which 71 indicated support for the scheme. In all 20 respondents indicated that they were not in favour of the scheme.
- 5 26 of the responses supporting the scheme included comments/requests, 17 of the responses against the scheme included comments/requests ( a précis of these comments is included as **Appendix 2**):
- 6 Responses to the consultation supporting the installation: -
  - a. Four respondents indicated the problem that occurs with vehicles being driven over the grassed area between Thornaby Road and Middleton Avenue to avoid having to drive round the roads.
  - b. 13 respondents considered that the scheme was worthwhile and should be installed as soon as possible. It would make the road safer for all residents.
  - c. Two respondents liked the speed humps but indicated that they did not like the chicane. One respondents view was in favour of chicanes but against the speed humps.
  - d. One respondent requested another round top speed hump just before Bramcote Way.
  - e. Two respondents indicated the problems caused by cyclists and motorcyclists using the footpath, one of these requested that all grass cuttings should be recycled.
  - f. A request was made for the provision of double yellow lines on the sports field side of Middleton Avenue and on the opposite side near to the junction with Bader Avenue.
  - g. One person requested that a link road be provided over the grassed between Thornaby Road and Middleton Avenue. This road was to be a left in left out onto Thornaby Road from Middleton Avenue.
  - h. Concern was expressed about the visibility when leaving Woodford Walk onto Middleton Avenue due to restricted visibility caused by the grass mound on the opposite side of Middleton Avenue.
- 7 Responses to the consultation against the installation: -
  - a. 5 respondents indicated that they do not think there is a problem with speeding on Middleton Avenue. There were also concerns about them being detrimental to the aesthetics of the area.
  - b. Pollution by increased emissions and noise from vehicles passing over the humps together with damage vehicles was of concern to 5 respondents.
  - c. Three respondents indicated that traffic will already have slowed down as it enters Middleton Avenue from Bader Avenue and they consider that the speed hump at this location will cause problems.

- d. One respondent indicated that they consider it to be a sledge hammer to crack a nut, they also indicated that 1200 Councils are removing speed humps and also that a chicane has been removed from Laburnum Avenue.
- e. Two respondents were concerned that it had been previously agreed not to pursue traffic calming on Middleton Avenue and one of them indicated that the consultation exercise was only carried out as the majority of people attending the open meeting at The Griffin were against the proposal.
- f. A number of general comments with regards to the scheme were made which also included requests for the provision of safety cameras which they considered would be a better solution.

### **Discussion/Revisions to Scheme**

- 8 The result of the consultation exercise indicates that approximately 78% of respondents support the proposed traffic calming scheme, it is therefore considered that the scheme should be installed. The responses from Middleton Avenue indicate that 58% support the installation of the scheme.
- 9 The problem with regards to vehicles crossing the grassed area between Thornaby Road and Middleton Avenue will be referred to the Network Safety Team for consideration they will also be notified of the request for a link road between Thornaby Road and Middleton Avenue.
- 10 With regards to the provision of an extra round top speed hump near to Bramcote Way and the concerns with regards to the first hump on Middleton Avenue when entering from Bader Avenue, it should be noted that the proposed speed humps locations are in accordance with current guidelines and it is therefore considered that this scheme is acceptable.
- 11 The problem of motorcycles and pedal cycles using the footpaths will be referred to the Council's Enforcement Team. The provision of double yellow lines on Middleton Avenue would more than likely result in objections from residents who would be concerned with regards to the reduction in parking provision.
- 12 The problem of visibility at Woodford Walk has been investigated and it is considered that this does not pose a significant road safety problem.
- 13 It is difficult to provide evidence with regards to the increased pollution, however, it is accepted that pollution from vehicle exhausts may increase but the volume of traffic is, however, relatively low and hence this should not pose any serious concerns. The features are also spaced to encourage motorists to drive at a steady slower speed to minimize environmental intrusion. With regards to noise pollution Stockton Council are not aware of any complaints with regards to noise problems following completion of any traffic calming schemes within the Borough.
- 14 At the consultation meeting that was held at The Griffin Public House in December 2006 the attendees were split 50/50 with regards to the provision of the traffic calming features and it has been the practice over the past few years to arrange a full consultation exercise with all affected residents.

- 15 Middleton Avenue is a residential road without a recorded injury accident problem and does not meet the relevant criteria for the installation of permanent safety cameras.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of the complete scheme is £16,800, with the scheme being a contender for future funding.

## **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. The Ward Councillors have indicated their support to the scheme. Members of the Officers Traffic Group have no adverse comments with regard to the proposals. Statutory consultations with respect to the proposed road humps will be undertaken.

