

**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 20mph and Heavy Goods Vehicle limits on Lower Park Road, Hastings

**Purpose:** To consider the need for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit and Heavy Goods Vehicle restriction on Lower Park Road between Dordrecht Way and Bethune Way, Hastings.

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

- (1) A potential scheme to implement a 20mph speed limit and Heavy Goods Vehicle restriction 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 Daniel on behalf of a group of residents from the Lower Park Road area of Hastings. The petitioners request that the County Council implement a 20mph speed limit and Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) restriction on Lower Park Road, between Dordrecht Way and Bethune Way. 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. Lower Park Road is covered by a 30mph speed limit as indicated by the system of street lighting. There are residential properties on the southern side of the road and Alexandra Park on the northern side. Some properties have off-street parking facilities and on-street parking is a mixture of double yellow lines, unrestricted parking, permit holder and time limited parking bays. The area can become heavily parked, especially during fine weather or when events are being held in Alexandra Park.

2.2. Crash data supplied by Sussex Police for the three-year period up to 31 January 2023 shows that there have been three crashes resulting in slight personal injury within Lower Park Road between Dordrecht Way and Bethune Way. None of the crashes were attributed to excessive or inappropriate speed or involved HGVs. A location plan, crash data plan and a plan of the parking restrictions can be found at Appendix 1.

2.3. Speed surveys were undertaken in Lower Park Road at two sites for the seven-day period from 13 March 2023. This indicated average vehicle speeds for the first site (western end, outside No. 81) of 22mph eastbound and 23mph westbound, and for the second site (eastern end, opposite No. 47) of 21mph eastbound and 20mph westbound.

2.4. The County Council has a limited amount of funding to develop local transport improvements and needs to ensure that resources are allocated to those schemes which will be of the greatest benefit to local communities. To help prioritise the number of requests received for improvements, a process has been developed to determine which schemes should be funded through the Integrated Transport Programme.

2.5. The request for a 20mph speed limit and HGV restriction has been assessed through the approved High Level Sift process and did not meet the benchmark score to be taken forward.

2.6. Although the provision of a 20mph speed limit and HGV restriction is not currently a priority for the County Council, the petitioners may wish to contact Hastings Borough Council to determine their interest in supporting a community funded scheme through the Community Match Initiative. A feasibility study at a cost of £500 would be required prior to a Community Match application.

### **3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1. It is recommended that the petitioners are advised that a scheme to implement a 20mph speed limit and HGV restriction in Lower Park Road does not meet the County Council's criteria and, therefore, is not presently a priority for funding. However, appropriate improvements could be considered should an alternative source of funding become available, or an application through Community Match was successful.

3.2. To determine what measures could be suitable in this area, prior to a Community Match application, it is suggested that the petitioners contact Hastings Borough Council to ascertain whether they would be interested in supporting a scheme to try and influence traffic conditions in the area. Support from Hastings Borough 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. The speed data for Lower Park Road that was recently collected can be provided to the group. This will help 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.

### **RUPERT CLUBB**

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### **LOCAL MEMBERS**

Councillor Daniel

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None