

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SPEED MANAGEMENT TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP.

Visit to Middlesbrough Borough Council; 12th December 2011.

Councillors Long and Carson met with Derek Gittins, Network Services Manager and Rob Farnham, Group Leader, Road Safety and Traffic at 9.30 a.m. at MBC Vancouver House office.

The meeting was particularly useful since it became apparent that MBC has approached the issue in the same way as we have, i.e. in the context of road safety and environmental amenity and was at the beginning of a projected three to four year delivery programme.

Their road safety record had shown consistent improvement in the recent past and it was agreed that there was no scope for further engineering solutions to bring about further, still desirable, improvement.

They had received a grant under the Healthy Towns programme, a NHS grant regime now ended (but there may be other health initiatives).

The present situation is that the swathe around the town centre is already subject to 20 mph zones and one road (where there had been a previous serious accident) is subject to a 20 mph limit.

MBC had employed Atkins consultants to investigate the implementation of 20 mph limits including detailed work on the signage needed at an initial cost of £6k though further work they requested added a further sum bringing the total to £10k. The conclusions they have reached as a result are as follows:-

Arterial roads remain at 30 mph and some 'distributor' roads also remain at 30 mph.

Consultation proceeded through the Community Council network which Middlesbrough has adopted.

Different areas have been identified in a priority order based on speeding and road safety indicators. These are labelled red, amber and green, with the red areas being implemented first.

Residential streets only seem to have been identified. 'Distributor roads' many of which are bus routes, have been left as 30 mph.

Legal advice: for each area notices in the press are necessary but not on the street. The press notice must appear in two separate weeks. The notice must mention every single street (i.e. it is not enough to adopt terminology like 'the area bounded by ' etc) Their advertisements cost £2,700 each.

Signage: 20mph sign needed as one enters the area, with smaller repeater signs at 300m. intervals, though painted disc signs on the road can be used instead. Wherever possible, signs will be attached to light standards or other existing street furniture, common sense being employed at all times.

Funding. See the associated documents.

The total sum for the 3 to 4 year programme is approximately £175k. Road safety budgets under their LTP allocation have been used.

Enforcement: The message from the Police (very limited enforcement of 20 mph areas) is similar to that received by our T and F group. Middlesbrough is introducing some 'community speed watch' approaches with volunteers logging information from a portable traffic 'speed board'. Volunteers generally do this away from their own area. The data is then processed/ analysed by the police and the follow up to regular speeders is a warning letter or a visit from the local community constable.

Draft: Dot Long; Bob Carson.
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