## **CONCLUSION**

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

### **Corporate Director of Development and Regeneration**

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

### 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

Village : Councillors Ian Dalgarno and Mick Eddy

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

Mike Robinson  
Head of Engineering and Transportation

**MIDDLETON AVENUE – TRAFFIC CALMING**

I accept/do not accept the above recommendations.

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

Cllr R Cook  
(Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport)

Comments .....

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Dear Sir/Madam

## TRAFFIC CALMING, MIDDLETON AVENUE, THORNABY

Concern has been expressed by a number of residents of Middleton Avenue with regards to some vehicles driving along the road at excessive speeds. These concerns were notified to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, who have responsibility for highway safety by the Basselton and Bader Residents Association.

In response to these concerns the Community Engineer employed by Stockton on Tees Borough Council has been working with the Residents Association on a traffic calming scheme for the road. In December 2006 a public exhibition was held to allow residents of the area to express their requirements with regards to traffic calming, subsequent to this the scheme has been developed further. The scheme has now been presented and agreed with the Residents Association and this will form part of a public consultation exercise with local residents.

A copy of a plan showing the proposed layout is enclosed detailing the proposals, together with a sheet showing photographs of similar features to those proposed. The proposals include the following: -

Five round top speed humps on Middleton Avenue.

The provision of a chicane on Middleton Avenue just to the north of Firbeck Walk together with 'Give Way' markings that will require vehicles travelling north on Middleton Avenue giving way to southbound traffic.

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@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:steve.lumb@tiscali.co.uk).

Yours faithfully



Steve Lumb  
Community Engineer

**TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME –MIDDLETON AVENUE, THORNABY**

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

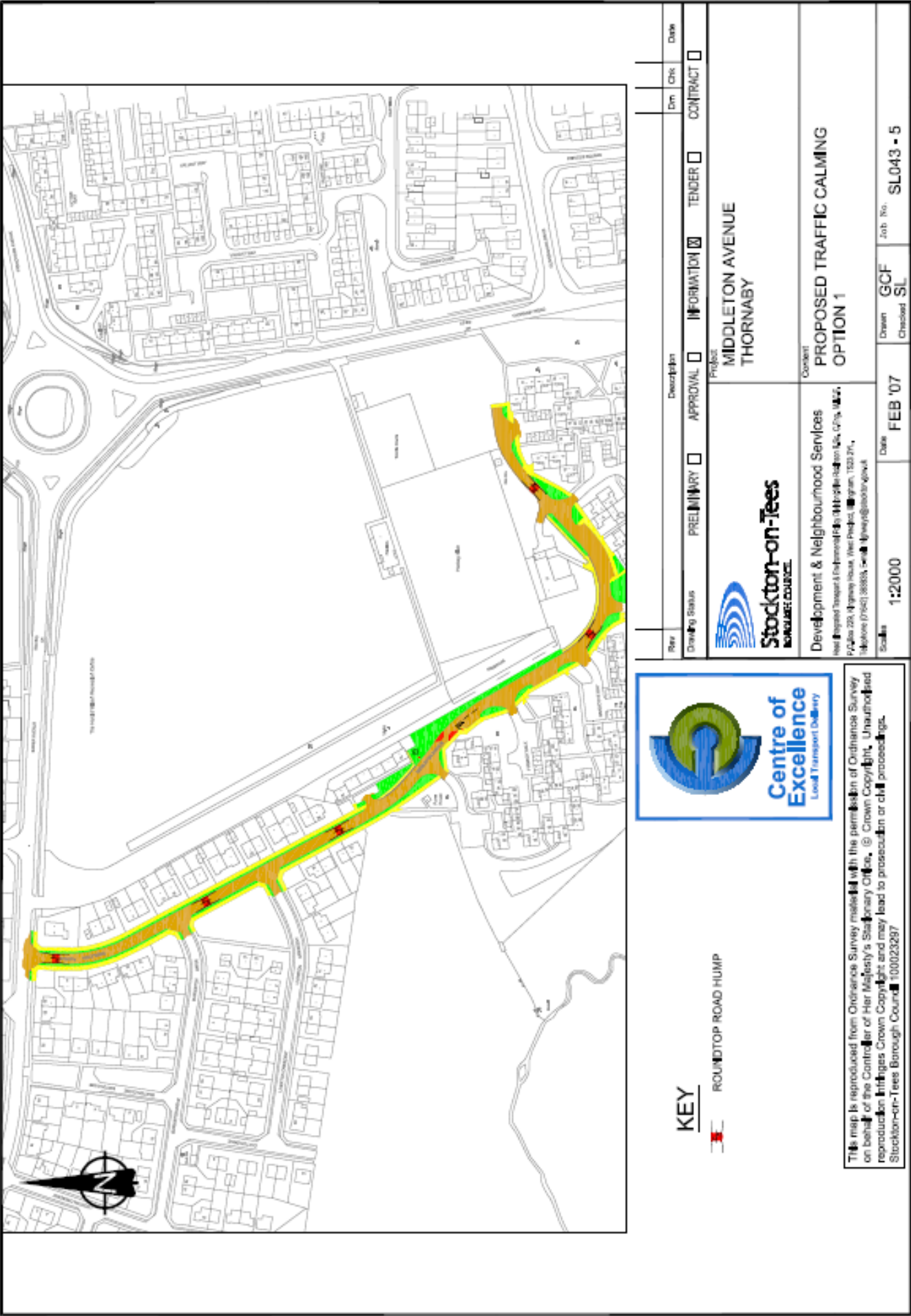
Name .....

