
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 1st March 2011
Subject: Proposed Speed Hump, Church Road, Henlow
Report of: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation
Summary: The purpose of this report is to present to the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles the result of consultation on the proposal to construct one speed hump on Church Road, Henlow and seek approval for implementation of the scheme.

Contact Officer: David Brown
david.brown@amey.co.uk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Henlow

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

To improve Highway Safety and facilitate the free flow of traffic

Financial:

The construction of this scheme is estimated to cost approximately £2500.

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 Safety:

Will improve road safety on this section of highway.

Sustainability:

None as a result of this report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That the proposal to construct one speed hump on Church Road, Henlow to be implemented as set out in this report**

Background and Information

1. Concerns were raised about the safety of pedestrians, in particular children, crossing Church Road to access Henlow schools. These concerns have been enhanced by the proposed Zebra Crossing, likely to place a greater number of pedestrians on the north side of Church Road. Central Bedfordshire instructed Bedfordshire Highways Transportation Section to investigate remedial measures to highlight the presence of crossing pedestrians to motorists.
2. A full carriageway width road hump was considered the ideal solution, but given the existing drainage arrangement was deemed not feasible, and dismissed in preference of a speed hump with very low gradient sides to allow easy crossing for pedestrians.
3. A plan was produced to initiate statutory consultation (See Appendix A)
4. A statutory consultation was undertaken in January 2011 with all stakeholders, including letters delivered to all residents in the vicinity of the proposals. The public notice (See Appendix B) was posted on site and published in the Biggleswade Chronicle on 14/01/11.
5. As a result of this consultation, five objections were received (See Appendix C). The main points raised can be summarised as follows:
 - 5.1. There is not a speeding problem along Church Road. Church Road gets very congested during school opening and closing times.
 - 5.2. Children will think they have right of way.
 - 5.3. The informal crossing point is sited in the wrong location. Further work should be undertaken to extend the footway and a formal crossing should be installed near the church.
 - 5.4. Speed humps cause noise pollution.
 - 5.5. Speed humps cause back injury.
 - 5.6. Speed humps cause damage to vehicles.

Conclusions and the Way Forward

6. It is accepted that there may not be a significant speeding problem on Church Road, but the aim of the speed hump is to highlight the crossing point to motorists and help facilitate the safe crossing of pedestrians, in particular school children, across Church Road.

7. The proposed crossing point is sited at the location of an existing informal crossing point and will improve existing facilities. Any traffic signs or road markings used will not give the impression that pedestrians have priority over vehicles.
8. Research has shown that speed humps, negotiated at appropriate speeds, do not cause significant noise pollution, personal injury or vehicle damage.
9. It is recommend that the proposals be implemented as advertised.

