



Northumberland

County Council

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 21 MARCH 2019

PETITION - REMOVAL OF TRAFFIC CALMING, ALLERBURN LEA,
ALNWICK

Report of the Director of Local Services, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment & Local Services

Purpose of report

To respond to the petition received by the North Northumberland Local Area Council regarding residents request to remove speed cushions from Allerburn Lea in Alnwick.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted and that Local Area Council supports the decision that the traffic calming features should remain in place and the petitioners request declined.

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 requesting the removal of traffic calming in Allerburn Lea.
2. Consultation was previously carried out on removing traffic calming as part of a resurfacing scheme.
3. There is no majority in favour of removing the traffic calming.

Introduction

On 13th January 2019 the County Council received a petition of 72 signatures from residents of Allerburn Lea requesting the removal of traffic calming features from the estate.

The petition was submitted following previous discussion between the lead petitioner, Officers and Councillor Moore. It states:

“It would however seem that the Council has not complied with Department of Transport Guidelines on Traffic Calming nor the Road Humps Regulations, since:

- a) It had no evidence that there is a speeding problem.*
- b) It failed to consider other types of traffic calming*
- c) It failed to consider the risks in the location of the road humps, so failing its duty of care.*
- d) It failed to properly consult.*

The residents of Allerburn Lea therefore require the removal of the speed humps.

Please find attached three pages of signatures from residents.”

Background

Allerburn Lea is a residential estate of 205 houses which was developed in stages from the 1990s onwards. The roads within the estate, including traffic calming features, were constructed by the developer before being adopted as public highway by the County Council from 1998 onwards.

There are three different types of traffic calming feature within the estate. These are shown in the photographs below:



Speed Cushions

These are located on the main road through the estate and are designed to allow access by large vehicles such as buses which can 'straddle' them.



Speed Humps

These are constructed of blocks and are located at the entrances to cul-de-sacs in the earlier stages of the development.



Rumble Strips

Also constructed from blocks these are located at the entrances to cul-de-sacs in the later stages of the development.

As stated above, these traffic calming features were installed by the housing developer before the roads were adopted by the County Council. The features met the requirements of the traffic calming regulations in place at the time of adoption.

Road Resurfacing

In 2017, a resurfacing scheme was planned for part of the estate. The scheme required the existing traffic calming to be removed along with the old road surface. As is normal

practice when a road with traffic calming features is due to be resurfaced, the opportunity was taken to consult the affected residents to find out whether they wished to retain the traffic calming or not.

37 responses were received. Of those:

- 17 stated the speed humps should not be put back, (46%)
- 18 stated the speed humps should be put back, (49%)
- 2 did not state a preference, (5%)

It was therefore decided that the speed humps should be put back in place as part of the resurfacing scheme.

Specific Issues Raised in the Petition

The petition claims that the County Council failed to comply with Traffic Calming Regulations because:

- a) It had no evidence that there is a speeding problem.
- b) It failed to consider other types of traffic calming
- c) It failed to consider the risks in the location of the road humps, so failing its duty of care.
- d) It failed to properly consult.

All of the above factors apply when new traffic calming features are being considered in an area where there is none currently. In this instance, the traffic calming features were simply being put back following a resurfacing scheme. a) to c) therefore do not apply.

In terms of d), consultation, those residents directly affected were consulted and there was a slight majority in favour of keeping the speed humps.

The speed humps that were reinstated following resurfacing have been constructed in accordance with the Traffic Calming Regulations set out in Local Transport Note 1/07.

Other relevant points to note include:

- The County Council will only consider removing traffic calming features if a clear majority of residents are in favour.
- The current petition of 72 signatures is only 35% of potential signatures, assuming one per household.
- If a majority in favour is demonstrated, a budget would need to be identified through the Local Transport Plan process and the proposal would require the support of either the local ward Members and/or Alnwick Town Council.
- The estate roads were designed to include traffic calming from the outset.
- The residential nature of the area, including families with young children and the presence of a play area mean that traffic calming is considered appropriate.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	None
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	None
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Alnwick

Appendix Index

Appendix A - Consultation Responses

Background papers:

None

Report sign off

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

Author and Contact Details

Richard McKenzie – Senior Programme Officer
(01670) 624099
Richard.Mckenzie@northumberland.gov.uk

