

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 22 May 2023

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition to implement a one-way system and 20mph speed limit in Garfield Road, Hailsham

Purpose: To consider the need for the implementation of a one-way system and 20mph speed limit in Garfield Road, Hailsham

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

- (1) A potential scheme to implement a one-way system and 20mph speed limit in Garfield Road has been assessed through our approved High Level Sift process and is not a priority for the County Council at the present time; and**
 - (2) Petitioners may wish to consider taking a potential scheme forward through Community Match. A Feasibility Study at a cost of £500 would be required prior to a Community Match application.**
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1 Background Information

1.1. At the County Council meeting on 7 February 2023, a petition was presented to the Chairman by Councillor Murphy from a group of residents from the Garfield Road area of Hailsham. The group requests that the County Council implement a one-way system in Garfield Road from Station Road to Bell Banks Road. In addition to this they have requested that the speed limit is reduced to 20mph. A copy of the petition is available in the Members' Room.

1.2. 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 Transport and Environment.

2 Supporting Information

2.1. Garfield Road is a residential road with limited off-street parking and some sections of double yellow lines. It is covered by a 30mph speed limit, as indicated by the system of street lighting. A 7.5 tonne weight restriction also applies to the road.

2.2. Crash data supplied by Sussex Police for the ten-year period up to 31 January 2023 shows that there have been no crashes resulting in personal injury within Garfield Road. Location and crash data plans, can be found at Appendix 1.

2.3. A speed survey was undertaken in Garfield Road for the seven-day period from 13 March 2023. This indicated average vehicle speeds of 17-mph in both directions.

2.4. The County Council has a limited amount of funding to develop local transport improvements and needs to ensure that resources are targeted to those schemes which will be of

greatest benefit to local communities. To help prioritise the number of requests received for improvements, a process was developed to determine which schemes should be funded through the Integrated Transport Programme.

2.5. Experience has shown that one-way systems can often have a detrimental effect on vehicle speeds. Since drivers are aware they are not going to meet on-coming traffic, vehicle speeds can often increase within the one-way system. As such, the request for a one-way system and 20mph speed limit has included assessment of traffic calming features which may be required to support the measures.

2.6. The request for a 20mph speed limit, one-way system and supporting traffic calming features has been assessed through the approved High Level Sift process and did not meet the benchmark score to be taken forward.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Lead Member for Transport and Environment advises petitioners that a scheme to implement a 20mph speed limit, one-way system and any supporting traffic calming features in Garfield Road is not presently a priority for funding from the County Council's budget. However, appropriate improvements could be considered should an alternative source of funding become available, or if an application through Community Match was successful.

3.2. In order to determine what measures could be suitable in this area, prior to a Community Match application, it is suggested that the petitioners contact Hailsham Town Council to ascertain whether they would be interested in supporting a scheme to try and influence traffic conditions in the area. Support from the Town Council does not need to be financial – any group interested in taking a scheme forward through Community Match can provide the funding. They would then need to commission a Feasibility Study at a cost of £500. This would help to identify possible improvements for further discussions and provide the group concerned with an estimate of what they might cost to assist in their budget considerations. The speed data for Garfield Road that was recently collected can be provided to the group, upon request.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Murphy

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None