**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting

Date: 20 October 2009

Subject: Proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone and Traffic

Calming Features – B659 Church Street, Langford

Report of: Basil Jackson

Summary: To report to the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger

Communities the results of a consultation with residents of the B659 Church Street, B659 High Street, Pound Close, Mill Lane and Tithe Farm Close, Langford on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limit zone along with traffic calming features and to

seek approval for implementation of the scheme.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Langford and Henlow Village

Function of: Council

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

that the proposal to introduce 20mph speed limit zone along with traffic calming features on the B659 Church Street be implemented as set out in this report.

#### **Background and Information**

- As part of the programme of Safer Routes to School schemes in this
  years work programme a scheme has been designed for Langford Lower
  School. The scheme considers road safety issues highlighted in School
  Travel Plan prepared by Langford Lower School, concerns expressed by
  Langford Parish Council, and other issues identified during site visits by
  officers.
- 2. A package of proposed road safety improvement measures has been designed. These measures will include the introduction of a 20mph zone with a system of traffic calming features. The traffic calming will comprise speed cushions, a raised junction, a zebra crossing on a raised speed table together with a new mini-roundabout, improved footway and improved road signing.

3. Historically Bedfordshire has not undertaken traffic calming works with vertical features i.e. humps or tables, on A class roads.

In 1996/7, in response to a request for traffic calming in Langford, the highway authority therefore implemented priority chicanes at the entrances to Langford on the A6001.

It is the opinion of the Parish Council that these have not been effective.

Langford Parish Council has continued to campaign for additional traffic calming through the village

- 4. In 2007 it was agreed that Bedfordshire Highways would seek to reclassify the A6001 to a lower classification in order to facilitate alternative methods of traffic calming. An application was duly made to the Government Office for the Eastern Region for this to be undertaken.
- 5. This was successfully carried out and on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 the A6001 was re-classified as the B659.
- 6. Speed surveys undertaken in April 2008 close to Langford Lower School entrance indicate that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of vehicles travelling north is 32.9mph south is 31.1mph. Therefore a 20mph zone without traffic calming would not be viable.
- 7. Statutory Public Notices were published on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and erected on site to advertise the 20mph speed limit zone and traffic calming proposals. It was made clear that the proposed traffic calming features would only be implemented if the 20mph were to proceed.
- 8. Following the consultation, 7 written objections have been received and a letter of comment from Langford Parish Council. The statutory objection period ended on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009 however an additional 10 days have been added for responses due to the current postal workers dispute. This report has considered only objections received by the end of the statutory period and any objections received after this period will be reported directly to the portfolio holder at the meeting.

### 9. The Way Forward

More than 150 letters were sent out within the community. Seven written objections and one letter commenting on the scheme have been received.

The responses include the following:

- That the proposed speed cushions in front of their properties would cause disturbance and increase in noise level.
- That a proposed speed cushion close to a property would pose difficulty in on-street parking.
- That the proposed mini-roundabout (at B659 Church Street / East Road junction) is not in an appropriate location.
- That the existing mini-roundabout located at B659 Church Street/High Street junction be a large roundabout instead.

- That speed cushions are not the right type of traffic calming features so, would cause increase in noise level, pollution, wear and tear on vehicles.
- That such traffic calming features would effect emergency service response times.
- 10. Langford Parish Council has expressed its opinion that that the existing mini-roundabout located at the junction of the B659 High Street with Garfield Rd should be removed as it is a hazard.

The Parish Council had previously written confirming that they were happy with the 20mph proposals presented at a Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009.

### 11. Response to the objections:

- Speed cushions are designed to cause minimal deflection to vehicles travelling at the required speed and therefore are not considered to give significant increases in vehicle noise.
- Cars can be parked on or close to speed cushions provided that other parking restrictions are not present.
- The mini roundabouts are considered to be appropriate and correctly located.
- Speed cushions do not generally affect the passage of emergency vehicles to a significant degree.
- 12. The existing mini-roundabout located at the junction of the B659 High Street with Garfield Rd was constructed in 2006 under a Section 278 planning agreement. This mini-roundabout is considered to be a traffic calming feature within the proposed 20mph zone. There is no reason to consider that the existing mini-roundabout is a hazard. If it were to be removed there would be a need to construct additional traffic calming measures. There is no financial allocation for any additional work over and above the designed scheme.
- 13. The portfolio holder is therefore requested to approve the implementation the scheme as advertised.

