

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety

Date of meeting: 26 July 2018

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition for 30mph speed limit and supporting traffic calming measures – Stonestile Lane, Hastings

Purpose: To consider the need for a 30mph speed limit and supporting traffic calming measures in Stonestile Lane, Hastings

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:

- (1) A 30mph speed limit on Stonestile Lane supported by traffic calming and traffic signs is not a priority for the County Council at the present time;**
 - (2) An application through the County Council's Community Match scheme could be considered.**
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1 Background Information

1.1. At the County Council meeting on 15 May 2018 Councillor Clarke presented a petition to the Chairman from a group of residents from the Stonestile Lane area of Hastings. The group believe that the traffic situation in Stonestile Lane requires urgent review with a view to:

- *Reduce the current national speed limit to 30mph past the developed area (at the southern end of Stonestile Lane)*
- *Implement traffic calming measures to support the reduced speed restriction*
- *Provide all necessary road signs (as can be seen at Rock Lane, Hastings) to support the traffic calming and speed limit*

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 Communities and Safety.

2 Supporting Information

2.1. Stonestile Lane is a rural C class road leading from The Ridge in Hastings to Moor Lane in Westfield. There is some development at its southern end towards The Ridge, with limited development along the rest of the route. The national speed limit applies to the road, which is the most appropriate limit for this type of road and is consistent with similar country lanes across the national road network. To be effective, speed limits must be set at a level which appears reasonable to a driver and adequately reflect the environment through which the road passes. A number of factors are taken into consideration when assessing a road for a speed limit and these include visible frontage development, existing vehicle speeds, road character, crash record, local facilities and the level of vulnerable road users to name but a few, as it is these factors that influence the speed chosen by a driver.

2.2. The latest three year crash data supplied by Sussex Police for the period up to 31 March 2018 shows that there have been two serious crashes and one slight personal injury crash along the

full length of Stonestile Lane. The incidents involved an animal and mud deposits on the road, loss of control and poor turn or manoeuvre and were not attributed to speeding. A Location plan and crash data overview can be seen at Appendices 1 and 2.

2.3. Concerns about vehicle speeds and the request for a reduced speed limit have previously been raised. The requests have been assessed and for the reasons given in this report, Stonestile Lane has not been considered as a priority for a reduced speed limit.

2.4. Following the submission of the petition, a speed survey has been carried out. The survey was conducted from 12 June to the 20 June 2018 and indicated average speeds of 30mph northbound and 31mph southbound. A copy of the speed survey is attached as Appendix 3.

2.5. The County Council has a limited amount of funding to develop local transport improvements and we need to ensure that we target our resources to those schemes which will be of greatest benefit to our local communities. To help us prioritise the numerous requests for improvements we developed a process to determine which schemes should be funded through our Integrated Transport Programme. The request for a 30mph speed limit and supporting traffic calming measures has been assessed to determine if it might be a priority for future consideration. The proposal did not meet the benchmark score to enable it to be taken forward at this time.

2.6. Rock Lane in Hastings has been used by the petitioners as an example of traffic calming that the residents of Stonestile Lane would like to see in their road. Appendix 4 is photographs of Rock Lane and Stonestile Lane, showing the differences between the two roads. Rock Lane has a high level of visible frontage development with a variety of road users, including vulnerable road users, in the area. Therefore the 30mph speed limit and traffic calming measures are appropriate for the area.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. For the reasons contained within this report and data gathered from the speed survey it is recommended that the Lead Member for Communities and Safety is advised to inform the petitioners that a reduced speed limit with supporting traffic calming measures and traffic signs is not a priority for the County Council at the present time.

3.2. Whilst the introduction of a 30 mph speed limit with supporting traffic calming is not a priority the Petitioners may wish to discuss the issue with Hastings Borough Council and Westfield Parish Council to see if they might consider supporting an application through the Community Match Scheme.

RUPERT CLUBB
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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Clarke – St Helen’s and Silverhill
Councillor Maynard – Brede Valley and Marsham

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None