

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA  
COUNCIL

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2017

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REQUEST FOR SPEED CAMERAS AND TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES  
IN ROTHESAY AND VICTORIA TERRACE, BEDLINGTON

**Report of the Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery, Paul Jones**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment & Local Services**

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## **Purpose of report**

To acknowledge the petitions recently received by this Committee in relation to road safety concerns in Rothesay Terrace and Victoria Terrace, Bedlington following a recent fatal road traffic collision and to consider potential actions.

## **Background**

Two petitions have recently been received regarding this issue. An e-petition was created in September 2017 and stated :-

“Installation of Speed Cameras and Traffic Calming in Rothesay and Victoria Terrace, Bedlington.

After the death of a friend, caused by a speeding motorist along Victoria/Rothesay Terrace, it's about time the route from Bedlington Station to Stead Lane had some traffic calming measures installed along this route to prevent another tragedy.”

This e-petition contained 316 electronic signatures.

A second paper petition was received on 1st November and stated :-

“Justice for Beth.

Due to the tragic death of Bethany Fisher age 19 whilst out celebrating her birthday, a mindless idiot who thought he was an actor in fast and furious, thinking Rothesay and Victoria Terrace was a race track. Not only did she die outside her home I went out to help and found my daughter dead. I would like as many people to sign this petition for the Council to see sense and put road humps on this road before another life is taken.”

This petition contained 882 signatures.

The petitions relate to the accident that occurred on 19th August on Victoria Terrace, Bedlington and the County Council would like to express its heartfelt sympathy to all those affected by this tragic accident including their family and friends.

As background, the accident involved a single vehicle and its driver and passengers. Victoria Terrace and Rothesay Terrace form part of the C405 which links Bedlington Station to Bedlington. The road also forms part of a busy bus route. The road is fronted by residential properties on both sides, while two business are situated on Rothesay Terrace. The road ranges in width throughout from between 6.5 metres up to 9 metres. The road is subject to a 30mph speed limit, and street lighting is provided throughout, parked cars are parked on both sides of the road at various sections.

Northumbria Police confirms that the driver of the vehicle was sentenced to 6 years in prison on 16th October 2017. The driver appeared at Newcastle Crown Court on 18th September 2017 where he pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving, causing serious injury by dangerous driving, causing death whilst uninsured, attempting to pervert the course of justice and failing to stop after a road traffic collision.

The police have confirmed that the driver's actions were extremely dangerous. He drove his car in a dangerous manner at speeds well in excess of the speed limit through a built up residential area, and showed no regard to the safety of members of the public, or his passengers. At the time of the fatal collision, the driver was under the influence of alcohol and his vehicle was not insured.

### **Speed Survey Data**

In order to further understand traffic speeds along the road, three speed surveys have been completed along the road since the accident occurred. Surveys recorded speeds from 20th September until 27th September at each location. The results were as follows:-

REF NO.	LOCATION	85TH PERCENTILE	AVERAGE SPEED	HIGHEST SPEED RECORDED (RANGE)
TS/17/79	In the vicinity of 13 Victoria Terrace, (travelling North East)	32.7mph	28.1mph	41 - 46mph
TS/17/79	In the vicinity of 13 Victoria Terrace, (travelling South West)	33.6mph	28.1mph	41 - 46mph
TS/17/87	In the vicinity of Ian Bell Motorcycles, (travelling North East)	31.4mph	27.1mph	41 - 46mph
TS/17/87	In the vicinity of Ian Bell Motorcycles, (travelling South West)	32.2mph	26.9mph	41 - 46mph

TS/17/88	In the vicinity of 104 Rothesay Terrace, (travelling North East)	30.9mph	26.9mph	41 - 46mph
TS/17/88	In the vicinity of 104 Rothesay Terrace, (travelling South West)	30.8mph	26.2mph	46 - 51mph

*(Note:- The 85th percentile is that speed (or less) at which 85% of motorists are driving, the remaining 15% of motorists are driving in excess of that speed. The 85th percentile is what the police base their enforcement activity on. In order for police enforcement to be considered, the 85th percentile normally needs to be a minimum of 35mph in a 30mph speed limit)*

It should be noted that the volume of parked cars along this route does tend to affect traffic flows and reduce traffic speeds.

The data that has been obtained from these speed surveys would suggest that the general speed of vehicles would not warrant enforcement of the speed limit with a mobile camera van under usual criteria. However, the findings of the speed survey will be discussed with local neighbourhood police requesting that any appropriate action is taken going forward. A small number of vehicles are travelling at speeds up to 50mph. High speeds were involved in the accident which has occurred, and it may be that there are other occasions when higher speeds are occurring which have not been present during the survey period. Provision to the Council of any information on patterns of excessive vehicle speeding behaviour known to the local community would be welcomed in considering what action can be taken.

### **Previous Accident Data**

According to accident information supplied by the Traffic and Accident Data Unit via Northumbria Police, in total there have been 13 personal injury collisions on the overall stretch of road between Bedlington Station and Stead Lane since 1st January 2014. This information is for personal injury accidents and does not include any damage only incidents. Aside from the tragic fatal road traffic collision, there have been two serious and ten slight personal injury collisions, with the majority of these accident occurring at junctions towards either end of the route, including six at the Station Road / Chatsworth Drive junction and three at the Rothesay Terrace / Stead Lane junction.

### **Schemes Already Planned**

Prior to the occurrence of this traffic collision, two schemes had already been planned at locations along the overall length of road and are due to be implemented during 2017/18. However it should be noted that these are at the junctions at the ends of the length of road. Details are as follows:-

- 1) C405 Station Road / Chatsworth Drive junction - scheme being implemented following the occurrence of six personal injuries at this location in the last three years.

- 2) C405 Rothesay Terrace / Stead Lane junction - scheme being implemented following the occurrence of three personal injury accidents at this location in the last three years.

### **Recommendations and Further Actions**

Given the concerns of the community and the volume of signatures on the petitions, it is clear that there is a desire for physical traffic calming measures or other speed reduction measures to be introduced. Bearing in mind Victoria Terrace and Rothesay Terrace lie on a bus route, full width road humps are not likely to be possible. Current information on general speed of vehicles is unlikely to meet criteria for permanent speed cameras. Consideration will need to be given to what measures could be implemented that would be effective in terms of general traffic conditions and speeds on the road and situations where any individual vehicles are seeking to significantly exceed the speed limit. This could include consideration of such measures as speed cushions, full width granite set rumble strips, chicanes or build outs, Speed Indicator Display (SID) Signs or Vehicular Activated (VAS) Signs, speed camera or speed gun enforcement or a combination of these.

It is therefore recommended that further work is carried out between the local County Councillor, East Bedlington Parish Council, County Council road safety officers and the Police to consider what measures would be appropriate. A meeting will be arranged as soon as possible to discuss potential options and the lead petitioners will be updated following this meeting.

### **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>	To be confirmed
<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>	The Council has undertaken speed surveys, the results of which will be discussed with local representatives to agree an appropriate course of action.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Motorists will be required to adhere to any reduced speed limit and / or negotiate any traffic calming measures introduced
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Bedlington East

**Background papers:**

None

**Report sign off**

	initials
Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Director	PJ
Portfolio Holder(s)	GS

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