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Council Priorities:**

The promotion of safety schemes in the vicinity of schools based on school travel plans is an ongoing Council priority.

#### Financial:

There is an allocation of £90,000 in the current years work programme for the implementation of Safer Routes to School for Langford Lower School from which this work will be funded.

#### Legal:

None as a result of this report

#### **Risk Management:**

None as a result of this report

#### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None as a result of this report

#### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

None as a result of this report

### **Community Development/Safety:**

None as a result of this report

#### Sustainability:

Lower speed limit on the main road, widened footway and enhanced crossing point may help encourage pedestrian movements thus a decrease in car use.

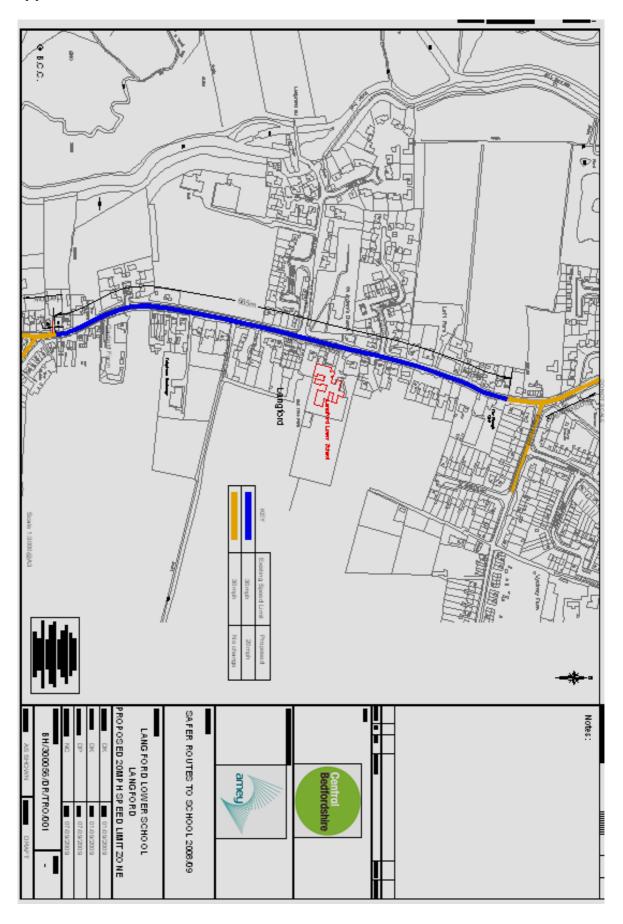
#### Appendices:

Appendix A – Plan of proposals Appendix B – Copy of original notice

#### **Background Papers**

**Objections** 

## Appendix A







## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

# CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE ON THE B659 CHURCH STREET IN LANGFORD

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety. The proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone is intended to reduce the speed of vehicles outside Langford Lower School premises where a 'Safer Routes to School' scheme is being promoted. If implemented, this will improve road safety and quality of environment, and will promote walking and cycling.

The proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone is an integral part of the proposed traffic calming scheme on the B659 Church Street in Langford between its junctions with Station Road and East Road.

Therefore, Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to make a Road Traffic Regulation as follows:

The effect of the Order:

#### To introduce a 20mph Speed Limit Zone on the following length of road in Langford:

Church Street, Langford which extends from a point 2 metres north of the boundary between Nos. 2 and 2a Church Street in a generally northerly direction for a distance of approx 685 metres.

A separate public notice has been published for the proposed introduction of traffic calming features on the B659 Church Street in Langford between its junctions with Station Road and East Road. The traffic calming works will only take place if this 20mph Speed Limit Zone proposal is implemented.

<u>Further Details:</u> of the proposed Order, reasons for the proposal and a plan may be examined during normal office hours at the Customer Service Centre, The Old Magistrates Court, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade and normal opening hours at Biggleswade Library, Chestnut Avenue, Biggleswade. These details will be placed on deposit until 6 weeks after the Order is made or until it is decided not to continue with the proposal. Telephone Deepak Kaphle on 0845 365 6129 for further details on the proposals.

Orders to be revoked: If implemented any previous Speed Limit Order made on the above length of road will be revoked.

