

Committee: **Lead Cabinet Member for Community Services**

Date: **28 September 2016**

Report By: **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Title of Report: **Petition for a review of speed limits in the village of Dallington**

Purpose of Report: **To consider the petition for a review of the speed limits in the village of Dallington**

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Advise the petitioners that measures to reduce the speed of traffic in Dallington are not a priority for the County Council at the present time: however, the Road Safety Team will look at part of the B2096 at Carrick's Hill to see whether any safety improvements or maintenance on this part of the road would be appropriate; and**
 - (2) Advise that Dallington Parish Council may wish to consider funding a 20mph speed limit outside Dallington C of E Primary School, village gateways or a new footway through the Community Match Fund.**
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1. Background Information.

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 22 March 2016 Councillor Barnes presented a petition to the Chairman stating:

"The village of Dallington is concerned about excessive speed in the village and would ask the County Council to undertake an urgent review of measures to mitigate the speeds to include extensions of the speed limit and provision of gateways etc."

1.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Community Services.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 An Officer from the Road Safety Team met with the Headteacher of Dallington C of E School and the Chairman of Dallington Parish Council on 29 June 2016 to discuss the main areas of concern. At the meeting the speed limit on the B2096 Battle Road was discussed along with a 20mph speed limit on the U6276 The Street near the school. A short length of footway was also requested on the north side of the B2096 Battle Road near the Playing Field. The possibility of the Parish Council making a contribution towards the cost of new speed surveys was also discussed. A Location Plan is included in Appendix 1.

2.2 The latest crash data supplied by Sussex Police shows that there has been one serious and six slight injury crashes in the Parish of Dallington in the latest three years. The serious injury crash was a result of a wing mirror hitting a pupil walking in the road outside of the school. The six slight injury crashes have occurred on the B2096 Battle Road with four of the crashes occurring at Carrick's Hill. A Road Safety Officer will therefore look at this part of the B2096 to see whether any further safety improvements or maintenance would help to address the crashes on this part of the road. A plan showing the location and severity of the crashes is included in Appendix 2.

2.3 There is no objection to the principle of a 20mph speed limit outside the school but, at the present time, it is not a priority for funding from our budget for Road Safety. An old survey carried out near the school between 12 November and 22 November 2002 recorded the average speed traffic to be 21.5mph

north eastbound and 20.8mph south westbound. The old survey results do indicate that a 20mph speed limit could be introduced with signs alone. A new speed survey would be required to establish if the average speed is still below the 24mph threshold. An application for Community Match Funding from Dallington Parish Council could then be considered.

2.4 The County Council are not able to fund village gateways due to their initial and ongoing maintenance costs. There are a number of village gateways on our road network where Parish Councils have funded them and accepted the ongoing maintenance cost. If Dallington Parish Council is interested in funding gateways the Road Safety Team will help to agree the location and obtain a cost estimate. Although the cost of gateways does vary due to their size and style, from experience a gateway on each side of the road would cost in the region of £2,000 to £3,000.

2.5 Although a new footway on the north side of the B2096 Battle Road near the Playing Field would be desirable, there are very limited resources available for building new footways and as a result it is not a priority for us at the present time. However, Dallington Parish Council may also wish to consider making an application for a new footway through the Community Match Scheme.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 A review of the speed limits in Dallington is not a priority for the Road Safety Team at the present time. However, the B2096 Battle Road is on our list of lower speed limit requests so its safety record will be monitored in the future as part of our speed management programme. If the safety record is identified as a priority compared to other locations in the County a more detailed assessment of the B2096 can be carried out with the Police.

3.2 It is recommended that the Lead Member for Community Services agrees that a 20mph speed limit outside Dallington School, village gateways on the B2096 Battle Road or a new footway near the Playing Field are not presently a priority for funding from the County Council's budget for Road Safety. However, they could be supported if an alternative source of funding does become available or if an application through the Community Match Scheme was successful.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contract Officer: Michael Higgs
Tel. No. 01273 482106
Email: Michael.Higgs@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBER
Councillor Barnes

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The petition