



Northumberland

County Council

TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 11TH JULY 2023

PETITION – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT WOODLANDS, HEXHAM

Report of: John Riddle, Cabinet Member for Improving our Roads and Highways

Lead officer: Paul Jones, Director of Environment and Transport

Purpose of report

To respond to the e petition which closed on 14th April 2023 regarding a request for additional traffic calming measures on Woodlands in Hexham.

Recommendations

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

Link to Corporate Plan

Driving Economic Growth - Maintain the high standards of vital local services ensuring the natural and physical environments our residents live in, are active in and visit, are accessible, clean, tidy and safe. A transport network that is well maintained and connects people and business.

Key Issues

1. An e petition has been received, requesting that additional traffic calming measures are introduced on the A695 at Woodlands in Hexham.
2. The speed limit drops from 30mph to 20mph at Woodlands, however the petition states that the speed limit is rarely adhered to.
3. The petition requests that ideally a speed camera is introduced, however rumble strips or other methods which encourage motorists to slow down would also be welcomed by all road users who regularly use these junctions.
4. This online petition has been signed by 80 signatories.
5. Speed surveys were carried out as recently as May 2023 within the 30mph speed limit. According to data obtained, vehicles are complying with the speed limit in

place. Evidence shows that vehicles were slowing down when travelling west on the approach to the 20mph limit.

6. For westbound traffic, there was an average 3651 vehicles per day, average speed was recorded to be 24.3mph, with an 85th percentile of 28.5mph.
7. For eastbound traffic, there was an average 3796 vehicles per day, average speed was recorded to be 26.2mph, with an 85th percentile of 30.7mph.
8. According to accident data from Northumbria Police there has been one “slight” personal injury collision in the previous five years on Woodlands. This occurred 78 metres east of the junction with Monks Terrace. This occurred when a goods vehicle (over 3.5 tonnes and under 7.5 tonnes) travelling west veered across the road to its offside, colliding with the offside of a car which was travelling eastbound. The goods vehicles left the carriageway to the offside.
9. Accident data does not include any damage only incidents or near misses which may have occurred.

