

# Appeals & Complaints Committee

A meeting of Appeals & Complaints Committee was held on Friday, 18th January, 2013.

**Present:** Cllr David Wilburn(Chairman), Cllr Norma Wilburn(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Andrew Sherris,

**Officers:** Mark Gillson, Jonathan Kibble(DNS), Julie Butcher, Allen Squires, Kirsty Wannop(LD)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Ross Patterson

## **ACC 15/12**      **Evacuation Procedure**

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

## **ACC 16/12**      **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Andrew Sherris declared a personal and significant / prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5, Yarm Primary School - Proposed School Zone and 20mph speed limit as he was the local Ward Councillor and on the Board of Governors for Yarm Primary School. Cllr Sherris did not take part in the vote when item 5 was considered.

## **ACC 17/12**      **Minutes from the meeting which was held on the 28th September 2012.**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting which was held on the 28th September 2012 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **ACC 18/12**      **Procedure**

The Committee considered and agreed a proposed procedure for the meeting, which the Chairman explained ahead of the following item.

RESOLVED that the procedure be agreed.

## **ACC 19/12**      **Yarm Primary School - Proposed School Zone and 20mph speed limit**

Members were provided with a report relating to outstanding objections received following the advertising of a proposed 20mph speed limit on roads around Yarm Primary School, namely Spitalfields, The Larun Beat and associated Close's.

Officers from Technical Services were present to present the report.

It was explained that Yarm Primary School and its vicinity had been instigated as part of Stockton Borough Council's Sustainable Travel Strategy which included a policy to implement 20mph speed limits, outside every primary school in the Borough to encourage sustainable modes of transport, such as walking and cycling. Members were also informed that Yarm Primary School

was one of 10 schools identified for the School Zone project during the period 2011/12.

Initial proposals included traffic calming measures with 4 speed humps and signage. Consultation was carried out with 461 letters being sent to residents. The Senior Engineer informed the committee that 53% of all responses received had objected to the initial proposals for the scheme on the basis that speed humps were not necessary and that there was excess signage proposed. A subsequent survey on the average speeds of vehicles in the affected area was conducted, which indicated that speed humps were not required to reduce speed, however the speeds experienced were within the threshold of that required to implement a 20mph speed zone.

Officers explained that a detailed review of the objections received was carried out by the authority and a revised proposal for the scheme was drafted, removing the speed humps and reducing the signage to the minimum statutory requirement. On revising the scheme, the consultation statistically equated to 91% of those consulted being in favour of the proposed scheme.

Ward and Town Councillors were consulted on the revised scheme before the statutory consultation was advertised on the 18th October 2012. One letter of objection was received from a member of the public, details of which, including the response from the Head of Technical Services was included in the attached report.

Officers other than officers from Law and Democracy, then left the meeting room. The Committee considered its decision taking account of the written information provided to it and the verbal representations it received at the meeting.

The Committee noted that officers of the authority had sought a solution for the proposed scheme following residents' comments to them regarding particularly the speed humps and excessive signage in the initial proposal. Members also took into account that 91% of responses to the consultation exercise appeared to support the revised proposal on removal of speed humps and excessive signage. It was further acknowledged that signage in the revised proposal had been reduced to a statutory minimum and the majority of signs would be mounted on existing lamp posts.

Members were satisfied that the scheme had received considerable publicity including with Ward Councillors, the Town Council and the community, with a lot of information having been provided to the affected residents.

The Committee noted the objectors concerns, along with the response from the Head of Technical Services. Members agreed that the community had been listened to and noted that revisions to the scheme had been made following their comments, resulting in the majority of residents within the vicinity of Yarm Primary School being in favour of the proposed scheme.

It was further recognised that the proposed scheme was in line with an agreed policy of the authority and that only one objection had been received to the statutory consultation following revisions to the proposed scheme.

On the above basis, the members of the Committee (who voted) were unanimous that the details set out in the objection did not outweigh the reasons for the proposed Order and therefore would not be upheld.

RESOLVED that the Head of Technical Services be recommended not to uphold the objections.