



# Northumberland

## County Council

TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

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PETITION – ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS, PETH HEAD, HEXHAM

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

Cabinet Member: **John Riddle, Environment and Local Services**

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### **Purpose of report**

To respond to the e petition which opened for signatures on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 regarding road safety at Peth Head in Hexham.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report and support the actions proposed.

### **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. An e petition has been received raising road safety concerns at Peth Head, Hexham.
2. This online petition has been signed by 62 signatories.
3. The petition raised concerns about traffic speeds on Peth Head which lies within the existing 20mph speed limit area in Hexham town centre. The petition states that “There needs to be at the least signage, and possibly a safe place to cross as this is no longer a small little back road, but is actually being used as an alternative to the main Corbridge Road”.
4. Since receiving the petition the area office have been requested to arrange for additional 20mph repeater signs to be installed. 20mph roundels (road markings) will also be introduced at Peth Head’s junctions with Priestpopple and Corbridge Road.

5. A speed survey will be carried out to assess actual vehicle speeds and traffic volumes. Depending on the outcomes of the survey further consideration can be given to whether any further measures would be appropriate.

## Background

### The Petition

The County Council has received a 62-name petition stating that :-

“The road across the front of Peth Head is supposed to be 20 mph. It has no signage or speed bumps and is used as a shortcut for traffic trying to access the Corbridge Road. Traffic drives at speed from morning till night and crossing the road is incredibly dangerous. Many parents with young children attempting to cross in order to access schools, nurseries or the hospital are left standing in fear for their children. There needs to be at the least signage, and possibly a safe place to cross as this is no longer a small little back road, but is actually being used as an alternative to the main Corbridge Road.”



**Plan showing Peth Head, Hexham**

### Comments

Northumberland County Council would like to thank the lead petitioner for their work in putting the petition together. Peth Head lies within the existing wider 20mph speed limit area covering Hexham Town centre. However, petitioners are concerned that traffic is travelling at speeds above the speed limit. We note the issues raised and have requested that the area office arrange for additional repeater signs to be provided in the area. We have also requested the 20mph road marking roundels are provided at both entrances to Peth Head.

In addition, we will arrange for a speed survey to be carried out which will allow us to determine actual vehicle speeds. The speed survey will also provide information on traffic volumes. Depending on the outcomes of the survey further consideration can be given to

whether any further measures would be appropriate. If appropriate depending on speeds observed, data will be forwarded to the Road Safety Unit at Northumbria Police for consideration.

### **Accident Data**

According to accident data from Northumbria Police, there have been no personal injury collisions on Peth Head itself in the previous five years.

There have been two personal injury collision's during that period in the general area at junctions adjoining Peth Head.

One "slight" personal injury collision occurred at the Dean Street junction with Priestpople in November 2019, the accident description states that a pedestrian was hit after the driver of a car did not check the junction fully.

A further "slight" personal injury collision occurred at the Peth Head junction with the A695 in September 2017. The accident description states that this involved a collision with a cyclist and a car resulting in the cyclist falling from their bike.

It should be noted that Northumbria Police only record details of injury accidents and we are unable to provide any information on any damage only incidents, or any near misses which may have occurred.

### **Proposed Actions**

- A) A request has already been made to the area office for additional repeater signs to be introduced. 20mph roundels (road markings) are also to be provided at either end of Peth Head.
- B) A speed survey to be arranged to assess actual vehicle speeds. Depending on the outcomes of the survey further consideration can be given to whether any further measures would be appropriate.

### **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>	Additional repeater signs and road markings to be funded through 2022/23 Local Transport Plan.
<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 various road safety issues along this route, notably during school run times which puts school children of all ages at potential risk
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	n/a
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Petition raises issues regarding road safety due to traffic speeds
<b>Wards</b>	Hexham East

**Background papers:**

None

**Report sign off**

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A

Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	Rob Murfin
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	John Riddle

**Author and Contact Details**

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