

**Name of meeting and date:** CABINET 16 JUNE 2009

**Title of report:** OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING AT WINDSOR ROAD AND CHIDSWELL LANE, SHAW CROSS, DEWSBURY

<b>Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	NO
<b>Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?</b>	NO
<b>Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?</b>	YES
<b>Cabinet member portfolio:</b>	REGENERATION, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

**Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted:** Dewsbury East  
Cllrs Paul Kane, Cathy Scott and Eric Firth

**Public or private:** PUBLIC

## 1. Purpose of report

Cabinet are asked to consider an objection to the proposed traffic calming at Windsor Road and Chidswell Lane and decide on a way forward.

## 2. Key points

- 2.1 There have been longstanding requests for traffic calming along Windsor Road and Chidswell Lane culminating in a petition submitted in December 2002. The petition decision was that "further investigation would be undertaken and if justified, a scheme developed and taken forward for funding." The aim of the traffic calming is to deter traffic from using these roads to avoid the Shaw Cross traffic signals and for those vehicles still travelling here to reduce their speeds, thus improving road safety.
- 2.2 The justification was undertaken, funding secured and a scheme to introduce traffic calming on Windsor Road and Chidswell Lane was developed. Informal consultation was carried out in November 2008. See attached plan for extent of traffic calming proposed.
- 2.3 Following on from the informal consultation, the road humps were formally advertised as is legally required. The advertisement period ran from 13 February to 13 March 2009.
- 2.4 As a result of the advertising, a formal objection was received from Mr Graham West of 6 Willerton Close, Chidswell, Dewsbury (see attached). The basis of the objection is that we are treating the

effect, that is traffic avoiding the traffic signals, rather than the cause which Mr West sees as the general traffic situation at Shaw Cross.

- 2.5 Highways Officers have met with Mr West on site at Shaw Cross and discussed with him at length the points raised in his objection letter. Whilst on the face of it Mr West makes some valid observations, it is not possible to make the changes suggested for safety or legal reasons. Whilst Mr West accepted the reasons for layout and operation of the Shaw Cross junction, he was unwilling to withdraw his objection. Highways Officers did advise Mr West that they would look again at the traffic signal timings to see if any improvements could be made.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

The traffic calming scheme is listed in the Highways Service Capital Plan under Sections 3C Walking and Improving Mobility and 3D Community Traffic Projects and is programmed for implementation in the 2009/10 financial year.

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

- 4.1 Local Councillors, emergency services, other statutory organisations and residents in the immediate vicinity were consulted in November 2008 prior to the formal advertising process. Mr West and two other members of the public objected to the traffic calming but only Mr West submitted a formal objection at the advertising stage.
- 4.2 No objections have been received from the emergency services or statutory organisations, no comments were received from Local Councillors.
- 4.3 As a result of the consultation, requests to extend the traffic calming towards the Leeds Road junction were received. These are being considered and will be subject to a separate local consultation process.
- 4.4 Local Councillors have been consulted on this report.

Cllr Paul Kane said: "I am in full support of the installation and am hoping to see a reduction in accidents and near misses on this "Rat Run" we have campaigned for this to be done for some time and thank officers for their assistance"

Cllr Eric Firth said: "I continue to support the traffic calming measures on this road."

### **5. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That Cabinet overrule the objection to enable the traffic calming to be implemented.

### **6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation**

I support the officer recommendation.

### **7. Next steps**

If the objection is overruled, it is intended to implement the traffic calming in August 2009.

## **8. Contact officer and relevant papers**

John Whiteley:


Direct Dial (01484 414870)

e-mail [john.whiteley@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:john.whiteley@kirklees.gov.uk).

