



My Ref: TS/T/6/2/30
Your Ref:
Please ask for: Gillian Spence
Tel: 01642 526720
Email: technicalservices@stockton.gov.uk

12907

25th November 2010

Dear Mr & Mrs Parker

**THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON ON TEES, SURBITON ROAD, STOCKTON ON TEES,
PROPOSED SPEED CUSHION**

Further to your letter of objection dated 11 November 2010 regarding the above advertised proposal which was formally received by Legal Services and forwarded onto Network Safety for reply.

As you are aware from previous correspondence, the proposal to install a speed cushion follows the recommendation made in the independent Road Safety Audit to complete the speed reducing feature. The installation of a speed cushion adjacent to the existing build out is the only practicable way of completing this feature since it is not physically possible to install a second build out and re-create a chicane because of the locations of private driveways. To remove the build out and construct a new feature would incur additional, unnecessary costs when the existing feature can be completed by the installation of a speed cushion and without the unwarranted removal of the build out.

Vehicle tracking analysis (as attached) indicates that the installation of a speed cushion would not obstruct access to or from your driveway in your works vehicle. The analysis also suggests that the wall across your property frontage inhibits vehicle reversing paths. This situation is not further impeded or created by the triangular build out and it would be possible to reverse off your driveway without your van physically crossing the speed cushion to head northwards.

It is anticipated that the installation of a speed cushion would physically deter northbound drivers trying to negotiate the feature before an approaching southbound vehicle because they would have to reduce speed as a result of the speed cushion. This should also reduce instances of vehicles mounting the footway but if this persists additional bollards will be considered.

Cont.

Mr & Mrs Parker
297 Surbiton Road
Fairfield
Stockton-on-Tees
TS19 7SA

Unfortunately, it is not possible to restrict the cycle by pass to pedal cycles only. The bypass is necessary to prevent cyclists proceeding through the centre of the feature and coming into conflict with vehicles which is particularly important given Surbiton Road is a bus route. Indeed, complaints from cyclists have been received regarding residents parking at the feature obstructing safe passage through the road narrowing.

Noise level differences which residents attribute to speed cushions tend to be well within limits put forward in British Standards and in research by organisations such as the Transport Research Laboratory. Complaints relating to noise have been found to be generated by a change in the character of noise rather than the noise levels actually becoming substantially increased.

I would highlight that the proposal follows the recommendation raised in the Road Safety Audit and can be justified by the pre-scheme accident record and post construction speed surveys. Of the 7 reported injury accidents in the preceding 5 years of the feasibility study 2 slights and 1 serious accident had occurred at this particular bend. Speed surveys indicate that average speeds northbound have reduced by 6.7mph compared with a 1.1mph reduction southbound, in the main the lower reduction in southbound speeds could be attributed to the lack of a physical feature.

Please consider the information provided. The next stage is to ask you to consider your objection in terms of if you wish to uphold or withdraw your objection to the proposed speed cushion. If you wish to uphold your objection, the matter will be referred to the Council's Appeals and Complaints Committee for consideration. As an objector, you will be invited to attend the Committee meeting and given every opportunity to address Committee Members.

Please complete the attached reply slip indicating your intentions and return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope by 6 December 2010.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Simon Milner
Network Safety Manager

Cc. Councillor M Perry
Councillor W Woodhead
Sue Wilkinson, Legal Services, Municipal Buildings

Encl

