

CABINET
22 JUNE 2022

PROPOSED HUMPED SPEED TABLE NEWTON LANE - OBJECTION

**Responsible Cabinet Member –
Councillor Andy Keir, Local Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director –
Dave Winstanley, Group Director of Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of an objection received to a humped speed table on Newton Lane in relation to a 'Safe Route to School Scheme' and to seek a decision on whether to proceed with the proposal.

Summary

2. The Council has a programme of speed management and Safer Route to School schemes as part of the Local Transport Plan. Mount Pleasant Primary School has been identified as a priority school for a school 20mph zone.
3. The Council consulted on a scheme to introduce a 20mph zone on the Newton Lane frontage of the school with associated changes to the traffic calming measures.
4. A majority of responders were in favour of the proposal and officers proceeded to obtain delegated powers to progress the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders.
5. The statutory legal orders for the proposed 20mph zone were advertised on 14 March for a period of four weeks. No objections have been received.
6. The statutory notifications for the proposed humps were advertised separately on 1 April 2022 for a period of four weeks. One objection has been received.
7. The proposed scheme will improve road safety by managing speeds along the road and improving crossing facilities. The introduction of schemes of this nature are to ensure the infrastructure is in place to encourage more people to make sustainable journeys where possible and provide a safer area in the vicinity of the school.
8. Having assessed the points raised by the objector, officers consider the benefits of the proposed scheme and wider support for the scheme outweigh the potential impact identified by the objector and members are asked to set aside the objection. Further details of the objection and the considerations are provided in the main report.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that Members consider the objection and considerations by officers, set it aside and authorise officers to proceed and introduce the proposed speed table at the designed location.

Reasons

10. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (a) The scheme complies with Council policy as set out in the current Local Transport Plan.
- (b) The Council is committed to providing a safer highway network around schools to reduce the risk of road traffic collisions. The proposed physical measures will increase the safety of the school children and residents in this area and encourage more people to walk and cycle.

Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Noel Walecki: Extension 6706

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no direct implications
Health and Wellbeing	The introduction of a safer route to school is aimed at encouraging more people to walk and cycle to school and create a safer and healthier environment around the school.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Introducing the infrastructure and regulations to encourage more people to make sustainable travel choices will have a positive impact on climate change.
Diversity	There are no direct implications
Wards Affected	Cockerton West
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This decision supports the safe and sustainable themes in the Council Plan.
Efficiency	The decision will allow the road safety scheme to be implemented to assist with achieving objectives set out in the current Local Transport Plan. Should the requested decision not be made the road safety scheme will be redesigned, and consultation process restarted.

	<p>Consequently, new legal orders will need to be drafted and re-advertised.</p> <p>The scheme is currently proposed to be carried out in conjunction with a planned road maintenance scheme during the summer holidays in August. A decision to reconsult would mean that the works could not be carried out at the same time.</p>
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	There are no direct implications

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

11. Consultation documents for the proposed ‘Safe Route to School Scheme’ were sent to affected residents and stakeholders in June 2021 with 58 consultation packs hand delivered to residents of Newton Lane and affected properties. A plan of the proposed scheme is included at **Appendix A**. Stakeholders including Ward Councillors, Emergency Services and representatives from Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) were informed via electronic communication.
12. Consultation responses were collated and summarised in a report to the Cabinet Member responsible for Local Services. Over 80% of responses were in favour of the proposed measures. Two responses (18%) were not in favour of the type and location of the traffic calming features. The objector responded to the original consultation and did not agree with the type and location of the proposed traffic calming features
13. The table below provides details of the scheme consultation outcome.

	Question	Yes	No	No Comment/ Not Applicable
1	Do you support the creation of a safer route to Mount Pleasant Primary School?	10 (90%)	1 (10%)	0
2	Do you support the refurbishment of the 20mph speed reduction zone?	10 (91%)	1 (9%)	0
3	Do you approve of the type and location of the traffic calming features?	9 (82%)	2 (18%)	0
4	Do you support the hardening of verges at key locations?	9 (82%)	2 (18%)	0

14. Officers proceeded to obtain delegated powers to progress the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders(TROs).
15. Summary letters detailing the outcome of the consultation were sent to all affected residents on 9 March 2022. Letters included the ‘Next Steps’ comprising the advertisement of the required TROs. No objections to the order were received.

16. Notifications for the proposed humps were advertised separately on 1 April 2022. and letters were hand delivered to all affected residents. One objection has been received and this is contained at **Appendix B**.

17. There are two speed tables planned in the scheme and an objection has been raised to the feature in the vicinity of numbers 110 to 116 Newton Lane. The table below provides details of the objections and an officer response.

Objection Reason	Officer Response
<i>Basically, the council are using the movement of kids to school as an excuse to hide behind to put these speed tables in and create a 24/7 obstruction. You should be ashamed.</i>	The Council has a policy for introducing 20mph zones outside all schools in the borough. Parents have raised issues regarding safety, particularly in terms of speed of traffic and safe crossing points. The scheme will manage vehicle speed outside of the school and provide better crossing points.
<i>The erection of this speed table outside my property will, in my opinion, severely affect the value of my home as well as make it difficult for the residents of our block to park our cars in an area where parking spots at times are already at a premium.</i>	Road safety is a priority on the highway but the Council will allow parking where it is considered safe to do so. However, residents do not have a right to park outside of their properties. To mitigate the objection the scheme does provide some additional parking in the form of verge hardening in close proximity.
<i>They also cause such disruption to the smooth flow of traffic at a time when we should be trying to be as fuel efficient as possible but these tables cause braking and acceleration therefore wasting fuel.</i>	The speed humps are designed to accommodate traffic travelling at 20mph and are within a 20mph zone therefore driver should be able to drive through the zone at a steady and efficient speed.
<i>They also cause suspension damage to cars which us car owners have to pay to get repaired but we have to suffer statements like Bus Friendly speed table – yeah bus friendly, not car friendly!!</i>	The humps are designed to national standards should not cause excessive damage to vehicles as long as they are driven at an appropriate speed.

18. It is acknowledged that the scheme will remove the opportunity to park outside of the objectors house. It should however be born in mind that road safety is the main priority for the Council and resident's do not have a right to park outside of their property.

19. The proposed scheme will improve road safety by managing speeds along the road and improving crossing facilities and it is considered that the benefits of the scheme outweigh the impact reported by the objector.

20. The scheme complies with the Council's policy as set out in the Local Transport Plan, to introduce 20mph zones outside all of the schools within the borough. The scheme also contributes to the objective of encouraging more sustainable travel choices to support climate change and health objectives.

Equalities Considerations

21. Following a screening an equalities impact assessment was not required. However, Darlington Association on Disability were engaged as a stakeholder and current designs informed by their responses.