Assistant Director – Highways and Transportation – Jacqui Gedman

Relevant paper: Objection letter from Mr West



<div><div>Kirklees COUNCIL</div></div>		<div>Project</div> <div>WINDSOR ROAD / CHIDSWELL LANE SHAW CROSS, DEWSBURY</div>		<div>Scale</div> <div>NTS</div>	
<div>Highways &amp; Transportation Flint Street, Fartown Huddersfield, HD1 6LG</div>		<div>Title</div> <div>PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING</div>		<div>Drawn</div> <div>JW</div>	<div>Checked</div>
				<div>Section</div> <div>HD</div>	<div>Date</div> <div>MAY 09</div>
				<div>Drawing No.</div>	
				<div>g/sch/cad/janet/j-whiteley/windsor-rd</div>	

Graham West  
6 Willerton Close  
Chidswell  
Dewsbury  
WF12 7SQ

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009

FAO Susan Betteridge

I write regarding the proposed traffic calming measures on Chidswell Lane & Windsor Road –  
Ref # DEV/BP/D126-081

I oppose this development on the following grounds.....

1. The proposed cost..... I have been told by two different council employees that the order of cost will be between £60,000 and £80,000.....this is a huge amount of money to spend for very little perceived gain....
2. I don't think the alternatives have been investigated thoroughly. I have done some traffic observation in the area since this development was brought to my attention and my results are in the appendix to this letter. I have no qualifications in traffic management but I have spent considerable time living here – over 25 years.
3. Why do we have a crossing patrol for Shaw Cross school only 100 metres from a Light Controlled Pedestrian Crossing. Surely the crossing patrol would be much safer positioned on the light controlled crossing. Vehicles parked improperly on the pavement outside Northern Domestic No.774 Leeds Road cause traffic to deviate from their lane and slow traffic. Traffic exiting Shaw Cross Boys Club tries to join the flow of traffic going towards Dewsbury and sometimes Ossett. This is a very dangerous manoeuvre as there is no refuge area apart from some KEEP CLEAR road markings which 99% of drivers ignore. The patrolled crossing is only used for a maximum of 2 hours a day therefore the inconvenience of having to walk 100 metres to the traffic light controlled crossing is minimal.

4. We are treating the effect not the cause of the problem.

The effect is that vehicles use the Chidswell Lane/Windsor Road shortcut to bypass the traffic lights at Shaw Cross.

The cause of this is that the lights at the junction of Leeds Road/Owl Lane don't appear to be set up to the benefit of the traffic flow.

The filter light that allows traffic to turn left off Leeds Road and enter Owl Lane is only Green when the main lights are Green. There appears to be no reason why this Green filter light should not be on all the time except when pedestrians require to cross Owl Lane from A to B. At present the pedestrian lights are on Red all the time except when the call button is pressed and the WAIT light comes on. Pedestrians usually get the Green after a maximum wait, after pressing the button, of 40 seconds. The pedestrian crossing for Leeds Road C to D works in exactly the same way.

My proposals.

1. Alter the sequence of the lights at Leeds Road/Owl Lane junction so that the left turn filter light is Green all the time except when pedestrians require to cross Owl Lane A to B. This measure might improve traffic flow on its own.
2. Alter the patrolled crossing area on Leeds Road near No.707 to allow two lanes of traffic to approach the lights at Shaw Cross. There is enough room on the carriageway to easily allow this and retain a modified central reservation. This would allow two lanes of traffic all the way from Tingley to the lights at Shaw Cross.
3. Make traffic exiting Shaw Cross Boys Club turns left to join the flow of traffic travelling towards Leeds.. A TURN LEFT - One Way Only sign or NO RIGHT TURN sign. They would then proceed along Leeds Road until they could turn right up Chidswell Lane and then back towards Dewsbury or Ossett. I would also make the junction with Chidswell Lane a NO U-TURNS junction from either the Leeds or Dewsbury direction.

I realise that it is difficult to understand my proposals from a written statement, so I would be willing to meet anyone from your department to discuss.

I am sure this problem can be resolved without spending a lot of hard earned money.

Thank you, Graham West