Background

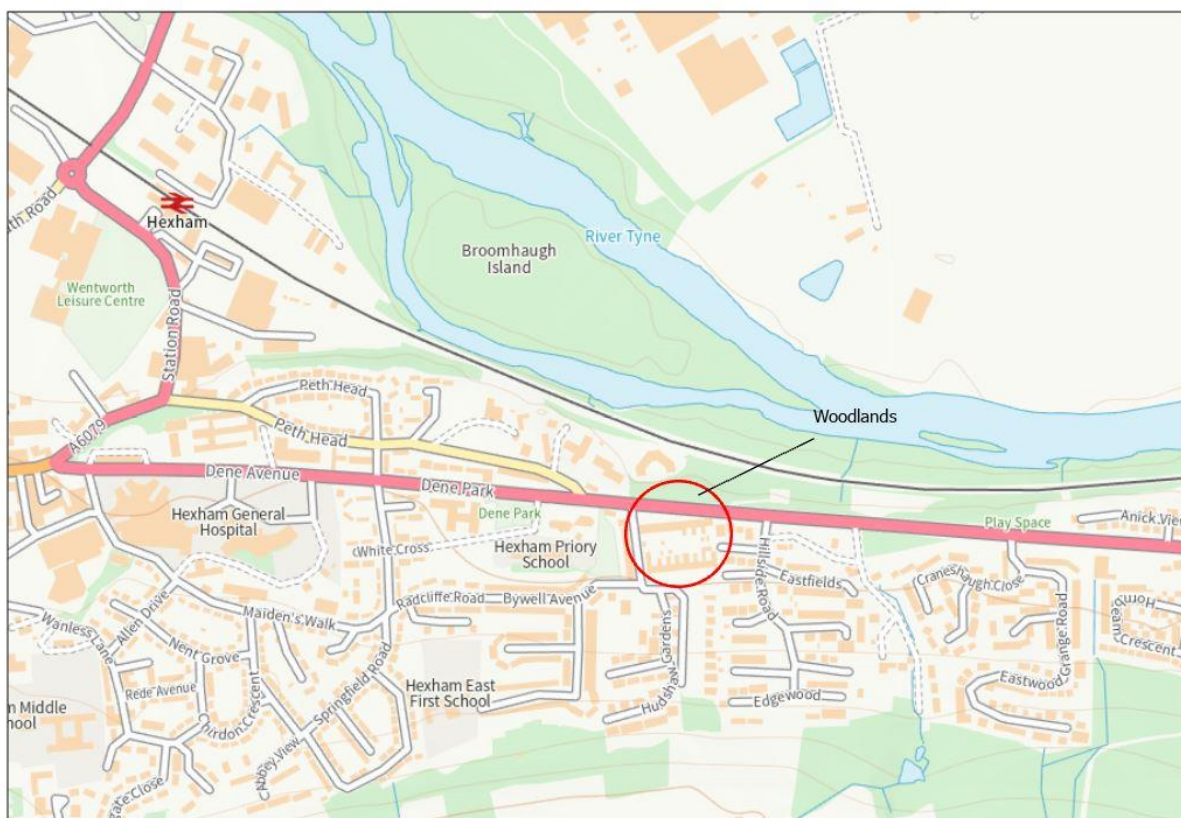
The Petition

The County Council has received an 80 name petition stating that :-

“The speed drops from 30 to 20 in front of this row of houses but is rarely adhered to, leading to a lot of near misses for people entering or exiting Dene Street and Monk’s Terrace. Further traffic calming measures are required, ideally a speed camera but rumble strips or other methods which encourage motorists to slow down would be welcomed by all road users who regularly use these junctions.”

Initial Comments

Woodlands lies at the A695 at the east end of Hexham. The A695 is a primary route which links Hexham with Newcastle-upon-Tyne and as such is identified as a part of the Resilient Road Network that maintain economic activity and will be prioritised to be kept open in times of severe weather.



Location plan for Woodlands

A 20mph speed limit was introduced in Hexham Town Centre in 2017, which includes the area on the A695 which runs past Hexham Priory School in line with the Council's commitment to introduce 20mph speed limits outside all schools in the County.

The start of the 20mph speed limit on Woodlands is clearly identified by 20mph terminal signs and roundels also painted on the road surface, with the addition of red surfacing.



Google street view image of start of 20mph on Woodlands, Hexham

In addition, a set of SLOW road markings are provided on the approach to the 20mph speed limit at a location approximately 45 metres west of the junction with Hillside Road as shown in the following image.



Google street view image of existing SLOW road marking on A695 on approach to 20mph speed limit

Speed Surveys

The latest speed surveys were undertaken in May 2023 within the 30mph speed limit. According to data obtained, vehicles are complying with the speed limit in place. Evidence indicates that vehicles are normally slowing down when travelling west on the approach to the 20mph limit. A detailed summary of the survey results is attached as Appendix A, but for ease of reference are briefly summarised as follows:-

For westbound traffic, there was an average 3651 vehicles per day, average speed was recorded to be 24.3mph, with an 85th percentile of 28.5mph.

For eastbound traffic, there was an average 3796 vehicles per day, average speed was recorded to be 26.2mph, with an 85th percentile of 30.7mph.

For information, the 85th percentile is that speed or less at which 85% of vehicles are travelling. The remaining 15% of vehicles are travelling at that speed or more. In order for enforcement of the speed limit to be carried out, the 85th percentile needs to be 24mph within a 20mph speed limit and 35mph within a 30mph speed limit).

It should be noted that there were several occurrences where vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit, and the limit necessary to meet enforcement requirements. However, it should be noted that it is possible that some of these could have been ambulances on their way to and from call outs given the close proximity of Hexham General Hospital. Fire engines and police cars may also have been travelling at excessive speed when travelling east whilst attending any call outs. Both are also nearby, with the fire station located on Maiden's Walk and the police station on the B6531 at the west of Hexham.

Accident data

According to accident data from Northumbria Police (which does not include any damage only incidents or near misses which may have occurred) there has been one "slight" personal injury collision in the previous five years on Woodlands. This occurred 78 metres east of the junction with Monks Terrace. This occurred when a goods vehicle (over 3.5 tonnes and under 7.5 tonnes) travelling west veered across the road to its offside, colliding with the offside of a car which was travelling eastbound. The goods vehicles left the carriageway to the offside.

Existing Signs and Road Marking

The existing signs and road markings have been reviewed and are considered appropriate for the location and road type.

Proposed Actions

While we sympathise with the concerns raised in the petition, based on the data obtained from the speed surveys undertaken in May 2023 the existing speed restrictions, signing and road marking measures are appropriate for the location. With regards to the request for a speed camera, any new fixed cameras would be considered on a prioritised basis,

treating sites with the highest levels of serious and fatal injury collisions linked to illegal speeds as the first priority and at this stage this site would not meet this criteria.