Address .....

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**KEY**

 ROUINDTOP ROAD HUMPS



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Rev	Description	Appr	Info	Tender	Contract	Date
0		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1	PRELIMINARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
 <p><b>Stockton-on-Tees</b> BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>		Project <b>MIDDLETON AVENUE THORNABY</b>				
Development & Neighbourhood Services New Proposed Transport Calming Measures on Middleton Avenue, Thornaby, UK. Project 200, Highway House, West Street, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 2JL. Telephone: (01642) 388855 Fax: (01642) 388856 Email: highway@stockton.gov.uk		Content <b>PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING OPTION 1</b>				
Scale <b>1:2000</b>		Date <b>FEB '07</b>		Drawn <b>GCF</b>		Job No. <b>SL043 - 5</b>
				Checked <b>SL</b>		

## Appendix 2

### Traffic Calming - Middleton Avenue - Responses supporting the Scheme

	Comment Request	Comment	Response
1	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	I am sick of cars and bikes driving over the grass from Thornaby Road - I would like something done before someone is killed	This problem will be referred to the Network Safety Team and Care for Your Area for attention
2	✓	Needs something to stop the little ones running from the field across the road	See comment at 1
3	✓	I live opposite the field that is next to Thornaby Road - cars you this as a short cut and speed over the grass - bollards should be provided to stop this	See comment at 1
4	✓	The green area form Thornaby Road should be fenced off to stop vehicles driving over the grass	See comment at 1
5	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	Seen a few idiots driving today down the same road	
6	✓	The sooner the speed humps and chicane are in operation the better	
7	✓ <input type="checkbox"/>	I think this is a great idea - it will be safer for children	
8	✓	We think the round top speed humps are a good idea but the chicane is an absolute waste of money	The chicane will require drivers to slow down to negotiate the feature, it is located in an area where it should not affect the parking provision. It is considered that the use of different features will be preferable
9	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	I have a 3 year old grandchild living on Firbeck Walk - anything that slows these racers down will get my vote. The sooner the better	
10	✓	I prefer the speed humps rather than the chicane	See Comment at 8

## Appendix 2

11	✓	Could you please put one before the turning into Bramcote Way as drivers come round the bend on two wheels. There is a problem with sand bikes and small motor bikes	The features have been located in accordance with current maximum spacing guidelines, moving the speed hump on Middleton Avenue from one side of Bramcote Way to the other would require the provision of another feature, this is assuming that the last feature remains in its current position. In view of the number of features that have to be negotiated by a motorist from the bottom end of Middleton Avenue it is considered that this should be avoided
12	✓	I think the round top speed hump is a bad idea the Council should go for the chicane	The one chicane on the scheme has been located where it will not affect the parking of vehicles, other locations were investigated for this type of feature but it was considered that it would have a detrimental affect on parking provision
13	✓	Excellent scheme	
14	✓	It is a good idea it will be safer for parents and children	
15	✓	It will give the residents peace of mind to know that vehicles cannot speed	
16	✓	This is probably the best thing that could happen - at the moment this stretch of road is a death trap	
17	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some idea to prevent motorbikes using the pavements is required	Motorbikes should not be used on the footpaths, this is a matter for enforcement by the Councils Enforcement Team in conjunction with the Police.
18	✓	As soon as possible	
19	<input type="checkbox"/>	All grass cuttings should be recycled. All bicycle riding on footpath should be banned	Care for Your Area will be notified of the request to recycle grass cuttings. Bicycles should only be used on designated footpaths with cycleway markings
20	✓	Add double yellow lines at the north end of Middleton Ave down to the sports field on the east and 12 feet on the west	This request for double yellow appears to be for the full length of the eastern side of Middleton Avenue, it is unlikely that this could be justified and objections to the required traffic regulation order would be numerous and as such it would be unlikely that the restrictions could be imposed.

