

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 17 September 2018

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Ghyll Road and Sheepsetting Lane Traffic Calming Scheme, Heathfield

Purpose: To consider objections received to the advertisement of the Notice for the introduction of speed cushions and raised tables associated with the scheme

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) Note the objections received to the Notice to introduce vertical traffic calming features (speed cushions and raised tables) along Ghyll Road and Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield; and**
 - (2) Agree that the vertical traffic calming features along Ghyll Road and Sheepsetting Lane, as set out in the Notice, should be taken forward to construction with a modification to the set of speed cushions (reference 06) which shall be repositioned 2.5 metres further north along Ghyll Road**
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1. Background Information

1.1 In 2008 East Sussex County Council (ESCC) introduced a traffic management scheme along Sheepsetting Lane, Tilsmore Road and Mill Road in Heathfield to encourage slower vehicle speeds and to improve road safety.

1.2 In May 2011, a petition from residents was received requesting the introduction of speed reducing features and parking improvements in Ghyll Road, Heathfield. The petition was considered at the Lead Member for Transport and Environment decision making meeting in July 2011 at which it was resolved that a scheme to introduce speed reducing measures in Ghyll Road should be considered for inclusion in a future year's Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements.

1.3 A comprehensive traffic calming scheme has been developed in partnership with residents' representatives from Ghyll Road. The proposed scheme extends the length of Ghyll Road between the existing priority working build-out north of Tilsmore Road and the junction of Ghyll Road and the B2203 (Theobalds Green) to the south. The proposed scheme comprises a series of speed cushions (17 sets in total) along the length of Ghyll Road and two raised tables; at the junction with Geers Wood and at the existing toucan crossing to the north of Treetops Way junction.

1.4 A public consultation exercise to seek views on the proposed scheme was held during June and July 2017. The results showed significant support for the proposed traffic calming scheme with 73% of respondents either supporting or strongly supporting the introduction of traffic calming features, speed cushions and raised tables along Ghyll Road. Of the feedback received from the key stakeholder groups, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service were concerned that the proposed traffic calming features may impact their emergency response times. However, they also acknowledged that there is currently a risk to residents through speeding vehicles on Ghyll Road so advised that they will not be opposed to the implementation of the scheme which aims to improve road safety in this area.

1.5 At the Lead Member for Transport and Environment decision making meeting in October 2017, at which the results of the public consultation were considered, it was resolved to progress with the scheme and advertise the Notice associated with the vertical traffic calming features (speed cushions and raised tables) on Ghyll Road. The Lead Member also agreed to the provision of additional traffic calming features in Sheepsetting Lane between Cross in Hand Primary School and the A267, to augment the scheme implemented in 2008, if these were considered technically viable. As a result of this investigation three sets of speed cushions are proposed on Sheepsetting Lane.

1.6 On 4 July 2018, a letter setting out the County Council's intentions to advertise the Notice to introduce the vertical traffic calming features on Ghyll Road and Sheepsetting Lane was delivered to approximately 1,000 households in Ghyll Road, Sheepsetting Lane and adjoining side roads. On 6 July 2018, the County Council gave Notice under the powers contained in Section 90A-F of the Highways Act

1980, as amended, to propose to construct vertical traffic calming features on Ghyll Road and Sheepsetting Lane. The Notice was advertised in the local press, statutory bodies were notified and the Notice was displayed along Ghyll Road and Sheepsetting Lane. A copy of the Notice and plans showing the location of the speed cushions and raised tables were on deposit for examination at County Hall in Lewes, Heathfield Library and Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council offices. A copy of the Notice and plans were available for examination on the East Sussex Highways website. A period of three weeks was allowed for any comments to be received. This period ended on 27 July 2018. A copy of the Notice and plans are included in Appendix 1.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 During the advertisement period, in total, eleven separate representations were received to the Notice. These consisted of seven in support of the scheme and four objecting to the scheme. Full copies of the representations are available in the Members' Room.

2.2 The four representations objecting to the traffic calming scheme contained 10 grounds for objection. Each objection has been considered individually and a summary of the objections and the officer comments on each of these is set out in Appendix 2. A summary of the representations objecting to the scheme are set out below:

- The set of speed cushions at location reference 06 (as shown on the Notice plans at Appendix 1) will conflict with the future extension of a private driveway;
- The proposed traffic calming will transfer traffic to other roads, some less suitable;
- The proposed traffic calming will increase local pollution and noise;
- The proposed traffic calming is not locally supported;
- The proposed traffic calming is too excessive;
- Speeding is not an issue along Ghyll Road.

2.3 It is considered that all these objections should not be upheld apart from the one requesting that the set of speed cushions at location reference 06 be repositioned 2.5m further north along Ghyll Road. The repositioning of this set of cushions would avoid future conflict with a proposed driveway extension that the resident has had approval to implement. Officers have consulted with the resident who made the objection and the owners of the two adjacent properties. All three property owners would have no objection to the modification to reposition this set of speed cushions.

2.4 A summary of the seven representations made in support of the scheme and the officer comments on each of these is set out in Appendix 3. All of the representations received in support of the traffic calming scheme came from residents living on Ghyll Road or Sheepsetting Lane.

3 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 The results of the 2017 public consultation exercise showed significant support for the proposed traffic calming scheme with 73% of respondents either supporting or strongly supporting the introduction of traffic calming features, speed cushions and raised tables along Ghyll Road. The consultation also demonstrated there was support for extending the scheme to include Sheepsetting Lane. The aim of the Ghyll Road and Sheepsetting Lane traffic calming scheme is to slow driver speeds and provide a safer environment for all road users.

3.2 The Lead Member for Transport and Environment is therefore recommended, for the reasons set out in this report, not to uphold the objections to the Notice as advertised, but to include a modification whereby the set of speed cushions at location reference 06 are repositioned 2.5m further north along Ghyll Road, and to agree that the remainder of the scheme is constructed as advertised.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: James Vaks & Chris Tree

Tel. No. 07342 998531 & 01273 482247

Email: james.vaks@eastsussexhighways.com & Chris.Tree@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Rupert Simmons

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Transcript of responses