<u>Objections:</u> should be sent in writing to the Orders and Commons Registration Officer, Countryside Access Service, Central Bedfordshire Council, PO Box 1395, Bedford MK42 5AN, stating the grounds on which they are made by 9 October 2009.

Order Title: if made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (20mph Speed Limit Zone) (B659 Church Street, Langford) Order 200\*"

PO Box 1395 Bedford MK42 5AN

Basil Jackson Assistant Director for Highways

11 September 2009

## PUBLIC NOTICE



#### **HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**

#### PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING FEATURES - B659 CHURCH STREET, LANGFORD

#### BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH STATION ROAD AND EAST ROAD

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL proposes to construct various traffic calming features under Section 90 A-I of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers on B659 Church Street, Langford, as part of the proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone and 'Safer Routes to School' initiative to improve road safety outside the Langford Lower School premises and promote walking and cycling.

A separate public notice has been published for the introduction of 20mph Speed Limit Zone. The traffic calming works will only take place if the proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone is implemented.

#### The proposed traffic calming features will be:

- Raised junction, 75mm nominal height above existing carriageway level with ramps slopes not less than 1:15.
- Raised table coincidental with Zebra Crossing, 75mm nominal height above existing carriageway level.
- Speed Cushions in pairs at 8 different locations each 3m long and 1.7m wide with a 1m gap (inc. road marking) in between and 75mm nominal height above existing carriageway levels.

#### The raised junction is proposed to be sited at the following location in Langford:

Junction of the B659 Church Street with Gurneys Lane and approx 17 metres long inc.
 ramps. The table will also extend into Gurneys Lane for a distance of approx 5 metres from the eastern kerb line of the B659 Church Street.

# The Raised Table is proposed to be sited at the following location in Langford (for the Zebra crossing):

 B659 Church Street outside Langford Lower School where the existing Zebra crossing is located, approx 10 metres long inc. ramps.

#### Speed Cushions are proposed to be sited at the following locations in Langford:

- Church Street approx 2.5m north of the boundary between Nos 161 and 163 Church Street.
- Church Street approx 21m north of centre line of Pound Close.
- Church Street approx 85m north of centre line of Pound Close (outside No 125 Church Street).
- Church Street approx 20m south of centre line of Mill Lane.
- Church Street approx 22m south of centre line of Tithe Farm Close (outside No 103 Church Street).
- Church Street approx 39m north of centre line of Tithe Farm Close.
- Church Street approx 100m north of centre line of Tithe Farm Close (outside No 85 Church Street).
- Church Street approx 78m south of centre line of East Road (outside No 78 Church Street).

<u>Further Details:</u> of the proposals and a plan may be examined during normal office hours at the, Customer Service Centre, The Old Magistrates Court, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade and normal opening hours at Biggleswade Library, Chestnut Avenue, Biggleswade. These details will be placed on deposit until 6 weeks after the Order is made or until it is decided not to continue with the proposal. Telephone Deepak Kaphle on 0845 365 6129 for further details on the proposals.

<u>Objections:</u> should be sent in writing to the Orders and Commons Registration Officer, Countryside Access Service, Central Bedfordshire Council, PO Box 1395, Bedford MK42 5AN, stating the grounds on which they are made by 9 October 2009.

PO Box 1395 Bedford MK42 5AN Basil Jackson Assistant Director for Highways

11 September 2009

Onders y Commons Megisharian Official Countryside Access Service Contral Bedfordshine Council P.O. Box 1395 Bedford MKH2 5AN



September 23° 2009

OGIS MNX

Dear Sin

RE: Inoposed 20mph Speed Limit & Traffic Caloning teathness
Blosg Church of Langford

tistly, I was disappointed the plans were not at the Magnetrates Court Bightshade when I wont to view Drem. I spoke to Chris Strand who weened to their they had got lost in the post or than suggested laring Deepar to voice my concerns. In case I don't get thold of ) expart, live decided to voice my conceans in waiting lon plan to put 2 Speed Cushions right ontside my house No 125 have been 100 by friends who have had the same unshions We'de their houses that they create a great deal of noise 'ay = night) + after much campaigning got the dawn things emoved. I steep in the sport of the house + do not wish to ear constant noise through the night. secordly, has anyone gave into the thousandows parking problems along this street of Church St. ONSide my house (No 125) are the case belonging to next doons 24 hour convert ( for a nadraplegic boy), neighboring houses care care for the ecreation ground or much thought using the Drivenay to Brutish leterom. There won't be noon for speed customs !!! I rake my dufe in my hands everythine I kay to get out of my own Jaive risability is alkacious I would be very happy for someone to come our risit to

It would be so much simpler to just install speed Comeras !!.

