

Agenda Item No. 13

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: 26th June 2006

SUBJECT: PETITION AND REPRESENTATIONS RELATING TO EXCESSIVE SPEED OF TRAFFIC IN TUNSTALL ROAD, TUNSTALL AND DENSTROUDE LANE, DUNKIRK

BY: TRANSPORTATION MANAGER – Mid Kent Division Kent Highway Services

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides detail of representations and petitions received regarding the introduction of a 20mph speed zone in Tunstall Village, and the introduction of a reduced speed/traffic calming in Denstroude Lane, Dunkirk.

Decision Required: That Members note the report and decide if any further action is required.

Introduction

1. The following petitions were received.

Discussion – Tunstall Road, Tunstall

2. Representations and letters were received from Tunstall Parish Council and a number of residents in Tunstall Road requesting a reduction in the speed limit in the village of Tunstall particularly in the vicinity of Tunstall primary school. There is an existing 30mph speed limit in force through the village but it is felt by the residents and Parish Council that a further reduction is needed to improve the safety of the more vulnerable road users and improve the quality of life of the residents.
3. A meeting with the parish council was held on 27th April 2006 and the issue of highway safety was discussed with the following outcomes which have since been confirmed to the Parish Council following more detailed assessments.
4. The request for an interactive speed sign did not meet the very strict criteria which governs their justification.

5. Providing the missing footway sections could only be addressed by extending the traffic calming through the village which allowed the carriageway width to be reduced. As conventional traffic calming required a street lighting, this was rejected by the parish council.
6. 'Zig-zag' keep clear markings can be installed outside the school it was agreed that as many parents drop off and pick up their children by car by doing so will move them to other parts of the road that would cause an obstruction. It was also agreed that the recently approved school travel plan would best deal with the issues at the start and finish of the school day.
7. However, the issue of introducing a 20mph speed limit without any engineered features (e.g. Humps, build outs etc) is still being pursued by the parish council. It is difficult to justify the implementation of a 20mph limit thorough Tunstall on the current crash statistics and speed data. In addition to this, in such circumstances it is highly unlikely to get police support and will therefore not be a priority for the police in terms of enforcement. In such circumstances it is usual for KHS to recommend that no action is taken at the present time, but that the situation will continue to be monitored for any material change. Under the general procedure for reporting petitions and representations to the JTB, the Board is asked to decide whether any further action is considered necessary in order to take forward the introduction of a 20mph limit and include such a scheme in the 5 year LTP programme.

Discussion – Denstroude Lane, Dunkirk

8. A petition signed by 47 residents of Denstroude Lane, Dunkirk requesting that urgent action is taken to reduce the speed of vehicles in this lane.
9. A letter confirming receipt of this petition has been sent to the representative of the residents of Denstroude. This letter and subsequent communications have also explained that in accordance with the Government's current guidelines on the setting of speed limits, the matter has to be fully assessed to understand if a reduced speed limit would be applicable or whether other measures could be introduced and justified.
10. It has also been explained to the residents of Denstroude that funding for traffic calming schemes or speed limit reductions is normally determined after interrogation of the Councils Crash Database (compiled of Personal Injuries reported to the Police) and identifies sections of road with a minimum of 6 injury crashes in a 3 year period.
11. The records show that the stretch of road through Denstroude does not have any crashes in the last three year period up to 31 December 2005. Under these circumstances it is usual for KHS to recommend that no action is taken at the present time, but that the situation will continue to be monitored for any material change. Under the general procedure for reporting petitions to the JTB, the Board is asked to decide whether any further action is considered necessary in order to take forward the introduction of a reduced limit and include such a scheme in the 5 year LTP programme.

Decisions Required

The members note the report and recommend if any further action is considered necessary in order to take forward the:-

1. introduction of a reduced limit in Denstroude Lane, Denstroude and include such a scheme in the 5 year LTP programme;
2. the introduction of a 20mph limit in Tunstall Road, Tunstall and include such a scheme in the 5 year LTP programme.

List of background documents

Petitions from residents and other background correspondence.

Responsible Officer

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