



# Northumberland

## County Council

ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL  
DATE: 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

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**PETITION - SPEEDING TRAFFIC ON WOODHORN ROAD, ASHINGTON**

**Report of: Service Director - Local Services, Paul Jones**

**Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson – Leader of Council**

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### **Purpose of report**

To acknowledge receipt of the petition received by Democratic Services regarding excessive vehicle speeds on Woodhorn Road in Ashington.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report and acknowledge receipt of the petition.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

How - “We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone”

Enjoying - “We want you to love where you live”

Connecting - “We want you to have access to the things you need”

### **Key Issues**

1. A petition has been received raising concerns about excessive vehicle speeds on Woodhorn Road in Ashington, which runs from the roundabout at The Rohan Kanhai Public house, eastwards to the roundabout with Woodhorn Lane and the A197.
2. The petition expresses residents’ serious concerns about the speed of vehicles at early evening, night-time and weekends.
3. The petition claims that there have been a number of traffic accidents on this road over recent times.
4. The petition highlights that this issue has been a concern for many years and has been brought to the attention of Local Councillors and Northumbria Police on several previous occasions.
5. The petition mentions that consideration should be given to the introduction of speed cameras and other speed reduction measures.
6. The petition was signed by 80 residents.

7. Speed surveys have not been completed on Woodhorn Road for some time, however new surveys are due to be carried out and the results will be reported back to the Local Area Council.
8. There have been 6 personal injury collisions on Woodhorn Road since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, although there may have been contributory factors other than speed with at least four of these incidents.
9. Northumbria Police in partnership with all Local Authorities in the force area have recently developed a new enforcement strategy, known as Operation Modero which will assist the police with dealing with this type of issue. A copy of this petition will be forwarded to the Camera Enforcement Unit for further investigation and any appropriate action deemed necessary.
10. Councillor Parry has agreed to fund preliminary design work through his Members Local Improvement Scheme allowance which will allow our design team to identify possible measures which would encourage reduced vehicle speeds along this route.
11. Following this work being completed consideration will need to be given to how any measures identified would be funded, such as through consideration for inclusion in a future Local Transport Plan Programme.

## **Background**

The County Council has received a petition stating that :-

“We the undersigned are expressing serious concerns about the speed of vehicles and motorbikes on Woodhorn Road, particularly at early evenings, nights and weekends. There have been a number of traffic accidents on this road over recent times.

We would also like to highlight that this issue has been a concern for a number of years and has been brought to the attention of local councillors and Northumbria Police on several previous occasions.

Consideration should be given to the introduction of speed cameras and other speed reduction measures.”

Woodhorn Road is on the C399. The area of concern is assumed to be from the roundabout at the Rohan Kanhai Public house, eastwards to the roundabout with Woodhorn Land and the A197. It is primarily residential, but there are a number of business at its western end.

Speed surveys have not been carried out for a number of years on this length of road. However, since receipt of the petition a speed survey has been organised and is due to be carried out before the end of October. Results will be reported to the Local Area Council in due course.

According to our accident database system which is provided to us by Gateshead Council via Northumbria Police, there have been 6 personal injury collisions on Woodhorn Road

since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. This information does not include any damage only incidents. It should be noted that there may have been contributory factors with at least four of these incidents. In two of the accidents, drivers fled the scene and in two of the accidents, drivers failed a breathalyser. Given these circumstances it is difficult to legislate for this type of behaviour, and it is likely that these incidents would have occurred regardless of any speed reducing measures that were already in place.

These survey results will be passed to the police for information and consideration of any enforcement activity that may be possible.

In the meantime, Councillor Parry has agreed to fund preliminary design through his Members Local Improvement Scheme allowance which will allow our design team to identify possible measures which would encourage reduced vehicle speeds along this route. Following this work being completed consideration will need to be given to how any measures identified would be funded, such as through consideration for inclusion in a future Local Transport Plan Programme.

### Implications

<b>Policy</b>	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	Preliminary design to be funded through Councillor Parry's Members Local Improvement Scheme allowance.
<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b>  (Impact Assessment attached)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	n/a

<b>Crime Disorder &amp;</b>	Driving at excessive speed is an offence which is only enforceable by the police.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Petition identifies excessive speeds affecting quality of life of residents along this route
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	n/a
<b>Wards</b>	Hirst and Ashington Central

**Background papers:**

None

**Report sign off**

	Name
Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Director	Paul Jones
Portfolio Holder(s)	Glen Sanderson

**Author and Contact Details**

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