



TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 14 JANUARY 2020

PETITION - REQUEST FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMIT ON HEXHAM ROAD,
B6528 AND HOLEYN HALL ROAD, WYLAM

Report of: Service Director - Local Services, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment & Local Services

Purpose of report

To respond to the petition received by the Tynedale Local Area Council regarding residents' requests to improve safety for pedestrians by reducing the speed limit to 40mph on Hexham Road / B6528 leading towards Holeyn Hall Crossroads and on Holeyn Hall Road leading into Wylam.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report and consider whether the LAC would support consideration of the potential inclusion of a funding allocation in the draft LTP programme for 2020/21 to allow appropriate safety measures and maintenance to be investigated.

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 pedestrian safety and requesting that the speed limit on Hexham Road and Holyen Hall Road is reduced to 40mph.
2. The petition has received over 400 signatures.
3. The petition includes concerns about poor visibility, narrow pavements which is exacerbated by vegetation overgrowth, concealed exits, road drainage maintenance and road traffic collisions.
4. The issues have been considered and a speed survey has been carried out on Holeyn Hall Road. The overgrown vegetation and encroachment of the footpath will also be addressed as part of general maintenance.

5. Having considered the issues raised officers can see merit in carrying out further detailed assessments at the crossroads and along Holeyn Hall Road, to consider whether any further safety improvements would be appropriate.

Background

The County Council has received a petition with a covering letter dated 28th September stating that “We the undersigned, call on Northumberland County Council to improve safety for pedestrians by reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph on Hexham Road / B6528 leading towards Holeyn Hall Crossroads and on Holeyn Hall leading into Wylam”. The petition has been signed by over 400 people.

The lead petitioner has raised a number of issues which highlight why the petitioners believe there is an issue in this area. A number of photographs were also included and all this information is attached as Appendix A.

In the Case of Need which is part of the petition several concerns are raised. The first three concerns are about the users, their need to travel along these routes and their speed. Appendix B shows the overall location and sets out the current speed restrictions on the local roads.

The next concerns refer to the layout of Holyen Halll Road and how they believe that poor maintenance is contributing to safety concerns. The Case of Need says that there is poor visibility including two blind bends and a blind summit, it is also claimed that at speed drivers are cutting corners leaving oncoming traffic, including cyclists and pedestrians, in danger.

The petition also raised concerns about narrow footpaths which they report to be poorly maintained with vegetation growing across the pavement pushing pedestrians towards the road. The petition also notes that concerns have been raised about road maintenance in relation to drainage issues.

The final point that the petition raises is about road traffic collisions.

Officers have considered the content of the report and agree that road traffic collisions in this location have been a cause for concern in the past which was why a High Risk Safety Scheme was completed at Holeyn Hall Crossroads as part of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme for 2018/19. The works that were carried out included improved signs and road markings as well as vegetation clearance and the site was identified because of the history of collisions where personal injuries were recorded. The Council receive police collision data through the Regional Road Safety Resource and since this scheme was completed no further personal injury collisions have been reported at this location. It has not been possible within the time since receiving the petition to undertake a speed survey at the crossroads. However, in light of the further concerns raised a speed survey will be undertaken at locations where it is safe to set survey equipment up, to gauge the effectiveness of the current safety measures and consider if any further works would help improve safety.

A slight personal injury collision was recorded on Holeyn Hall Road in 2018. The police recorded that this incident was the result of driver error. The car was following a slow

moving cyclist who was travelling north, the car attempted to overtake the cyclist but clipped the wheel of the bike causing the cyclist to fall. It should be noted that the police do not record information on any damage only incidents and therefore we do not hold any data about any damage only incidents which may have occurred.

A speed survey was completed on Holyen Hall Road on 23rd October 2019 and the results were as follows:-

DIRECTION	85 th PERCENTILE	AVERAGE SPEED	HIGHEST RECORDED SPEED
Northbound	45.5mph	39.2mph	56-61mph (2 vehicles)
Southbound	45mph	38.8mph	56-61mph (5 vehicles)

The results of this speed survey indicate that traffic is travelling at an appropriate speed for a derestricted road. However, a review could be undertaken to consider whether the layout of the road is such that further safety measures are appropriate.

With regard to addressing the road layout and in particular the width of the footpaths on Holeyn Hall Road by widening the footways, it should be noted this is likely to be difficult due to the existing road width. The management of the vegetation encroaching onto the footpath will be addressed. The road drainage concerns will also be investigated to see whether any improvements could be considered for potential inclusion in the 2020/21 LTP programme.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report and consider whether the LAC would support consideration of the potential inclusion of a funding allocation in the draft LTP programme for 2020/21 to allow appropriate safety measures and maintenance to be investigated.

Implications

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	To be considered for potential inclusion in the draft 2020/21 LTP programme
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	Bywell

Background papers:

None

Appendix Index:

Appendix A - Copy of supporting information provided by lead petitioner

Appendix B - Plan of the area showing current speed restrictions

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)	

Author and Contact Details

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