

Name of meeting: Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Date: 23rd June 2021

Title of report: Objection to Traffic Regulation Order- Proposed Traffic Calming Jackroyd Lane, New Laithe Hill, and Fanny Moor Lane, Newsome, Huddersfield.

Purpose of report: To consider an objection received to - Kirklees TRO - Proposed Traffic Calming Jackroyd Lane, New Laithe Hill, and Fanny Moor Lane, Newsome, Huddersfield.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Colin Parr – 3 rd June 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director Finance?	Eamonn Croston – 9 th June 2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft – 9 th June 2021
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Naheed Mather

Electoral wards affected: Newsome

Ward councillors consulted: Yes

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered: Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 Jackroyd Lane / New Laithe Hill / Fanny Moor Lane is a route which links Longley to Newsome which is made up of a mixture of residential roads with carriageway widths of 7.0m plus, and a semi-rural section of carriageway with an average width of 5.0m. There is a single commercial property on the route which is The Victoria public house with the rest of the route fronted by residential properties.
- 1.2 Jackroyd Lane was partially traffic calmed as part of a scheme introduced in 2017 to install traffic calming features on High Lane. The proposed scheme would extend the existing traffic calming towards Newsome, as well as introducing new features on New Laithe Hill and Fanny Moor Lane.
- 1.3 Due to the current Covid restrictions, traffic movements are not, at present, representative of those evident when the National Lockdown restrictions are not in place. However, under normal conditions, the speed of drivers using this route as a 'rat run' has generated concerns. This is especially so on the narrow semi-rural New Laithe Hill section of the route. This scheme was identified by Ward Councillors pre-COVID 19, and as such is based on complaints, requests, representations received before the pandemic.
- 1.4 To try and address residents' concerns, Ward Councillors identified this route for traffic calming under the Public Realm budget that was made available to them. As the main areas of concern were traffic flow and vehicle speed, the proposed traffic scheme has been designed using "vertical" traffic calming to deter motorists from using this route, and to manage inappropriate vehicle speeds of those who chose to use this route.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The proposed traffic calming features include 2 sets of speed cushions on the lower section of Jackroyd Lane, and 7 round top humps on the New Laithe Hill / Fanny Moor Lane section of the scheme. The traffic calming features are spaced to avoid impeding accesses to residential properties, and to allow vehicles to travel at the posted speed limit of 30mph.
- 2.2 The vertical traffic calming has been proposed as per drawing numbers TF.23.200.554B Jackroyd Lane Lower Section and TF.23.200.554 New Laithe Hill. The scheme is designed to address residents' concerns about traffic flow and inappropriate vehicle speeds. The scheme has been identified by Ward Councillors for delivery under the Public Realm budget.
- 2.3 Residents were consulted on the proposed scheme from Thursday 19th November 2020 through to Friday 11th December 2020. Two comments were received- one asking for a further extension to the scheme, and the other asking if an alternative to vertical traffic calming could be considered. Both these comments were addressed by a follow up letter.
- 2.4 The Traffic Regulation Order for the implementation of the traffic calming was advertised between 10th March 2021 and 1st April 2021 and during that time two objections were received.

- **Objection 1** - Received from a resident of New Laithe Hill. They are objecting to the proposed traffic calming on the grounds that as there has been no collisions on New Laithe Hill, the traffic calming is not required. In addition, they state that they feel that the funding available for this scheme could be better spent on highway maintenance or on responding to COVID 19

In response:

The scheme has been designed to deliver a targeted improvement to the local area by addressing concerns raised by residents received via the Newsome Ward Councillors.

Unlike mainstream highways capital budgets, the Public Realm budget does not have a collision reducing element attached to it, thus enabling the delivery of highway schemes that are generating genuine concern but fall short of reaching the criteria required for funding from mainstream budgets. There have been no collisions on the route along which the traffic calming has been proposed, however it has been highlighted via the Ward Councillors that there are concerns regarding traffic flow and vehicle speeds.

The funding for this scheme was committed pre COVID 19 and so cannot be used elsewhere, especially as there has been a commitment to address the issues identified along the route where the traffic calming has been proposed.

- **Objection 2** - Received from a resident of New Laithe Hill. They are objecting to the proposed traffic calming on the grounds that the use of vertical traffic calming would lead to drivers losing control of their vehicles and colliding with their property. In addition, they state that New Laithe Hill isn't used as a 'rat-run' and that the other suggestions they put forward to their Ward Councillor have not been fully considered.

In response:

The type of traffic calming and spacing between features ensures that drivers must maintain a speed suitable for driving through the scheme. The proposed round top humps are effective at achieving tangible reductions in speed. In the case of this scheme, it is designed so drivers can travel at or below the posted speed limit of 30mph. There is no documented evidence of a properly designed and well-constructed vertical traffic calming scheme leading to drivers losing control on the features installed.

With regards to other options, the Ward Councillors have been consulted throughout the development of the scheme and all alternatives have been considered.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with people - The proposed works are considered necessary to improve the public realm for residents and users of this route.

3.2 Working with Partners – N/A.

3.3 Place based Working - The Traffic Regulation Order is intended to allow the construction of traffic calming features that have been requested by local people, through their local councillors. The aim of the proposal is to improve the public realm by managing traffic flow and vehicle speeds.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality - The improvements in managing traffic flow and speeds should give a greater feeling of safety for pedestrians using this route. Any increase in non-motorised use along this route will benefit Air Quality and Climate Change.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children - These proposals are aimed at controlling traffic flow and speeds, in order to make the roads a safer place to cycle and walk for all users, including children.

3.6 Other implications (HR/Legal/Financial etc) - There is a current cost to the Council of £5472.00 to process the necessary legal order needed to allow construction, along with the cost of installing the traffic calming features. These costs, and those of the design and construction of the scheme, will be covered by funding identified and approved from the Public Realm budget.

4 Consultees and their opinions

Statutory consultees have been consulted on these proposals, and no objections have been raised.

Councillor Andrew Cooper supports the proposals.

Councillor Susan Lee-Richards has expressed concerns on the suitability and effectiveness of the scheme.

Councillor Karen Allison has not responded

5 Next steps and timelines

Cabinet Committee Local Issues to consider the objection raised during the formal advertising period for the installation of the proposed traffic calming scheme and reach a decision on whether the Traffic Regulation Order is to be implemented as advertised.

If Cabinet Committee Local Issues chooses to overrule the objection received, the scheme, will be implemented as advertised.

If Cabinet Committee Local Issues choose to uphold the objections, the proposals to introduce the traffic calming scheme, as consulted and advertised, will not go ahead and the introduction of the scheme will be abandoned. The scheme was originally to be delivered during the 2019 / 2020 financial year but has been subject to delays on agreeing the final scheme to go forward, and the difficulties created by COVID 19

6 Officer recommendations and reasons

The proposed traffic calming for this route is aimed at addressing the residents' concerns over traffic that have been received by the Newsome Ward Councillors and will provide an improvement to safety for all road users.

For these reasons the Officer recommendation is that the objections to the proposed traffic calming be over ruled and the Traffic Regulation Order be implemented as advertised, to allow the benefits of this scheme in addressing community concerns to be realised.

7 Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Cllr Mather has recommend the scheme to progress as advertised.

8 Contact officer

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9 Service Director responsible

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