Appendix A

Consultation Responses

F O R	T R I B U T E	Other Relevant Comments
1		<p>There definitely does need to be some type of Traffic Calming measure at this location.</p> <p>The current "Speed Humps" are ineffective as they don't span the full width of the road and residents living further in the estate know that they don't have to reduce their speed as they are narrower than the average car axle width.</p> <p>I live at No 2 Allerburn Lea which is adjacent to these humps and my wife and I have great difficulty driving off our drive as the road up to these is curved approaching from our nearside and the crest of the hill is close approaching on our farside and the speed and some of the vehicles approach at far too fast a speed as there is no deterrent need to slow down. The residents who do not want these humps are no doubt some of these drivers.</p> <p>To Summarize- There is a real Safety need "Speed Humps" at this location which should span the FULL width of the road and I can guarantee that the residents who live adjacent to this location will be in full agreement and our views should take precedence and Not the majority.</p>
1		<p>Whilst I support the resurfacing of the road, I do not agree with the speed cushions. In the winter, with the slightest bit of frost the speed cushions make it extremely difficult for cars to get out of the estate. We often have to go out and help people to go up the hill, even after using the grit bins.</p>
1		<p>Can this estate have a 20 mph speed limit put in place? Without the traffic cushions this would probably reduce overall speeds to well below 30mph. We live on the bend at number 12 so reducing speed here is important to prevent accidents as residents reverse off their drives. Otherwise the traffic cushions should remain.</p>
1		<p>Yes, please remove the speed cushions when the resurfacing is carried out. They are ineffective as a speed reduction measure and just serve to force cars towards the centre of the road as well as increase the chance of damage to tyres and suspension.</p>
1		<p>There is a speed bump in front of my house and it seems that most vehicles approach it at significant speed, causing frequent and intrusive vibrations in my house. I have no problem with speed bumps per se but this one clearly is ineffective, with unpleasant results for my household.</p>
1		<p>no comments</p>
1		<p>We have a speed cushion outside our property. Most residents and delivery drivers know that they can straddle the hump without reducing their speed.</p> <p>Any replacements need to be wider, higher or a different system. e.g. priority</p>
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1		<p>With regards to the road surfacing and traffic calming resurfacing here in Allerburn Lea Alnwick. We are in favour of the measures to "Keep and improve" on the speed cushions along the road into the estate and throughout. We would like to ask if you could introduce new road signage throughout. We want "Children at play" hazard triangles to be placed as you come into the estate (outside our property). You may use our land for the placement of such a post (near the county council grit box). Please contact us to discuss further. We are most concerned as to the current speed of the residences, maintenance vehicles and general traffic coming and going. We have a 2 year old boy and an imminent newborn on his way and feel somewhat concerned for them in the future and the kids that already play in our estate. Please consider.</p>

1	I do not agree with the removal of the speed cushions. In fact I believe they should extend throughout the width of the road to enforce a true slowing effect of traffic. I live near the entrance to Allernburn Lea and would have great difficulty getting in and out of my property should the traffic flow faster. It is a large estate with many of the properties having two cars. Trade delivery vehicles can be seen daily using the road. The cushions not only help to reduce the speed level but also the noise level generated from the vehicles
1	Thank you for your letter dated 18th May 2017 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for outpatients appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the ongoing road safety programme.
1	Keep the humps it slows traffic and children skateboarding
1	Yes remove the "Speed Humps". This is two votes from number 9. At any time a 20mph speed limit is proposed we would vote for that too.
1	I support the proposal to remove the speed cushions.
1	We agree with the removal of the speed humps that are in place at present. The reason being they are too narrow to deter the minority who drive excessively fast and they simply straddle the humps. We have always been a supporter of the Twentys Plenty and enquired if this alternative is a possibility to the existing arrangement. Statistics bare out the reduction in serious injuries while doing twenty mph max. If this is not possible then to reduce speed I can only say the speed humps actually need an increase in size to deter the few that do drive above the safe limit through the estate.
1	I would like the speed cushions to be removed.
1	Of cause I support the programme to resurface Allernburn Lea through I think it should be the whole road down to Denwick lane. So far as the speed cushions are concerned these outside number 1 Allernburn Lea are essential if not made more effective. There have been complaints about the speed of vehicles both entering and leaving Allernburn Lea in recent weeks. It has reached a serious level - perhaps those lines of stones now being used at Alnmouth would solve the problem. I should point out that is is difficult to get out of my drive at number 1 because cars come over the brow of the hill at such high speeds and this is with calming in place.
1	Please remove speed bumps when resurfacing
1	Please keep the Traffic Calming. Cars tear down the hill past our house as it is. They have little regard for people leaving their driveway or children playing out. With thanks.
1	The Traffic calming are always an obstacle when the winter weather comes as it obstructs people's movement problems and anyway do not calm the traffic movement and are difficult to manoeuvre over
1	1 Please retain speed bumps. 2 Impose 20mph throughout the estate. 3 Consider double yellow lines at junction of Alberbury Lean and Denwick Lane at least on one side. 4 Consider the view of the road at the junction of Allernburn Lea and the road leading to Allernburn House and the proposed housing development.
1	A 20mph limit would be better than speed humps. The one outside of number 90 causes problems in icy weather to those cars coming up the hill
1	We would prefer to keep the existing speed cushions but a better ones than they are now. We would also like a 20mph speed limit especially as where we live at the 1st phase - cars and vans come up from bottom of the estate very quickly.
1	Speed bumps removed but only if speed limit signs put up throughout estate, and possibly children playing signs
1	Request that the Speed Cushions are RETAINED. Road Specification on the steeply inclined sections needs to be fit for purpose. It is currently not in cold / freezing weather conditions with significant risk of skidding.
1	As you are aware I have requested that the speed cushions be removed from outside of my property due to cracking occurring in the internal walls. Vibration testing was carried out and some abnormal readings were noted. Also in the bad weather owners of the properties at the bottom of the estate get stuck at the speed cushions outside of my property. If the speed cushions are not removed perhaps the one outside of my property could be moved elsewhere. I am sure that if other owners experienced cracking in their walls they would want them removed!
1	Should keep some traffic calming in place as some residents drive too fast on the top part of the road making it tricky to get on and off your drive if you live in one of the first houses in the road.