The Boy hacero" who use Church of as a societized at night will continue to do to just skeedding these custions. If there were speed comeras they would trave to stow down.

I can use me getting no steep with the Constant "bang bang" of case going over these Cushisins of I would ask you to reconsider this hideous idea.

Yours faithfully

See what I am conceened about regarding the postling issue.

Central Bedfordshire Council, PO Box 1395 Bedford MK42 SAN Langford,

Biggleswade 5G18 9QA

Bedfordshire

30th September 2009

Reference – Central Bedfordshire Council (20 MPH Speed limit Zone) (B659 Church Street, Langford)
Order\*

#### Dear Sirs

I wish to place an objection to the proposed order as a professional and qualified engineer based on the following points.

- The proposed roundabout at East Road should be "before" the bend coming from the Bigglewade direction at the junction of Church Road and Church Street.
- Bedfordshire police with the local parish council conducted a speed check in the vicinity of Church Road / Church Street junction and apart from one person all the people caught speeding and pulled over where locals. (See local free Villager magazine for article).
- The Church Road / Church Street junction would allow for a "full proper" roundabout to be
  Installed therefore forcing traffic to slow down as opposed to driving straight over mini
  roundabouts which do not slow traffic down. (What should happen and what happens in real
  life is different).
- By locating the roundabout at Church Road /-Church Street the 20 MPH zone could be extended to include East Road which is a straight "race track" and would improve road safety.
- Planning permission has been turned down several times for a multi million pound development
  at the "old mushroom farm" which is virtually at the junction of Church Street and East Road for
  road safety reasons. Planning applications have included installing traffic lights and i believe
  even a mini roundabout which is now being proposed.
- The proposed mini roundabout at East Road would allow the developer to re apply for planning permission for a multi million pound development when it has be rejected on several occasions by the former Mid Beds Council for road safety reasons etc.
- Did planning staff not check in a through and professional way that planning permission had been turned down at this junction for road safety etc reasons in relation to the several proposals

made to the former Mid Beds Council? (I assume they are the same staff or part of a larger team who would have had knowledge of these previous applications).

I for one would like to know how the "old mushroom farm" multi million pound development can be turned down on several occasions by the previous Mid Beds Council for road safety reasons and the new Central Beds Council "slipping a mini roundabout in" at East Road by means of road calming and safety thus allowing the developer to resubmit his application? Do they think the local population is stupid and would think something possibly underhand is going on even though it might not be?

I would not be surprised if this point is brought to the attention of local papers like the "Beds on Sunday" as their might be a whiff of scandal here and I would not like to be a local official(s) with impending local government cuts being caught with the possibility of a scandal.

Yours sincerely

Orders and Commons Registration Officer Countryside Access Services Central Bedfordshire Council PO Box 1395 Bedfordshire MK42 5AN

Dear Sirs

# Re -Central Bedfordshire Council (20mph Speed Zone) B659 Church Street Langford

We are writing in response to the above proposal to which we approve in principle but have the following objection and observations:

We strongly object to the location of the speed cushion directly in front of our property, 103 Church Street, which will also affect the opposing property 94 Church Street.

We viewed similar speed cushions installed in Letchworth at the week end and noted only circa 60% of vehicles actually slowed down and this calls their effectiveness into question. More impotently each vehicle going over the cushion produced a clunk clunk-clunk chunk noise.

As both of the above properties are built very close to the road edge (circa 4m) this will result in a considerable noise nuisance virtually 24/7 hours/days, which could lead to stress related health issues.

A more practical arrangement would be to re-position this cushion closer to the Zebra crossing in front of the adjoining school nursery which is not an occupied dwelling. Alternatively create a mini roundabout opposite Tithe Barn Close.

#### Additional Observations:

The section of road surface in front of 103 Church Street requires repairs to pot holes and re-surfacing prior to implementing the scheme. We suffer undue traffic noise and vibration to the building structure due to the course road surface and HGV,s hitting pot holes.

