

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 25 September 2017

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition in relation to the Traffic Calming Features at Brisbane Quay, Eastbourne

Purpose: To consider the petition and independent consultant's report in relation to a raised table traffic calming feature in Pacific Drive adjacent to Brisbane Quay, Sovereign Harbour North, Eastbourne

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to inform the Petitioners that the findings of the independent "Noise and Vibration Assessment" conducted in December 2015 are applicable and that no action is required to address the traffic calming feature.

1 Background

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 7 February 2017, Councillor Elkin presented the petition to the Chairman. The petition asks East Sussex County Council to "*address the traffic calming at 10 Brisbane Quay, Sovereign Harbour North, Eastbourne*".

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 or Lead Member. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

1.3 Traffic calming features, including raised tables of blockwork construction, were installed along Pacific Drive as part of the estate's development in approximately 2000 with the primary intention of managing vehicle speeds but also providing pedestrians with convenient places to cross the road.

1.4 Pacific Drive was formally adopted as maintainable highway by East Sussex County Council in 2010.

1.5 Complaints have been received since 2012 from the Petition Organiser, regarding excessive noise and vibrations due to the traffic driving over the traffic calming feature adjacent to their property. The raised table has been inspected on a number of occasions as a result of the complaints since 2012 with only two safety defects having been identified in that time. One was identified in March 2013 the other in April 2015. Both were rectified within the appropriate intervention timescales.

1.6 The Petition Organiser escalated their complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) on 2 January 2015. The LGO recommended that the County Council commission an independent organisation to investigate whether a significant disturbance existed, and if so, the likely cause of the disturbance. It was also noted in the LGO report that the two safety defects identified in March 2013 and April 2015 had been repaired in line with the Council's Traffic Asset Management Plan. The LGO found no fault in relation to these defects.

1.7 An independent report was commissioned and completed in December 2015 by Southdowns Consultants. The report concluded that the recorded levels of vibration and noise generated by

traffic passing over the feature did not indicate an increase in levels of either vibration or noise sufficient that would result in adverse effects on those inside the closest residential properties.

1.8 The Petition Organiser raised a further complaint to the LGO following on from the report produced by the consultants. In a final decision dated 21 October 2016, the LGO stated that they would not be investigating the complaint further as the Council had engaged professionally qualified independent experts to carry out the survey and, as the survey had been carried out in accordance with Transport Research Laboratory procedures, it was unlikely that fault on the part of the Council would be found.

1.9 Further points of clarification were sought by the Petition Organiser regarding the approach taken by the consultants in undertaking the tests. These have subsequently been responded to directly to the Petition Organiser by the Council under separate cover. These further points and the responses provided relate to the methodology and approach used by Southdowns Consultants and do not alter or change the conclusion of the report.

2. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

2.1 The conclusion of the independent report states:

“The results of the assessment indicate that the traffic calming feature does not increase noise and vibration levels to the degree that would have an adverse effect on people inside the closest residential properties.”

2.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to advise the petitioners that no action is required to address the traffic calming feature.

2.3 The road will continue to be inspected regularly and any immediate safety issues will be addressed as appropriate.

RUPERT CLUBB

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor David Elkin

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Southdowns Consultant Report

Area Map