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13012

15<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Dear Mr Bounds

### **A174 PARKWAY EXTENSION – SPEED LIMIT AMENDMENT**

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the above, I note that you wish your objection to stand; the Council's Director of Law & Democracy will contact you in due course regarding the Appeals & Complaints Committee details.

The revised guidance with regard to setting local speed limits implies that it is now the mean speed, not the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed, which is used to determine the most appropriate limit. In the case of A174 Parkway Extension, the prevailing vehicle speeds indicate that 50mph is the most appropriate limit. As stated in my previous letter it is likely that the proposed roundabout on A174 Parkway Extension will further reduce mean speeds.

Locations for Local Safety Schemes are prioritised via the Council's annual Road Casualty Review, which is available via our website. The Council receives details of every injury accident recorded in the Borough from the police; those sites with the most significant accident problems receive highest priority. The feasibility study which recommended the reduction in speed limit on Thornaby Road considered accidents in the three years June 2000 – May 2003; there were 19 injury accidents recorded on Thornaby Road between Ingleby Way and A174, of which 7 accidents involved vehicles turning right into the petrol station conflicting with northbound vehicles. These accidents occurred when a vehicle turning right into the garage and through the queue of vehicles waiting at the traffic signals to join the A174 and was hit by a fast moving vehicle heading north along Thornaby Road. There were some horrific high speeds collisions. The box junction, if observed by queuing vehicles, ensures better intervisibility of these conflicting manoeuvres. The exit manoeuvre from the petrol station was not referred to as a problem in the report. The study recommended provision of a 40mph speed limit and the yellow box junction at the Hollybush garage access.

Stockton Council has a very successful record in reducing recorded injury accidents following the implementation of such schemes. I am pleased to report that there have been just 4 recorded injury accidents on the same length of road in the three years 2007-09; again none were recorded at the exit from the garage. I accept that this is a difficult manoeuvre at busy times but the accident record at the Hollybush garage exit does not warrant further attention, although I can assure you that the accident record will continue to be monitored.

Mr T A Bounds  
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It is also worth noting that Hollybush garage operates with access arrangements agreed historically by the planning process, which included a substantial developer contribution towards highways improvements in the vicinity of the site. The site owners supported the safety improvements introduced to date but in the absence of any indisputable accident record it would be difficult for the Council to justify further measures that would restrict access/egress to their property.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Gillson**  
**Senior Engineer, Network Safety**