Removal of the existing chicanes will also be detrimental as these act as a physical restraint to vehicles entering this stretch of road.

Extending the yellow lines from the crossing to Tithe Barn Road will also improve safety. Drivers dropping children off in front of our property do/will obstruct the view of the crossing and speed cushions. These parked vehicles also obstruct the road vision splay and make it dangerous for us and our neighbours when we attempt to exit this private shared drive. We have to exit between parked cars and hope other vehicles will see us before they hit us. How can so many vehicles parked along the road make it safe for cyclist or pedestrians? We would suggest a survey by a Highways Engineer take place at peak school opening/closing time to assess the full safety issues. This small private driveway serves three properties with a total of 7 vehicles.

We trust that our concerns and observations will be fully taken into consideration and appropriate changes made.

Yours sincerely

Countryside Access Service Central Bedfordshire Council PO Box 1395 Bedford MK42 5AN Langford Beds SG18 9NX

21/9/09

Dear Sir

#### Re Proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone and Traffic Calming Features: B659 Church Street Langford

Further to your letter 15 September 2009 regarding the above.

I strongly oppose to the placing of traffic calming features between numbers 161 and 163 Church Street. I do not think the distance between the two existing roundabouts at Station Road and the Garfield Farm roundabout warrant any further traffic calming features. Vehicles have already slowed down when approaching these roundabouts and there is not enough time to build up speed before you reach the second roundabout. Maybe an idea would be to alter the current roundabout at the Garfield Farm to a raised type, this would slow down traffic even more.

I also feel we are at a distance from the school where these humps will not have any effect to the children crossing the road by the school. I also have lived on a road previous where these calming features were placed and they caused nothing but distress for the people living near them, we found cars approached them at speed then hit their breaks then revved their engine to build up speed again causing a disturbance for the properties.

I would ask that you please consider my suggestions and concerns.

Thank you

Yours truly

Dear Sir or Madam,

1 am writing in connection with the 'Proposed 20 mph Speed Limit Zone and Traffic Calming Features: B659 Church Street, Langford'.

I live at 1 Pound Close, Langford, and one of the proposed Speed Cushions is directly opposite my back door. From previous experience I know that the noise when HGVs and tractors bang and crash over these obstacles, as they will, is unacceptable. It is bad enough in my kitchen as it is. I therefore strongly object to the placing of this speed Cushion in the proposed position.

I personally have difficulty in understanding how anybody with any understanding of Risk and Hazard Analysis can believe that the proposed measures will improve safety. It is well known that such Speed Cushions cause damage to vehicles with the consequences often being subsequently discovered at high speed on Motorways. Apart from this, the need to concentrate on these obstacles will inevitably divert driver's attention from where it should be i.e. keeping an eye on what is happening on the pavement where the real danger lies.

Yours Faithfully

Orders and Commons Registration Officer, Countryside Access Service, Central Bedfordshire Council, PO Box 1395, Bedford, MK42 5AN

Dear Sir.

#### Proposed Traffic Calming Features - B659 Church Street, Langford

I have read with some care the above proposal, as well as the separate proposal to introduce a 20 mph speed limit along the same stretch of road (which is a sensible idea, and to which I have no objection at all). However, regarding the proposed traffic calming features, I wish to make the following points, which I hope will be taken into consideration before a decision is taken.

- Speed cushions, raised tables and other types of ramps will create difficulties for the
  emergency services. I am particularly concerned with ambulances, which may be
  transporting severely ill passengers. The speed cushions and other speed ramps
  currently existing in various locations in Biggleswade and Hitchin have confirmed to my
  personal satisfaction that it is not possible to travel across these smoothly, regardless of
  how slowly one travels.
- These types of traffic calming measures will increase the noise level for residents in the nearby houses. Traffic will be braking, changing gear, bumping over the speed cushions, and accelerating away and this will be constant – whether or not there is oncoming traffic
- Apart from the increase in noises to residents, this will increase wear and tear on vehicles, and potentially increase fuel consumption and exhaust emissions, due to the constant braking / acceleration. This cannot be a desirable outcome.
- 4. One of the benefits of the existing "chicane" traffic calming features is that when there is no oncoming traffic, vehicles can travel smoothly along Church Street, and I can think of no sensible reason why this should not continue to be the case possibly re-siting the chicanes if they are believed to be in the "wrong" places under a 20 mph speed limit, assuming that that is approved.

