

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director of Enterprise, Tourism and
the Environment

to

**Traffic and Parking Working Party and
Cabinet Committee**

on

6th January 2011

Agenda
Item No.

Report prepared by: Richard Backhouse, Team Leader
Highways and Traffic Management Services

**Traffic Calming Scheme, Midhurst Avenue & Henley Crescent, Westcliff on Sea:
Proposed Installation of 20mph Zone with Flat Top Speed Tables and Raised Junction
Entry Treatments.**

Executive Councillor: Councillor Flewitt
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

For the Traffic and Parking Working Party and Cabinet Committee to consider objections to the recent informal consultation with local residents and also consider the recently advertised formal consultation under the Highways Act, Section 90 (AF) to introduce traffic calming features in the Earls Hall area and make an appropriate decision.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Traffic and Parking Working Party consider the objection to the formal consultation and consider the following officer recommendations:

- 2.1.1 Implement the scheme without amendments, or
- 2.1.2 Implement the scheme with amendments, or
- 2.1.3 Take no further action

2.2 That the Cabinet Committee consider the views of the Traffic and Parking Working Party in respect of the objection and make a decision to proceed with one of the following options:

- 2.2.1 Implement the scheme without amendments, or
- 2.2.2 Implement the scheme with amendments, or
- 2.2.3 Take no further action

In the event of either 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 being agreed to authorise the implementation of the scheme as advertised, or amend to reduce the impact, as appropriate.

3. Background

3.1 The scheme was reported to the Traffic and Parking Working Party and Cabinet Committee on the 9th September 2010, where the following was resolved:

3.2 That the Chief Executive and Town Clerk be authorised to advertise the relevant Notices required for the scheme and subject to no objections being received, to arrange for the orders to be sealed and the proposals implemented.

3.3 Following advertisement of the proposals 1 letter of objection has been received.

3.4 The content of the objection is as follows:

- Vehicles have to stop at the junctions so raised tables at junctions are pointless.
- Vehicles will speed up once pass the flat top table outside 47/49 Midhurst Avenue so speeds will not be reduced on the bend.
- The 'No Through Road' option would have stopped the rat running if this is the intention of the proposal.

4. Other Options

4.1 All options are detailed above.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

The preferred method to physically reduce the speed limit in Midhurst Avenue would be with the use of raised entry treatments at either end of Midhurst Avenue and two raised flat top tables as shown on the enclosed plan. The benefit of using flat top tables is that they could not be straddled by large vehicles or motorcycles so would slow all vehicles and would provide a safe crossing point for pedestrians outside the school entrance.

Flat top humps are constructed 75 mm high with a 1 in 15 gradient to the ramps at either end creating a gentle ramp and therefore much reduced noise and vibration levels in comparison to round top humps. The disadvantage is that blue light emergency vehicles will also be delayed, but with just two tables any delay to response times will be minimal.

Gateway features to the proposed 20mph one will also be required at the entry and exit points and will take the form of special 20mph Zone signs placed either side of the carriageway, 20mph road markings and raised carriageway areas.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities.

Implementation adds to customer satisfaction by addressing road safety issues. Implementation will also support the Council's priority to develop Community Safety through improved road safety.

6.2 Financial Implications

Funding to undertake this work will be from the Cuckoo Corner Junction Improvement budget, as the scheme forms part of the complementary measures in support of the Cuckoo Corner junction improvement scheme

6.3 Legal Implications

The formal statutory consultative process has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the legislation.

6.4 People Implications

Work required to design and implement this scheme will be met by existing staff resources and supported by the Council's term contractor for highways works.

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

An informal and statutory consultation was carried out between 12th November 2010 and 03rd December 2010. This comprised of the following

- A total of 127 letters were delivered to all residents affected by the proposals 1 reply was received.
- Street notices detailing the proposals were erected on lamp columns either side of the road at the 2 entry points to the proposed new 20 mph zone.
- An advertisement was placed in the Southend Evening Echo on the 12th November 2010.
- Plans were placed on deposit in the contact Centre at the Civic Centre

7. Background Papers

Report of Corporate Director of Enterprise, Tourism & the Environment to Traffic and Working Party Agenda item number 5 dated 9th September 2010.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Plan of Proposal.

Appendix 2 – Plan of consultation area.