

Committee: **Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety**

Date: **29 November 2018**

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

Title of Report: **Petition to reduce the speed to 20mph and to investigate the road structure in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue in Polegate and Willingdon.**

Purpose of Report: **To consider the petition for a reduced speed limit in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue.**

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**RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:**

- (1) A reduction in the 30mph speed limit to 20mph in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue in Polegate and Willingdon, is not a priority for the County Council; and**
  - (2) The road surface is not in need of repair apart from a section outside of 40 Farmlands Way.**
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## **1. Background Information.**

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 10 July 2018 Councillors Daniel and Stephen Shing presented to the Chairman a 'Petition to reduce the speed to 20mph from 30mph and to investigate the road structure due to uneven concrete slabs causing noise and vibration in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue'.

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 The petition is requesting that the existing 30mph speed limit is reduced to 20mph in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue. These roads cross both Polegate and Willingdon Parish boundaries. A Location Plan indicating the length of the road where the 20mph speed limit is being requested is included as Appendix A.

2.2 In general, 20mph speed limits are usually not considered in isolation on residential roads although they may be considered as part of an area wide traffic calming scheme or as part of a school safety zone if this is deemed appropriate. This would only be in cases where there is an identified road safety issue and it was considered to be a high priority for funding for improvements. Experience has shown that the types of drivers that are already ignoring the 30mph speed limit are unlikely to slow down for a lower 20mph speed limit without extensive traffic calming measures being introduced.

2.3 The latest available data provided to us by Sussex Police indicates that there have been 2 personal injury crashes recorded in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue, Polegate in the latest available three year period. Both crashes resulted in a slight injury and neither could be attributed to excessive speed. A plan indicating the location of the crashes is included as Appendix B.

2.4 The research that has been carried out nationally indicates that speed limits that are introduced with signs and lines alone only reduce the average speed of the traffic by about 1 or 2mph. This is also our experience from the speed limit review work that has been carried out in the County. Our policy on

Local Speed Limits therefore recommends that for a signed alone 20mph to be relatively self-enforcing, they should only be introduced in locations where the average speed of traffic is already below 24mph.

2.5 At the present time the County Council has very limited resources available for road safety including lower speed limits and traffic calming measures. The cost of introducing a lower speed limit and the potential engineering measures that would be required to produce an effective 20mph speed limit in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue could not be justified at the present time due to the relatively good safety record of the road(s).

2.6 As this location is not a priority for the Road Safety Team, speed data has not been obtained, but in our experience from other similar locations, the types of engineering measures that would be required to introduce an effective 20mph speed limit in these roads may not be supported by all the local residents

2.7 Whilst we appreciate the concerns of the residents regarding the condition of these roads our inspections have found that Farmlands Avenue and Farmlands Way are in good structural condition and currently we would not look to carry out any significant road repairs. We will be looking to carry out a minor repair to one section of the road outside house number 40 on Farmlands Way which was found to be in poorer condition than the rest of the road. This will include removing two of the slabs and replacing them with a tarmac construction. We have also inspected Coppice Avenue and have found no concerns with the condition of this road and we would not look to carry out any significant road repairs here. We thank both Councillor Daniel and Stephen Shing and the residents for bringing their concerns to our attention, and we will continue to monitor the roads and if necessary deal with any future issues as they arise.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 A 20mph speed limit in Farmlands Way, Farmlands Avenue and Coppice Avenue is not a priority for the County Council at the present time due to its relatively good safety record

3.2 There are no plans to carry out road repairs apart from on a section of road outside number 40 Farmlands Way.

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LOCAL MEMBER  
Councillor Daniel Shing  
Councillor Stephen Shing

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS  
The petition  
Photographs of the sites