

OFFICER DECISION IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

Scheme of Delegation No: 207, Page 188

Officer: Reuben Kench

SOBER HALL AVENUE, INGLEBY BARWICK – PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

SUMMARY

This report presents findings and seeks approval for recommendations made from an investigation into alleged speeding issues on Sober Hall Avenue, Ingleby Barwick which was identified as a priority by the Ingleby Barwick West Ward Councillors via the Ward Transport Budget procedure.

To address concerns relating to speeding vehicles it is proposed to introduce an environmental traffic calming scheme comprising of 4 sets of speed cushions on the section of Sober Hall Avenue between Blair Avenue and Round Hill Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approval be given to undertake statutory consultation with regards to the proposals as detailed in the report.
2. The local Ward Councillors and Town Council be informed of your decision.
3. The Director of HR Legal & Communications be authorised to process the necessary Notice of Works and receive any objections submitted.
4. Subject to a favourable conclusion of the statutory consultation, approval be given to implement the traffic calming features as detailed in the report.

DETAIL

Background

5. Sober Hall Avenue is a winding road of approximately 1.4km in length that runs east to west/north to south between Barwick Way and Blair Avenue. The road is subject to a 30mph speed limit by virtue of the presence of a system of street lighting. It is one of the main feeder roads for the Sober Hall Estate and is part of a local bus route serving the area. No properties front Sober Hall Avenue, grass verges and footways are provided on both sides of the carriageway. Centre line hatching is provided along its length to visually narrow the carriageway.
6. There is an existing pedestrian/cycle puffin crossing located on the bend to the east of Challacombe Crescent. An uncontrolled pedestrian/cyclist crossing point is provided south of Hareshaw Close linking the cycleways located to the east and west of Sober Hall Avenue.

Speed surveys

7. An automatic speed survey was carried out on Sober Hall Avenue at 2 locations over 7 day periods to establish prevailing vehicle speeds. The surveys were carried out in January 2018 and March 2019.

Sober Hall Avenue	Direction	Average Speed mph	85%ile mph
Near western junction with Challacombe Crescent	Eastbound	28.2	33
	Westbound	32.7	38.1
North of Langleeford Way	Northbound	26	32.8
	Southbound	30.6	36.1

Accidents

8. There have been 2 recorded pedestrian injury accidents on Sober Hall Avenue within the last 3 years. Accident 1 involving a pedestrian aged between 81-85 occurred east of Barwick Way junction and resulted in a slight injury. Accident 2 involving a pedestrian aged between 11-15 occurred north of Round Hill Avenue which resulted in serious injury.

Discussion

9. Following a request raised by the Ingleby Barwick West Ward Councillors an investigation was carried out into speed related concerns and a findings report was presented to the Ward Councillors. Included in the findings report were options to provide a new SID in the vicinity of Challacombe Crescent, a traffic calming scheme including speed cushions for north and south of Round Hill Avenue and the provision of a raised crossing at the existing Puffin crossing facility east of Challacombe Crescent.
10. The speed surveys results on Sober Hall Avenue indicate average speeds are appropriate for the 30mph speed limit however, 85%ile speeds were above police enforcement levels for westbound and southbound traffic.
11. Although the speed survey results show the highest 85%ile speed (38.1mph) was near Challacombe Crescent, the ward councillors chose to progress a traffic calming scheme to the north of Round Hill Avenue as this is the section of road that has received most residents' complaints. The Ward Councillors have indicated that the option to provide further traffic calming features south of Round Hill Avenue will remain an option for funding through the WTB should it be considered necessary in the future.
12. The provision of traffic calming features would have the desired effect of reducing traffic speed and be suitable for buses and larger vehicles. Speed reduction on this section of Sober Hall Avenue should also improve pedestrian/cyclist safety at the uncontrolled crossing south of Hareshaw Close.

Proposed Measures (See drawing TM12/75 – Appendix 1)

13. It is proposed to introduce an environmental traffic calming scheme including the provision of 4 sets of speed cushions on the section of Sober Hall Avenue to the north of Round Hill Avenue.
14. The appropriate regulatory warning signs will be provided including SLOW road markings on approach to the features.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost to provide 4 sets of speed cushions and the associated signing and lining is estimated to be £35,000. To be funded from the Ingleby Barwick West Ward Transport Budget allocation.

POLICY CONTENT

The proposal is consistent with the Community Safety Plan and Local Transport Plan to ensure a safer Borough.

CONSULTATION

Local Ward councillors have been consulted through the WTB process and Councillors Ken Dixon, Ross Patterson and Kevin Faulks support the proposals. No comments were received from Ingleby Town Council.

OTG have been consulted, CTV queried the vicinity of the features to bus stops. Response – the proposed speed cushions would be located at a suitable distance from bus stops.

Statutory consultation is to be undertaken.

CONCLUSIONS

The proposed measures will ensure that vehicles are driven at an appropriate speed at all times on the section of road between Blair Avenue and Round Hill Avenue. The measures are appropriate for the surrounding environment and should reduce traffic speeds and the potential for accidents.

Director of Community Services, Environment and Culture – Reuben Kench

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Environmental Implications

The proposals should improve road safety, thereby ensuring that the Borough continues to be a safe, healthy and attractive place in which to live and work.

Community Safety Implications

Local road safety concerns.

Background Papers

None

Education Related Item

No.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

Ingleby Barwick West: Councillors Ken Dixon, Kevin Faulks & Ross Patterson