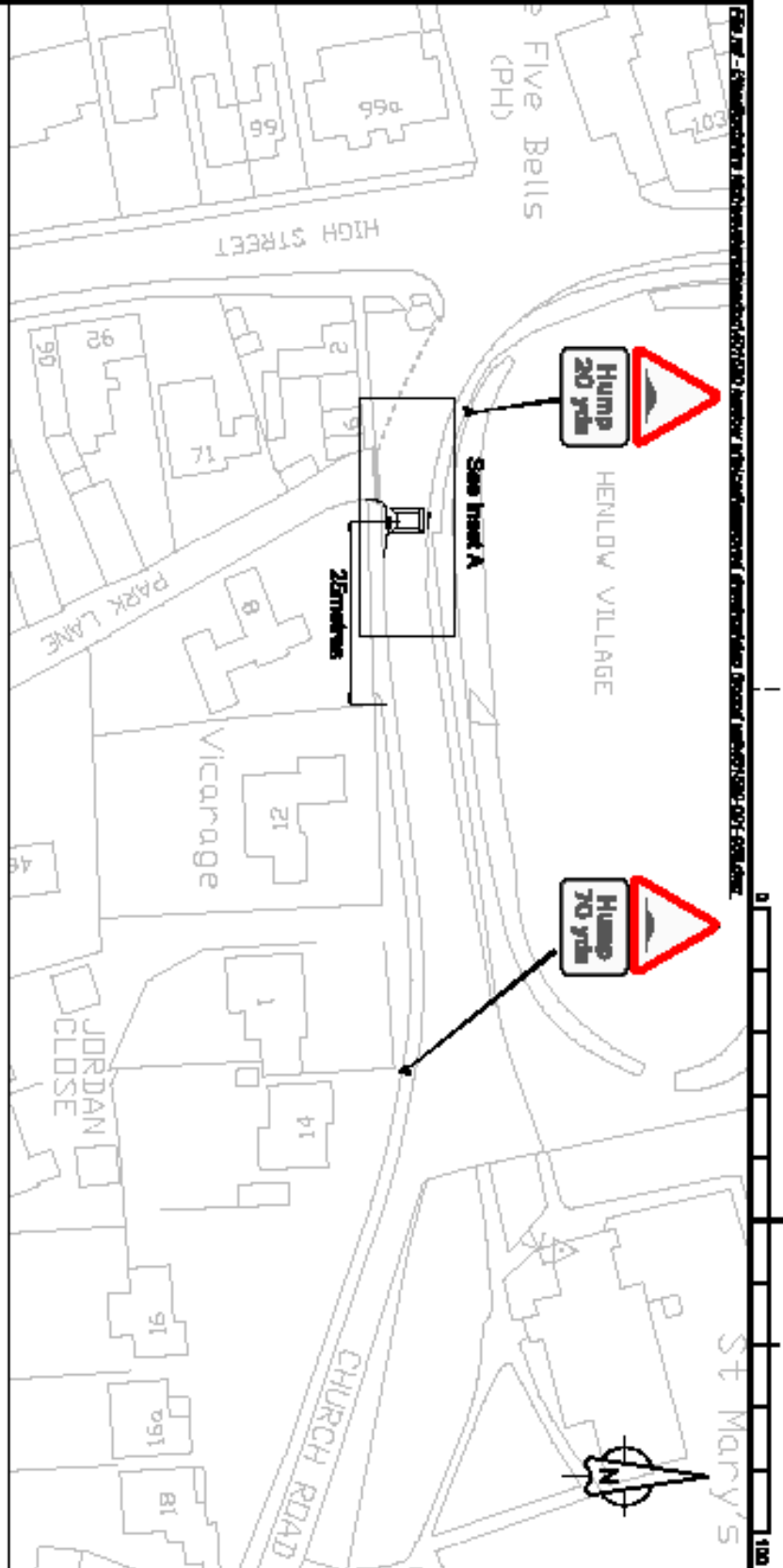
Appendices

Appendix A: Plan

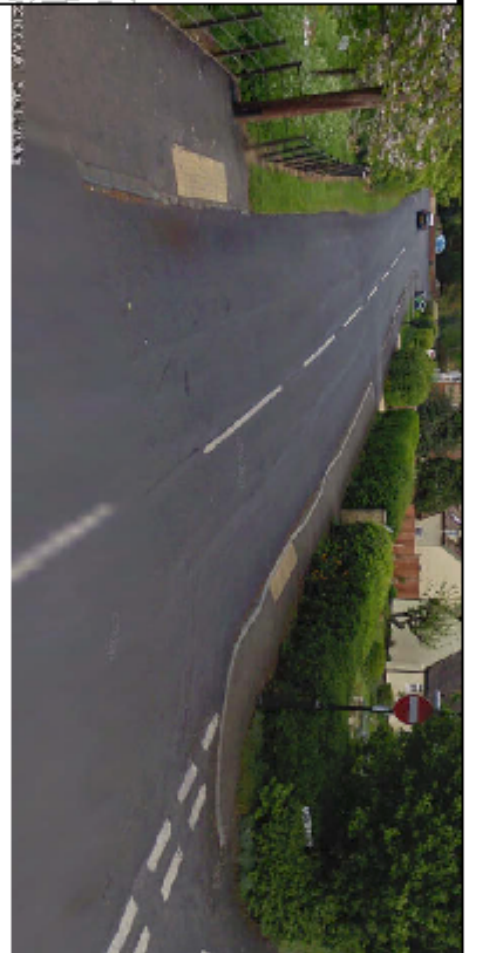
Appendix B: Public Notice

Appendix C: Objections and other representations

L:\Bids\Bids\Highways\Engineering\401580 Henlow\BKT\B\CAD\Approved Drawings\DWG\Board up\401580-001-008.dwg, 10/01/2011 11:29:17, DE:ram

