

Central and South Mid Sussex County Local Committee	Ref No: CSMS08(18/19)
30 October 2018	Key Decision: No
Haywards Heath: Queens Road and Adjoining Roads - Proposed Traffic Calming, 20mph Speed Limit and 7.5 tonne (Except for Access) Weight Restriction.	Part I
Report by Director of Highways and Transport	Electoral Division: Haywards Heath Town

Summary

This originated as a Community Highways Scheme application from Haywards Heath Town Council asking West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to review traffic conditions in Queens Road with regard to residents' concerns about it being used unnecessarily as a cut-through from Sydney Road, the speed of traffic, the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and concern regarding the number of HGVs unnecessarily using the residential roads to access the adjacent business park.

As a result in May 2017 WSCC undertook traffic speed and flow surveys which showed that average speeds range from 23-26mph with flows of just under 3000 vehicles in each direction on Queens Road over a 24hr/7day period. There were two recorded injury-accidents in the latest 5 years for which information was available at that time.

The main aim of the proposed scheme is therefore to slow down and discourage vehicles from using Queens Road as an alternative route to the adjacent B2028 Sydney Road by the introduction of traffic calming in the form of a series of six sets of speed cushions, a 20mph speed limit, and 7.5 tonne weight restriction (Except for Access).

Because of the Bridge Road Business Park and Haywards Heath Ambulance Station at the eastern end of Queens Road, no features are proposed which would inhibit HGVs and emergency vehicles from reaching the Oathall Road end of the Sydney Road roundabout.

During the Statutory Public Consultation 4 messages of support and 8 objections were received as summarised along with our observations in response in Appendix B to this Report.

Recommendation

That the Central and South Mid Sussex County Local Committee authorises the Director of Law and Assurance to make the Orders as advertised.

To introduce:

- A series of six sets of raised Speed Cushions.
 - A 20mph speed limit.
 - A 7.5 tonne (Except for Access) Weight Restriction.
- And all associated regulatory traffic signs.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 Following local concerns regarding the speed and through-flow of vehicles in Queens Road WSCC undertook traffic and speed surveys in May 2017 which showed that average speeds range from 23-26mph with flows of just under 3000 vehicles in each direction in Queens Road over a 24hr/7 day period. There were two recorded injury-accidents in the latest 5 years for which information was available at that time.
- 1.2 Where average speeds exceed 24mph then additional physical measures are required to make a 20mph speed limit realistically enforceable, as stated under WSCC policy, hence the proposed series of six sets of speed cushions.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To introduce:
- A series of six sets of raised Speed Cushions.
 - A 20mph speed limit.
 - A 7.5 tonne (Except for Access) Weight Restriction.
- And all associated regulatory traffic signs.
- 2.2 The lengths of road that are the subject of the proposed Order are shown on Drawing No. CMS8018-MM. The drawing is at Appendix A

3 Resources

This scheme is on the published Community Highways Schemes Programme for 2018/19, funded from the Integrated Transport Block. The latest total estimated cost for design and construction is £85,000.

- 3.1. Future maintenance will be from Highways revenue budgets.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 **Local Member** - The local WSCC Member for Haywards Heath Town has been consulted and supports the proposals.
- 4.2 **External** - Sussex Police, Ambulance, and Fire Service have been consulted and raised no objection to the proposals.
- 4.3 **Public** – Between 21st May and 13th June 2018 WSCC wrote to all 450 residents, businesses, and organisations in Queens Road, Church Avenue, Gordon Road and Bridge Road Business Park with details of the proposals and asked for their feedback so that the level of local support could be assessed. An online Have Your Say feedback page was also set up.
- 4.4 As a result 88 replies were recieved.
From those:
- Regarding the proposed speed cushions, 69 were in favour and 19 against;
 - Regarding the 20mph speed limit, 75 were in favour and 13 were against;

- Regarding the 7.5 tonne weight restriction (except for access), 83 were in favour and 5 were against. (1 paper was returned blank)

This is a considerable proportion in favour and after reporting these results to the Local Member and Haywards Heath Town Council it was agreed to proceed to Statutory Public Consultation which ran from 30th August to 20th September 2018. Notification of this was sent directly to all 450 residents, businesses, and organisations in Queens Road, Church Avenue, Gordon Road and Bridge Road Business Park, the Police and Emergency Services, Mid Sussex District Council Councils, the Road Haulage Association, Freight Transport Association and other Motoring Organisations.

During the consultation period a copy of plans and a statement of reasons were placed at the local library, and the Notice advertised in the Mid Sussex Times and on the County Council's website. Notices were also erected and maintained on site at suitable locations.

- 4.5 During the consultation period 4 messages of support and 8 of objection were received and these are summarised in Appendix B to this report together with comments from the Director of Highways and Transport.

5 Risk Management Implications

- 5.1 If these Traffic Regulation Orders are not made there is a reputational risk for the County Council as local aspirations for lower speed limits will not be met.
- 5.2 If these Traffic Regulation Orders are made there is a risk it may not provide the benefits in speed reduction that are expected by those supporting it, however the use of speed cushions should ensure that speeds are reduced.

6 Other Options Considered

- 6.1 It would be practicable to proceed with the Traffic Calming and 20mph Speed Limit which are inter-reliant but omit the 7.5 tonne (Except for Access) Weight Restriction which is not reliant on either the speed limit or traffic calming.

7 Equality Duty

- 7.1 The protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act were duly considered in the course of the development and design of this TRO proposal
- 7.2 The comments and objections received about the proposals did not raise Equality Act issues but were assessed in relation to the protected characteristics and no relevant impact emerged.

8 Social Value

- 8.1 The proposals align with the County Council's policy on Social Value insofar as they aim to improve the local road environment for existing users and future residents of the new development.

9 Crime and Disorder Act Implications

- 9.1 The County Council does not consider there to be any foreseeable Crime and Disorder Act implications associated with this proposal. The view of Sussex Police has been sought, who confirm they believe there are no issues in relation to the Crime and Disorder Act.

10 Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 It is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way that is incompatible with a convention right. The policy objective to avoid danger to all road users and reduce congestion should then be set against these rights. Taking these points into consideration it is believed that the introduction of these Traffic Regulation Orders is still justified.

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Appendices:

Appendix A - Drawing No. CMS8018-MM x3 calming, speed limits, weight

Appendix B - Public Consultation Responses and Engineer's Comments