## Appendix 2

21	<input type="checkbox"/>	In favour of the scheme, however, the speeding would be alleviated if the bottom end of Middleton Ave had a left turn only onto Thornaby Road	The provision of this link is outside the remit of the Community Engineer and will be passed onto the Network Safety Team for their input
22	✓	We do need this scheme, there are lunatics racing down Middleton Ave	
23	✓	The sooner the better before a child is knocked down	
24	✓	Well done Stockton Borough Council - a much needed scheme. But what about the roads on the Harewood Estate young drivers speed and joy ride here	The current proposal is for Middleton Avenue if the Residents Group requested further traffic calming this could be investigated.
25	✓	We agree with the speed humps and also suggest alterations to the grassed area on the road on the left hand side opposite Woodford Walk which has a blind spot for traffic coming from Harewood Park into Middleton Ave. Could it be regraded	This matter will be passed to the Councils Network Safety Team for investigation.
26	✓	Something needs doing but I think the young ones will use it has a racetrack	

## Appendix 2

### Traffic Calming - Middleton Avenue - Responses against the Scheme

Comment Request	Comment	Response
1 ✓	Personally I do not think that the traffic speed on Middleton Avenue is a problem and the installation of these speed humps will be detrimental to the appearance of the area and I think it would be a waste of Council Money.	The appearance of the area is subjective, if this estate was being constructed today traffic calming would be installed as the works progressed
2 ✓	I do not think that speed humps do any good. They cause more pollution by cars braking and accelerating. It is a total waste of money	
3 ✓	I do not see the need for traffic calming	
4 ✓	I do not oppose the chicane I do not like the idea of speed humps as vehicles will be damaged	A chicane was only used in one position as they restrict the parking of vehicles. Stockton Council are not aware of any successful claims for damage to vehicles caused by using by round top speed humps at correct speeds. All the speed humps would be installed to specification in accordance with current guidelines
5 ✓	I object to the whole thing. There have not been any accidents so why the sledgehammer? There are 1200 Councils removing speed humps in fact a chicane has been removed in Laburnum Ave. Traffic calming has not worked elsewhere.	The result of the public consultation exercises indicates that the majority of residents support traffic calming on the streets in the vicinity of their houses. It is an environmental traffic calming scheme. Additional vertical deflection features have now been installed on Laburnum Avenue
6 ✓	When I turn into Middleton Avenue I have to turn right immediately and some cars have to brake suddenly to avoid running into the back of my car. The speed hump at the other end is too close to the end so motorists cannot speed	

## Appendix 2

7	<p>Narrowing the road by the provision of speed humps will cause problems. Traffic calming is only as good as the drivers you will not slow all vehicles. I believe the voting slip is only because at the meeting at the Griffin the majority of the people were against the proposal.</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>The provision of the speed hump does not narrow the width of the road. The consultation meeting at Griffin resulted in an approximately 50/50 split of those supporting and against the proposal. At a subsequent meeting of the Residents Committee it was decided to proceed with the consultation of all residents</p>
8	<p>Please see enclosed letter from Dave Mitchell. The previous road hump scheme was rejected I think that this should still be the case</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>It is understood that the letter mentioned was sent to a small number of households and that all the residents were not consulted formally</p>
9	<p>The placing of humps will not alter the speed of traffic. At the entrance to Middleton Avenue the traffic will have slowed down for the bend and this applies to vehicles leaving the Avenue. Traffic calming on Bader Avenue has not worked</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>A requirement of the location of speed humps is that the first one is located within 40m of a speed reducing feature such as a road junction as is the case. No vertical deflection traffic calming measures are present on Bader Avenue</p>
10	<p>I am against having road humps. I have lived here since 1969 and am not aware of any accidents involving pedestrians. A speed camera would be better. Why place a hump 10m from Bader Avenue</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Safety cameras are located at positions where there is a serious speeding/accident problem there is not considered to be a serious problem at this location. See comment at 9.</p>
11	<p>I have only witnessed one accident on Middleton Avenue in 15 and that was a driver worse for drink - traffic calming will not sort this problem out.</p> <p>✓</p>	
12	<p>I am a light sleeper and I do not want to hear thud thud all the time</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Following completion of the schemes Stockton Council are not aware of any complaints with regards to noise caused by speed humps</p>
13	<p>The reason I am against the hump outside my house I wouldn't mind a chicane. Humps make too much noise and affect the foundations</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See comment at 12</p>
14	<p>The speed humps would be a noise nuisance outside our home. A person has to sleep in the front room and this will disturb them</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See comment at 12</p>

## Appendix 2

15	✓	Speed humps at bottom of Woodford Way totally useless as majority of traffic comes from Blackbush Walk. This chicane is too close to the flats. A lot of traffic comes from other streets not just Harewood Park	
16	✓	I do not think it is suitable for this road, speed cameras would be a better solution	See comment at 10
17	✓	Road too narrow not aware of any problems	