As such no further action is planned at this time, although we will continue to monitor speeding concerns in this area.

Implications

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	n/a
Customer Consideration	Petition raises various road safety concerns along this route.
Carbon reduction	n/a

Wards	Hexham East
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Appendix Index

Appendix A – Summary of speed survey data

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	Simon Neilson
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	John Riddle

Author and Contact Details

Neil Snowdon – Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement Team)



Northumberland County Council

Appendix A – Speed Survey Results

A695 Woodlands, Hexham

12/05/2023 - 18/05/2023

Eastbound

Time	Total	Vpp 85	Mean	SD	Vbin 6 12	Vbin 12 19	Vbin 19 25	Vbin 25 31	Vbin 31 37	Vbin 37 43	Vbin 43 50	Vbin 50 56	Vbin 56 62	Vbin 62 68	Vbin 68 75	Vbin 75 81	Vbin 81 87	Vbin 87 93	Vbin 93 99
0	9	-	30.9	10.5	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
100	4	-	33.7	10.1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
200	1	-	36.7	6.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
300	2	-	29.9	6.4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
400	2	-	30.5	5.9	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
500	10	36	29.2	6.3	0	0	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
600	28	35.6	29	6.7	0	1	6	9	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
700	107	33.8	28.5	5.4	1	3	21	54	24	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
800	194	31.1	26.4	4.9	1	10	57	96	27	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
900	235	30.5	26.2	4.5	2	9	77	118	26	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1000	266	30	25.7	4.4	1	12	102	124	25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1100	291	29.4	25.4	4.2	1	13	114	141	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1200	317	29.5	25.5	4.2	1	13	128	150	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1300	295	30.3	25.9	4.5	2	13	97	153	27	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1400	304	29.9	25.4	4.6	3	17	109	148	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1500	384	29.5	24.9	4.8	3	33	147	169	29	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1600	394	30	25.9	4.3	1	16	144	192	36	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1700	336	30.9	26.5	4.5	1	11	103	174	42	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1800	218	32	27.7	4.7	0	4	52	118	37	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1900	161	32	27.4	5.2	1	4	44	80	26	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	103	34.1	28.5	6.1	0	2	23	48	22	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2100	77	32.6	27.7	5.2	0	2	20	38	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2200	41	34.3	28.7	6.5	0	1	8	19	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2300	17	37.7	30.9	7.3	0	1	3	6	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07-19	3342	30.3	26	4.6	17	154	1151	1636	344	34	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06-22	3710	30.6	26.1	4.8	18	164	1244	1812	414	49	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06-00	3767	30.6	26.2	4.8	18	165	1255	1837	428	53	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
00-00	3796	30.7	26.2	4.9	19	166	1261	1844	436	56	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

