

Report to: Lead Member for Community Services

Date of meeting: 28 September 2016

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition for a 20mph limit and traffic calming measures in the Beeches Estate, Crowborough

Purpose: To consider the petition received requesting a 20mph speed limit in North Beeches Road and East Beeches Road, Crowborough.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to;

(1) Advise the petitioners that a 20mph speed limit or traffic calming in North Beeches Road and East Beeches Road, Crowborough is not considered to be of sufficient priority for funding from the County Council budget.

1 Background Information

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 10 May 2016 Councillors Stogdon and Tidy presented a petition to the Chairman stating:

"We the residents and users of North and East Beeches Roads, Crowborough call upon East Sussex County Council to introduce a 20 mph speed limit along our roads, so as to reduce traffic speeds and improve road safety in the vicinity of the Beacon Academy Beeches Site, and to bring traffic calming measures into line with those which exist at the Academy's Green Lane Site."

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

2 Supporting Information

2.1. In November 2015, a letter was received via Councillor Stogdon and Councillor Tidy requesting several measures throughout the Beeches Estate including traffic calming measures, a 20mph speed limit and parking restrictions on the junctions.

2.2. The Beeches Estate is a residential area made up of four roads that intersect each other to form a grid. North Beeches Road is subject to a one-way traffic order, prohibiting traffic from travelling in a southerly direction. East Beeches Road provides vehicle access to Beacon School. A plan of the location can be found in Appendix 1.

2.3 As a result of the correspondence received in November 2015, the requests for a 20mph speed limit and for traffic calming were assessed in accordance with our current assessment process and criteria for inclusion within the Capital Programme for Transport Improvements. The assessment is based on the objectives set out in the Local Transport Plan and involves considering the level of benefit and impact the scheme would have upon the local community, whether the proposals feature within a known area for regeneration, the impact the proposals would have on the environment and the latest available crash record.

2.4 The result of the assessments was that a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming were not a priority for the County Council to investigate further. In light of the latest petition the assessment has been carried out again and the same score has been achieved. Although there would be a benefit to the Beeches

Estate residents, there would be little benefit to the wider Crowborough community and the site is not in an area considered for regeneration.

2.5 According to the latest available data from Sussex Police, there have been no crashes involving personal injury recorded in any of the roads forming the Beeches Estate in the last ten years. With such a good crash history, the Road Safety Team have not identified it as an area requiring further measures, as any intervention would not be justified in terms of its contribution to casualty reduction.

2.6 There is no objection to the principle of a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming measures in North Beeches Road and East Beeches Road, Crowborough, if an external source of funding was provided to cover the cost of design and implementation.

2.7 The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in North Beeches Road and East Beeches Road would cost between £10,000 and £20,000. This would not be carried out by signs alone unless vehicle speeds were already low as the effect on vehicle speeds produced by implementing speed limit signs alone is very minor. If existing vehicle speeds are above 24 mph, a 20mph speed limit would only be effective in reducing vehicle speeds alongside a system of physical features for traffic calming. A traffic calming scheme for both roads could cost around £100,000; this is a very approximate estimate as without a detailed design for the roads it is difficult to know what traffic calming features would be best suited to the area. In order to initially establish what type of scheme would be required at this location, a number of speed surveys would be required and the cost (£400 per survey) would need to be funded externally.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Lead Member advises the Petitioners that a 20mph speed limit and/or traffic calming in North Beeches Road and East Beeches Road is not a priority for the County Council. The proposal does not meet the key objectives provided in the Local Transport Plan as it is not within an area of economic regeneration and will offer no contribution in terms of casualty reduction.

3.2 If external funding was provided, the scheme could potentially be progressed through our Community Match Initiative. The petitioners may wish to approach Crowborough Town Council to establish whether they would support such a scheme.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Richard Stogdon

Councillor Sylvia Tidy

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None