Yours faithfully,

Orders and Commons Registration Officer Countryside Access Service Central Bodfordshire Council PO Box 1395 Bedford MK42 5AN

30 September 2009

Proposed 20 mph Speed Limit Zone and Traffic Calming Features: R659 Church Street Langford Amey Ref: DK/38737/3.12/300056

Dear sir/madam.

I am writing in response to the above captioned proposal. I am of course in favour of safer roads. However, I do object to the part of the proposal that involves the installation of speed cushions.

I would have to traverse three or five pairs of these at least twice a day to exit and enter the village. I am concerned that this would damage my car: if I drive directly over a single cushion, with wheels either side, there is the potential for damage to the inner part of all tyres; if I choose the 'one tyre on the cushion and one on the road' approach, I risk terminally damaged suspension spring(s).

Additionally, the stretch of road between the lane to the telephone exchange and the Garfield Farm mini-roundabout, has cars parked along the length on the east side most of the time, and cushions (or indeed a raised junction) at the beginning of the line of parked cars as one travels south could, I think, actually impede one's ability to pull out in a safe and timely manner.

There seems to be a great deal of speed cushions and raised sections being proposed (10 in total -1 can feel my lower back panicking). Would it not be possible to put in the new roundabout, raise the zebra crossing and the Gurney's Lane junction and then monitor drivers' adherence to the 20 mph speed limit to see if further restrictions are necessary?

The Public Notice included in the letter from Amey mentions the promotion of walking and cycling. I can see that slower moving traffic would make cycling more pleasant and safer, and no doubt walking too. However, what effect does the addition of speed cushions have on low-level pollution? Increased levels would obviously be less healthy for those of us walking around the village.

I have fived in Langford for ten years, and as a general observation, I would like to point out that the only time at which I have had to be especially careful on the B659 (as now named), is during the school drop-off and pick-up periods, as a result of the thoughtless and inconsiderate parking of some of the parents. I sincorely hope and respectfully suggest that however these changes are implemented, a rigorous enforcement of the parking and driving regulations is practised at all times of day, as I feel this can only add to the effect of the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme.

I will not miss the chicanes. I think a move to another solution to prevent speeding is a good idea. The one north of Tithe Farm Close is a particular problem, especially when travelling south, as it is really a bit too near the junction. I am happy with the proposed 20 mph speed limit.

Lof2

Please note that the Public Notice included in the letter from Amey did not, as far as I can see, mention the new roundabout at East Road, although it is on the attached map.

I would be grateful for a response to the points I have raised and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincorely,

### LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

E.P.RUTT, M.A. Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer 152 LONDON ROAD BIGGLESWADE BEDFORDSHIRE SG18 8EH Tel: 01767 601833

Mr Shortland Service Director Beds Highways Woodlands Annexe Manton Lane Bedford MK41 7NU

5 June 2009

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ACTION Y/N	BY JS
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- FILE NO.	3.08

Dear Mr Shortland

RE-CLASSIFICATION OF A6001 THROUGH LANGFORD

Thank you for coming with your Watchman-in-Chief and Engineer to meet with the Parish Council on 3 June.

All agreed it was a very useful, productive and encouraging meeting.

I write to confirm that the Council approves the plans as presented, subject to your making minor amendments should they be desirable and possible.

Yours sincerely

Philip Cutt.



#### LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

E.P.RUTT, M.A.
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

152 LONDON ROAD BIGGLESWADE BEDFORDSHIRE SG18 8EH Tel: 01767 601833

23 September 2009

Orders and Commons Registration Officer Countryside Access Service Central Bedfordshire Council PO Box 1395 Bedford MK42 5AN

Dear Sir

PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE AND TRAFFIC CALMING FEATURES B659 CHURCH STREET LANGFORD

i refer to letter received from Mr N Chapman, Transportation Manager, Amey, dated 14 September 2009 regarding the above.

My Council wishes to comment as follows:

At meetings with officers of Bedfordshire Highways my Council was given to understand that the mini roundabout at the junction of High Street with Garfield would be removed. This still appears on the plan.

My Council believes very strongly that this roundabout is road hazard and that the plan should be revised so that it is removed.

Please note that my Council reserves the right to add to this comment before the closing date 9 October.

Yours sincerely

Clerk GeRutt