A695 Woodlands, Hexham

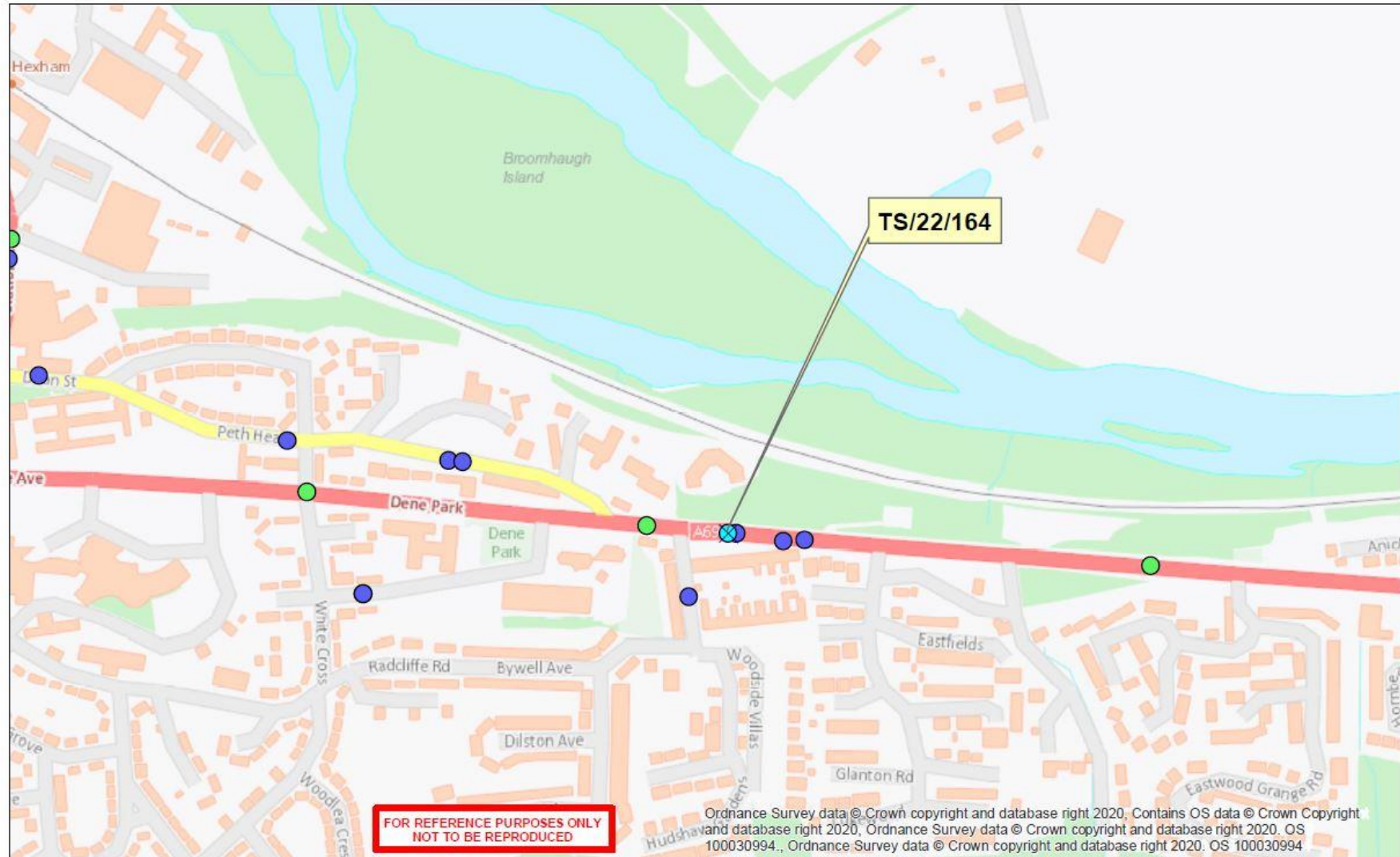
12/05/2023 - 18/05/2023

Westbound

Time	Total	Vpp 85	Mean	SD	Vbin 6 12	Vbin 12 19	Vbin 19 25	Vbin 25 31	Vbin 31 37	Vbin 37 43	Vbin 43 50	Vbin 50 56	Vbin 56 62	Vbin 62 68	Vbin 68 75	Vbin 75 81	Vbin 81 87	Vbin 87 93	Vbin 93 99
0	7	-	30.1	9	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
100	3	-	27.3	7.6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
200	1	-	32.7	7.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
300	1	-	29	7.6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
400	7	-	29.3	7.3	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
500	17	34.9	30.8	4.7	0	0	1	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
600	44	35.2	29.1	5.4	0	1	7	21	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
700	191	30.4	26.4	4.3	0	5	62	101	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
800	368	27.8	24.1	3.8	1	23	188	143	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
900	281	28	24.1	4.1	2	20	145	103	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1000	295	27.1	23.3	3.8	2	28	169	89	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1100	289	27.3	23.5	3.8	1	25	161	93	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1200	296	27.1	23.4	3.8	2	28	163	96	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1300	274	27.5	23.6	4	1	29	142	94	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1400	295	27.5	23.5	4	2	26	160	99	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1500	272	27.5	23.4	4.4	3	29	143	89	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1600	269	28.1	24	4.2	1	26	130	101	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1700	251	29	24.9	4.3	1	15	107	111	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1800	187	29.7	25.3	4.4	0	9	78	81	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1900	122	31	26	5	0	7	41	56	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	82	31.5	26.4	5.1	0	5	26	38	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2100	53	31.8	26.6	5.8	0	3	17	24	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2200	30	32.7	27.5	5.5	0	1	8	14	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2300	14	32.7	27.7	5.5	0	0	4	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07-19	3269	28	24	4.1	15	262	1649	1201	130	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06-22	3571	28.4	24.2	4.3	16	278	1740	1340	175	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06-00	3615	28.4	24.3	4.3	16	279	1752	1361	183	21	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
00-00	3651	28.5	24.3	4.4	16	281	1758	1374	195	23	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



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Additional Comments:

Grids
394693 - 563914

Northumberland
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**Network Management
Information System**

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Hexham East (Woodlands)
Hexham

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