

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD 7 SEPTEMBER 2009

Subject: **Richmond Street – Traffic Calming Scheme**

Director/Head of Service: Transport and Development Manager - Swale

Decision Issues: These matters are within the authority of the Kent County Council

Decision: Non-key

CCC Ward/KCC Division: All

Summary: *This report is to advise members of the outcome of consultation that has been carried out with residents regarding proposed traffic calming measures for the roads around the Cheyne Middle School and Richmond Primary School, and to recommend that work be continued to install traffic calming measures in Richmond Street and St. Helen's Road.*

Decision Required: Recommend that traffic calming be installed in Richmond St/St. Helen's Road to induce lower traffic speeds to assist children crossing the road on the routes to school.

Classification: THIS REPORT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Introduction

1. Following the completion of a report in February 2008, which contained the results of a site investigation and analysis of personal injury crashes that have occurred in the Richmond Street area of Sheerness, recommendations were made to install traffic calming measures within the area around the schools (Cheyne Middle School and Richmond Primary School).

2. A bid for funding the installation of traffic calming measures during the 2009/10 financial year was successful and a traffic calming scheme was drawn up and consultation, in the form of a leaflet (shown in Appendix One) and plan showing the proposed traffic calming scheme (shown in Appendix Two) sent to all properties fronting the proposed traffic calming scheme, was carried out in May 2009.

3. Once the leaflet was sent to residents a number of objections/comments to the proposed traffic calming measures were received. Appendix Three shows the number of objections/comments received from residents in all those roads included in the leaflet drop. A petition objecting to the proposed traffic calming measures in Jefferson Road was also received, which contained 26 signatures from residents of Jefferson Road.

Discussion

4. The results of the consultation show that of approximately 1000 residential properties that were consulted regarding the proposed traffic calming scheme, 35 objections to the proposals were received from residents (26 of which were within the petition against the proposed speed humps in Jefferson Road), with an additional 5 residents commenting on the proposals although not objecting to them.

5. The objections raised consisted mainly of concerns regarding road humps being located outside properties. Unfortunately road humps need to be located at regular intervals in order to encourage drivers to maintain a consistent speed when travelling over the humps and therefore to reduce the possibility of drivers increasing their speed between the humps. Also due to the presence of private accesses along St. Helen's Road, Nursery Close and some sections of Richmond Street, as well as the length of some of the roads in the proposed area to be traffic calmed, there are a limited number of locations where the road humps can be installed.

6. There were also a number of concerns raised regarding the affect that the road humps would have on on-street parking, due to the belief that parking is not permitted on the road humps and/or that the road would be narrowed where the road humps are to be located, however this is not the case. The introduction of road humps would not reduce the availability of on-street parking in the area.

7. Of the 35 objections received to the proposed traffic calming, three requested that the 20mph speed limit be installed but without the road humps. However Government advice states that 20mph speed limits should be self-enforcing because they only bring about a small reduction in actual vehicle speeds without the use of speed reducing measures such as speed humps, and would therefore be seen to be ineffective. Therefore unless the current 85th percentile speed (the speed at which 85% of drivers travel at or below) is 20mph less, speed reducing measures such as road humps need to be installed. Speed surveys were carried out at two locations within the area of proposed traffic calming and the results are shown in Table One below.

Table One: Results of Speed Surveys

Location of Speed Survey	85th percentile speed of vehicles
Richmond Street	24.7mph
Coronation Road	24.75mph

8. The results above show that traffic calming will need to be installed in Richmond Street and Coronation Road in order to ensure that drivers are driving at or below 20mph before a 20mph speed limit can be put in place.

9. However three respondents to the consultation raised concerns about the introduction of traffic calming in Coronation Road. Concerns were raised regarding the current bend in Coronation Road and that a one-way system should be introduced, as well as the possibility that more drivers will use the lower end of Coronation Road to avoid the proposed road humps.

10. The introduction of a one-way system on Coronation Road needs careful consideration and work will need to be carried out to assess the feasibility of installing a one-way system in Coronation Road. Should a one-way system be feasible residents will also need to be consulted.

Decision Required

11. The results of the consultation show that not all residents agree to the installation of traffic calming within the area surrounding Cheyne Middle School (soon to be an academy) and Richmond Primary School. The majority of objections and concerns regarding the proposed traffic calming have been received from those

residents in Jefferson Road and Coronation Road. Those residents who objected to/commented on the proposed traffic calming measures have suggested other measures for traffic calming and these suggestions, such as the one-way system for Coronation Road and alternative traffic calming measures for Jefferson Road will be assessed and subject to the SPS process for funding in a future year.