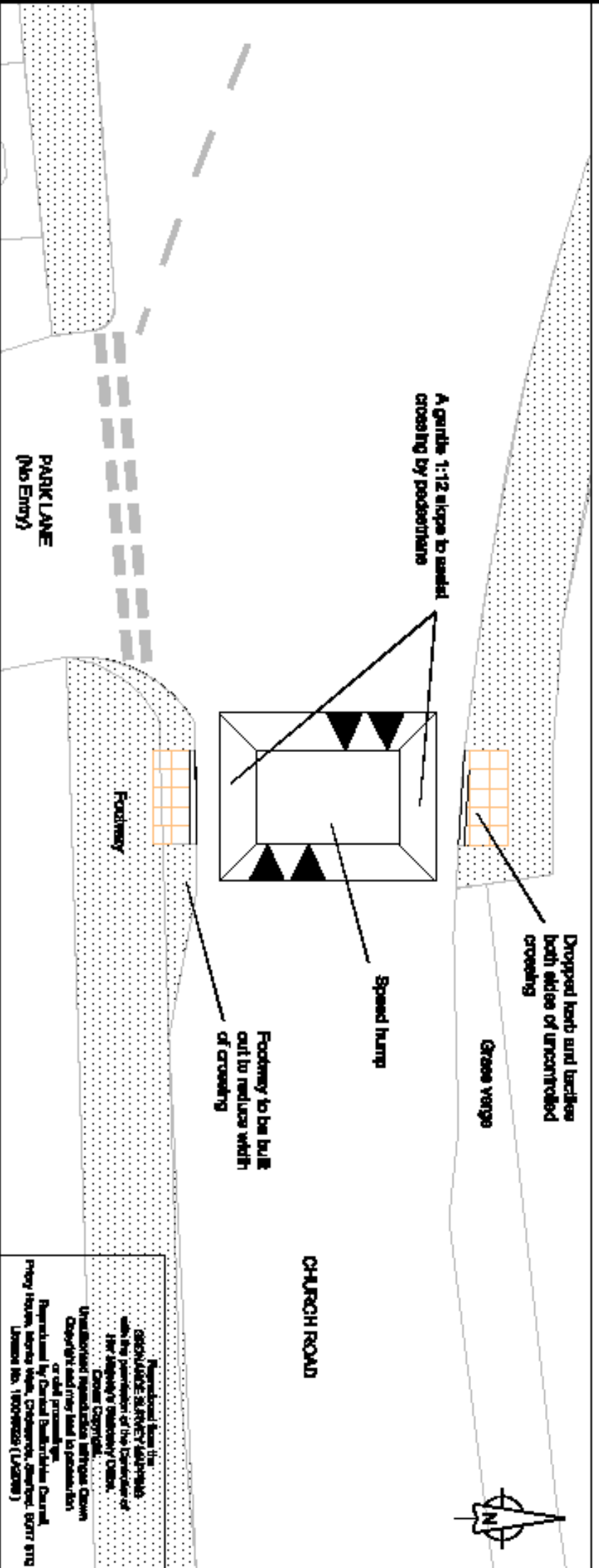


Location Plan
Scale: N.T.S.



Current image of site

NOTES



© C.B.C.

Inset A
Scale 1:100

Reproduced from the DESIGN/ASPECT SURVEY (2007) with the permission of the Designer of the Design/Aspect Survey. Design/Aspect and may lead to prosecution. Unauthorised reproduction without Design/Aspect's prior written consent is prohibited. Copyright © 2007 Design/Aspect. Reproduced by Central Bedfordshire Council. Project: Henlow, Spring Vale, Children's, Street, 8077 870. License No. 10009229 (1/2008)

Rev	Revision details	CHAL	AGRD	DATE

Client

Project Name
Henlow Crossing and Safer Routes to School

Drawing Title
Beach Highway - Transportation Church Road, Henlow. Proposed speed hump and uncontrolled crossing

Drawing No
401580-001-008



PUBLIC NOTICE

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

CHURCH ROAD, HENLOW

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL propose to construct traffic calming measures under Sections 90 A-I of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, in Church Road, Henlow to reduce vehicle speeds and assist pedestrians in crossing Church Road.

The proposed traffic calming measures will be:

A single speed hump, 4.0 metres wide by 3.56 metres long (including ramps) and a maximum of 65mm high.

The proposed location of the speed hump:

The speed hump will be located 25 metres west of the property boundary between No 8 and No.12 Church Road, Henlow.

Further Details: of the proposals and a plan can be examined during normal office hours at Central Bedfordshire Council, Technology House, 239 Ampthill Road, Bedford, MK42 9QQ and normal opening hours at Shefford Library, 1 High Street, Shefford SG17 5DD. Tel: David Brown on 0845 365 6026 for further advice on these proposals.

Objections: should be sent in writing to the Transportation Manager, Bedfordshire Highways, Woodlands Annex, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK42 7NU or e-mail centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk stating the grounds on which they are made by 4th February 2011.

Technology House
239 Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9QQ

Basil Jackson
Assistant Director for Highways

14th January 2011

Appendix C – Objections and other representations

Objection No. 1

From: xxxxxx xxxxxxxx [mailto:xxxxxxx@xxxxxx]
Sent: 19 January 2011 13:36
To: Central Beds Consultation
Subject: Sped Humps Church Road Henlow (OBJECTION)

I am objecting to the proposed speed humps for the following reasons.

