

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 15 January 2024

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition to introduce traffic calming measures including a 20mph speed limit, relevant mandatory signs and occasional radar checks to deliver safety in Southfields Road, Eastbourne

Purpose: To consider the need for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit with traffic calming measures and relevant signing in Southfields Road, Eastbourne.

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

- (1) A potential scheme to implement a 20mph speed limit, traffic calming and relevant mandatory signs has been assessed through the approved High Level Sift process and is not a priority for the County Council at the present time;**
 - (2) Petitioners may wish to consider setting up a Community Speed Watch group for the area to carry out occasional speed checks; and**
 - (3) Petitioners may wish to consider taking a potential scheme forward through Community Match. A Community Match Appraisal 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 10 October 2023, a petition was presented to the Chairman by Councillor Rodohan on behalf of a group of residents from the Southfields Road area of Eastbourne. The petitioners request that the County Council implement a 20mph speed limit, traffic calming measures, relevant mandatory signs and occasional radar checks to deliver safety in Southfields Road. 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 Southfields Road is covered by a 30mph speed limit as indicated by the system of street lighting. The road is a bus route with a number of bus stops present along the road. A location plan can be found at Appendix 1.

2.2 The crash data supplied by Sussex Police for the three-year period up to 30 September 2023 shows that there have been two crashes resulting in personal injury within Southfields Road. The crashes were not attributed to excessive or inappropriate speed. A crash data plan can be found at Appendix 2.

2.3 A speed survey was undertaken in Southfields Road for the seven-day period from 21 November 2023. This indicated average vehicle speeds of 23mph for both northbound and southbound traffic. The speed survey can be found at Appendix 3.

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 High Level Sift process was developed to determine which schemes should be funded through the Integrated Transport Programme.

2.5 The request for a 20mph speed limit, traffic calming measures and relevant mandatory signs has been assessed through the approved High Level Sift process and did not meet the benchmark score to be taken forward.

2.6 Although this request is not currently a priority for the County Council, petitioners may wish to liaise with Eastbourne Borough Council to determine if they would be interested in supporting a community funded scheme through the Community Match Initiative. The support from the Borough Council does not need to be financial – any group interested in taking a scheme forward through Community Match can provide the funding.

2.7 Petitioners are advised that a Community Speed Watch group could be formed which would allow concerned residents to carry out speed checks, which can then be relayed to Sussex Police.

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, traffic calming measures and relevant mandatory signs in Southfields Road has been assessed through the approved High Level Sift process and did not meet the benchmark score to be taken forward. 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, the petitioners would need to commission a Community Match Appraisal at a cost of £500. This would help identify possible improvements for further discussions and provide the group with an estimate of what they might cost to assist in their budget considerations.

3.3 Occasional radar checks could be carried out by concerned residents, should they wish to form a Community Speed Watch group. Contact details for the District Speedwatch Administrator can be provided to Councillor Rodohan and the Lead Petitioner upon request.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Rodohan

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None