12. Only one objection was received to the proposed traffic calming in Richmond Street/St Helen's Road, however the objection raised concerned the noise from in-vehicle music players and that reducing vehicle speeds would result in the noise from such players being more prolonged. Also four of those who objected to the proposed traffic calming in their street were however, in favour of installing the proposed traffic calming in Richmond Street/St. Helen's Road, because this road travels through the Marine Town estate and is crossed by the majority of school children on their way to/from the schools. Having also assessed the most recent three year crash data from Kent Police (from 01/04/06 to 31/03/09) the majority of personal injury crashes in the roads around the schools have occurred in Richmond Street/St. Helen's Road.

13. It is therefore recommended that traffic calming be installed in Richmond Street/St. Helen's Road during the 2009/10 financial year. The following roads will therefore not receive the proposed traffic calming measures due to objections received from residents;

- Alma Street (East)
- James Street (East)
- Jefferson Road
- Unity Street (East)
- Nursery Close
- Wellesley Road
- Coronation Road

Contact Officer: Anne-Marie Hannam/Stephen Huckle



Marine Town, Sheerness – proposed Traffic Calming Scheme Consultation Sheet

Location

Marine Town, Sheerness is a residential area to the east of Sheerness Town Centre. Two schools are located within this residential area (Cheyne Middle School and Richmond First School) and a large number of people walk and drive to and from these two schools every day and although Cheyne Middle School is soon to close, Richmond First School is to remain open.

Following a site investigation which was carried out to look at the number of crashes that have occurred in the roads around the schools it is proposed to install traffic calming (in the form of road humps) within the following roads that do not currently have traffic calming; Richmond Street, Coronation Road, Alma Street, James Street, Jefferson Road, Unity Street, St Helens Road, Wellesley Road and Nursery Close.

What are we planning to do?

A site investigation was carried out within the following roads in the Marine Town area of Sheerness; Richmond Street, Coronation Road, Alma Street, James Street, Jefferson Road, Unity Street, St Helens Road, Wellesley Road and Nursery Close.

This investigation looked at the number of personal injury crashes that have occurred within this area of Marine Town over the last 6 years, the information on these crashes was gathered from Kent Police.

The results of the investigation showed that an extremely high number of crashes in the area involved pedestrians, including child pedestrians and cyclists. The investigation therefore concluded that the number of crashes should be reduced through the installation of traffic calming in those roads included in the investigation that do not currently have any traffic calming measures, and which will be heavily used by those travelling to and from the schools.

A plan showing the roads in which the traffic calming is to be installed is shown on the right hand side of this leaflet. The proposed location of traffic calming measures within your road is shown in detail on the back of this leaflet.

How will we carry out the work?

There are no plans at present to construct the proposed traffic calming scheme until residents have had an opportunity to write in with their views on the scheme. Therefore if you have any views or comments to make regarding the proposed traffic calming scheme please write to;

Anne-Marie Hannam
Kent Highway Services
Ashford Highway Depot
4 Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8AD

If no significant objections to the proposals are received from residents, work to complete the design of the traffic calming scheme will continue with work to construct the traffic calming scheme being carried out next year (2010).

All views and comments **MUST** be received by **Wednesday 17th June 2009** in order for them to be presented to Members of the next Joint Transportation Board which is to be held on Monday 17th September 2009.

How to Contact us?

For further information in the first instance please call Kent Highway Services on our 24hr helpline 0845 824 7800.

Appendix Three – Summary of Objections/Comments Received

<u>Road</u>	<u>Number of objections/comments received</u>	<u>Reasons for Objections</u>
Coronation Road	6	Doesn't want a road hump outside their property/ only Richmond St should be traffic calmed/ concerned that people will accelerate between them increasing noise/concerned about damage to vehicle suspension caused by humps/wants 15-20mph speed limit but no road humps/ concerned that more vehicles will use the lower end of Coronation Road if only one half of it is traffic calmed/doesn't think that traffic calming is needed/wants Coronation Road to be one-way.
Jefferson Road	1 (plus 26 signatures within a petition).	Wants 20mph speed limit but not humps/ does not want the hump outside their property/ concerned that road humps would make reversing down Jefferson Road difficult.
Unity Street (East)	1	Doesn't want a road hump outside their property
Alma Street (East)	2	Doesn't want road humps in Alma St because it is a short cul-de-sac
James Street (East)	2	Objects to traffic calming worried that it will increase noise pollution as motorists travel over the humps and speed up-slow down between the humps/ don't want hump outside their property/would like a 20mph speed limit but not road humps.
Richmond Street	1	Objects because traffic calming will slow traffic resulting in prolonged noise from car CD players.
Wellesley Road	1	Doesn't want traffic calming because it is a short road/ doesn't want a road hump outside their property.
St. Helen's Road	0	
Nursery Close	0	