		<p>There definitely does need to be some type of Traffic Calming measure at this location.</p> <p>The current "Speed Humps" are ineffective as they don't span the full width of the road and residents living further in the estate know that they don't have to reduce their speed as they are narrower than the average car axle width.</p> <p>I live at No 2 Allerburn Lea which is adjacent to these humps and my wife and I have great difficulty driving off our drive as the road up to these is curved approaching from our nearside and the crest of the hill is close approaching on our farside and the speed and some of the vehicles approach at far too fast a speed as there is no deterrent need to slow down. The residents who do not want these humps are no doubt some of these drivers.</p> <p>To Summarize- There is a real Safety need "Speed Humps" at this location which should span the FULL width of the road and I can guarantee that the residents who live adjacent to this location will be in full agreement and our views should take precedence and Not the majority.</p>
1		<p>Whilst I support the resurfacing of the road, I do not agree with the speed cushions. In the winter, with the slightest bit of frost the speed cushions make it extremely difficult for cars to get out of the estate. We often have to go out and help people to go up the hill, even after using the grit bins.</p>
1		<p>Can this estate have a 20 mph speed limit put in place? Without the traffic cushions this would probably reduce overall speeds to well below 30mph. We live on the bend at number 12 so reducing speed here is important to prevent accidents as residents reverse off their drives. Otherwise the traffic cushions should remain.</p>
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1		<p>I am very happy to have this section of the road resurfaced but I do not want any traffic calming.</p>
1		<p>Given the twisting nature of the centre section of the estate, and the presence of a children's play area I feel there should be 1 set of speed bumps at the entrance and a 20 mph limit imposed throughout. There are always cars parked on the road creating hazards for passing vehicles. Many cars come up the hill too fast into the bends. Please consider removing the speed bumps except at the entrance.</p>
	1	<p>I am delighted to see that the resurfacing is to be carried out, the surfacing done by the original developer was I have to say of a poor quality.</p> <p>Regarding traffic calming measures, I believe these should be retained and indeed enhanced if possible.</p> <p>Our house fronts onto this road and the excessive speed at which some of the younger residents and indeed not so young go I am surprised that an accident has not already occurred, particularly with all badly parked cars on this road.</p> <p>There are a considerable number of under 10s live in the area and I would fear for their safety if the traffic calming measures were abolished.</p>
1		<p>Speed cushions do not slow traffic. 10 mph sign on each lamp post. Digital speed signs. Flyers in post to slow traffic? (speed aware) as a warning. As traffic in phase one area is too fast!!</p>
	1	
	1	<p>With regards to the road resurfacing and traffic calming resurfacing here in Allerburn Lea, Alnwick. We are in favour of the measures to 'keep and improve' on the speed cushions along the road into the estate and throughout. We would like to ask if you could introduce new road signage throughout. We want 'children at play' hazard triangles to be placed as you come into the estate (outside our property). You may use our land for the placement of such a post (near the county council grit box). Please contact us to discuss further. We are most concerned as to the current speed of some of the residences, maintenance vehicles and general traffic coming and going. We have a 2 year old boy and an imminent newborn on his way and feel somewhat concerned for them in the future and the kids that already play in our estate. Please consider.</p>
17	18	2