



# Northumberland

## County Council

### CRAMLINGTON, BLYTH AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022

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#### PETITION – SEAFIELD MEWS, SEATON SLUICE

**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 petition, which was received at the Cramlington, Blyth and Seaton Valley Local Area Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 regarding a request for an extension / amendment to the existing speed limit and extent of the road safety scheme in Seaton Sluice.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report agree that a new speed survey be undertaken as part of the A193 Links Road preliminary design work study and that a copy of the study be provided to the local Ward Councillor on its completion.

#### **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 an extension / amendment to the existing speed limit and extent of the road safety scheme in Seaton Sluice.
2. The petition requests that the existing 30mph speed limit is extended past the properties at Seafield Mews.
3. The petition requests that a range of traffic calming measures is considered.
4. The petition requests that consideration is given to the relocation of the existing speed camera further to the north as it states that the existing location is potentially affected by the pedestrian crossing at the Astley Arms public house.
5. The petition requests that the existing crossing point at Seafield Mews is improved.

6. The petition has been signed by 87 signatories.
7. Preliminary design work is currently being carried out on speed reduction measures for Links Road as part of the Local Transport Plan programme and the need for any actions in the area at Seafield Mews has been added for consideration in this work.

## **Background**

### **The Petition**

The County Council has received an 87-name petition requesting “an extension / amendment to the existing speed limit and extent of the road safety scheme in Seaton Sluice.”

The petition states that the Council should extend the current 30mph speed limit past the properties at Seafield Mews, and requests that a range of traffic calming measures is considered.

The petition requests that consideration is given to the relocation of the existing speed camera further to the north as the existing location is potentially affected by the pedestrian crossing at the Astley Arms public house which was installed after the speed camera.

The petition also requests that the existing crossing point at Seafield Mews is improved.

### **Initial Comments**

Seafield Mews is a fairly recent development, circa 2007, of 10 houses providing views over dunes to the coast. It is located on the A193 which is identified as a part of the Resilient Road Network that maintains economic activity and will be prioritised to be kept open in times of severe weather.

The existing 30mph speed limit has been in place for many years and is sited in the most appropriate location in that it starts at the start of the built-up area and is supported by the presence of a system of street lighting.

Speed surveys were last carried out within the 30mph on the A193 in 2013, this was set up within the 30mph limit as shown in the plan below. Results at this time indicated that there were no speeding concerns. The average speed for northbound vehicles was 29mph, and for southbound vehicles 26.5mph. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile for northbound vehicles was 33.8mph and for southbound vehicles 30.2mph. While the data was sent to the police for information, the results did not meet necessary enforcement criteria. (For a 30mph speed limit the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile would need to be 35mph for the police to investigate further).

Given the data is nine years old and the issues raised in the petition, a new speed survey is to be carried out as part of the preliminary design work noted below to provide evidence into how driver behaviour may have changed.



**Plan showing location Seafield Mews, Seaton Sluice and location of 2013 speed survey**

### **Accident Data and current LTP scheme**

According to accident data from Northumbria Police, there have been eight personal injury collisions on Links Road between the Mermaid Car Park at Blyth and Seaton Sluice in the previous five years.

Given this accident history, and increased concerns of speeding vehicles within the derestricted section of Links Road, particularly during lock down through the COVID pandemic, a scheme to carry out preliminary design of potential improvements on this route was included in the 2021/22 Local Transport Plan programme.

The preliminary design work is currently being progressed by our Design Team and will look at a range of potential solutions to improve road safety on this route. This may include a reduced speed limit on Links Road itself, as well as proposals to encourage reduced speeds on the approach to the 30mph speed limit, and the potential desire for additional crossing facilities at Seafield Mews. It should be noted that the current traffic island at Seafield Mews is not a designated crossing, it is a splitter island rather than a pedestrian refuge and was previously introduced for road safety reasons as a gateway to the 30mph limit. The following image shows the entry to the 30mph limit. It also shows that there is no footpath link in place on the western side of the road (Seafield Mews side) that extends to the splitter island.



### **Google image showing existing splitter island at Seafeld Mews**

Once the preliminary design work has been completed this will be shared with the County Councillor for Hartley ward for discussion of the potential measures to be taken forward.

### **Existing speed camera query**

The petition requests that consideration is given to the relocation of the existing speed camera further to the north as it states that the existing location is potentially affected by the pedestrian crossing at the Astley Arms public house which was installed after the speed camera. The existing fixed speed camera is sited approximately 50m south of the location of the 2013 speed survey shown on the plan, just north of the Astley Arms car park.

NCC Highways Improvement team meet on a regular basis with the police to discuss speeding concerns and the various sites of fixed and mobile speed cameras across Northumberland. There have been no concerns raised by the Police regarding the location of this camera. The camera location is felt to be appropriate for its purpose and not unduly affected by the pedestrian crossing location and there are no plans to have it relocated at this time.

### **Proposed Actions**

Complete the A193 Links Road preliminary design work and provide a copy to the local Ward Councillor for further discussion once available. As part of this study a new speed survey to assess how vehicle speeds have changed since 2013 is to be carried out.

## 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 work is being funded through the LTP
<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 &amp; Disorder</b>	Driving at excessive speed is an offence which is only enforceable by the police.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Petition identifies various road safety concerns on the A193 at Seafeld Mews, Seaton Sluice.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	n/a
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	n/a
<b>Wards</b>	Hartley

## Background papers

None

**Report sign off**

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	SB
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	JW
Relevant Executive Director	RM
Acting Deputy Chief Executive	RF
Portfolio Holder	JR

**Author and Contact Details**

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