- 1) Can the council give evidence of known speeding along the stretch of road. (Not residents but actual electronic or mechanical readings.)
- 2) The location will not make it any safer for persons to cross.(In many ways it may increase the danger at crossing the road with no footway on its North edge.)
- 3) Has the noise element been taken into account for the residence of number 8 - 12.(It is a known fact that speed bumps have a notorious history of the cause of noise)
- 4) Is there actually need for these at all, given the fact that the road is grid locked at anytime the schools are either filling up or emptying its occupants. After these times traffic is very low as the road is a cu-de-sac feeding an additional cul-de-sac and traffic is minimal.
- 5) Injury to motorists. It is again a known fact that speed bumps cause back injury. (Many London Boroughs have had them removed due to excess of injury claims.)
- 6) Damage to vehicle suspension and running gear. (Again people have successfully sued Councils for vehicle damage)

Finally I would say that if there was a need to reduce the speed limit to below 30.m.p.h. then a speed restriction of 20.m.p.h. could be imposed, similar to that in Park Lane Henlow. This at least can be enforced if there is the will to do it, and without the high costs involved in the placement of a speed hump. Speed bumps are not and never have been a solution to the problem of speeding and only enforcement has any lasting effect. It is doubtful that if the councils traffic management team were to place a speed band across the roadway at this location the results would support this application.

I would offer a suggestion to your team that they in fact do the cheeks as suggested and this may or may not support the application by those opposed to its implications.

Xxxxxx xxxxxxx. Resident (xxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxx, Henlow)

Appendix C – Objections and other representations

Objection No. 2

Tel. [REDACTED]

Thursday, 27th January, 2011

STANDARD NO	744680
AMEY	
SECTION	FOR THE HIGHWAYS
AUTHORITY	SB
DATE	20 JAN 2011
WORKS	
PROJ. NO.	
PROJ. NAME	
PROJ. LOCATION	
PROJ. DESCRIPTION	S.P.

Proposed Traffic Calming – Church Road, Henlow

The Transportation Manager,

Being a resident of Groveside, Henlow, and after reading the Public Notice in *"The Biggleswade Chronicle"*, I would be interested to know what evidence you have of speeding in Church Road, Henlow, to warrant the need for a Traffic Speed Hump and how this will help pedestrians to cross the road?

Our experience is that it can take us up to 20 minutes to get to Henlow High Street from the Pyghtles end of Groveside due to congestion of traffic at school times. No sign of speeding. Just 2mph bumper to bumper!

1. How does a Speed Hump assist pedestrians cross the road?

Yes, traffic may stop to let pedestrians cross the road but the Highway Code does not say they have to stop! I believe children will just think they have the right to cross at this point and this could be dangerous.

2. You have or are about to install a crossing in High Street roughly at the entrance to "The Allotments" which will bring the children into Church Road on the "Pit" side. These children now have to cross the road in order to join the existing footpath on the right hand side of Church Road. Would it not be more sensible to extend the footpath up to the commencement of the hedge and install a Pedestrian Crossing or Pelican Crossing? This would ensure that traffic would have to stop and eliminate speeding.

3. Why have you not heeded Henlow Parish Council in implementing a "20mph Speed Limit" in Park Lane where the Junior School is and also in Groveside and Church Road? Surely this would impact on those who speed.

Appendix C – Objections and other representations

4. The problem that has never been addressed is parking in Church Road and Groveside at peak times. There is ample scope for extra parking in Groveside by installing more parking bays “nose-in” in several places, especially at its junction with Church Road, but nothing has been done.

Finally, I wonder if the powers that be or those who make these proposals have ever visited Church Road and Groveside during school arrival time or finishing time to see the situation at “first hand”? I very much doubt it.

Grounds for objection: Will not allow pedestrians to cross road safely, a pedestrian crossing is needed. Sited in wrong position.

Therefore, my wife and I strongly object to your proposal of a “Speed Hump” in Church Road, Henlow.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

Appendix C – Objections and other representations

Objection No. 3

From: xxxxx xxxxxx [xxxxx@xxxxx]
Sent: 02 February 2011 13:57
To: Brown, David
Subject: church road, henlow, traffic hump

Dear Sir

We would like to state our objections to the proposed Speed Hump to be laid in Church Road, Henlow;.

We do not think a Speed Hump will help people crossing the road, it will probably cause more confusion for children etc, as they may think they have a right to cross there, when they don't.

Surely, a Speed limit and a proper crossing would be much safer for all concerned, Traffic would have to stop then.

Also, to put a pavement on the opposite side of the road for people to walk across to in SAFETY, which is what the idea is about. A Speed Limit sign may also help.

Has anyone from your department ever been to the area at school times, the volume of traffic is dreadful, we are surprised no one has been knocked down as cars do not want to slow down.

Also, anyone coming from Park Lane to turn Right would be right on the Hump as soon as you turn the corner, which could be difficult.

As for installing a crossing in the High Street at the entrance to the `Allotments, this will bring the children onto Church road, they will have to cross over as there is no footpath on the `Pit` side, hence needing a footpath.

Therefore, my husband and I would like to strongly OBJECT to the Proposal of a `SPEED HUMP` in Church Road.

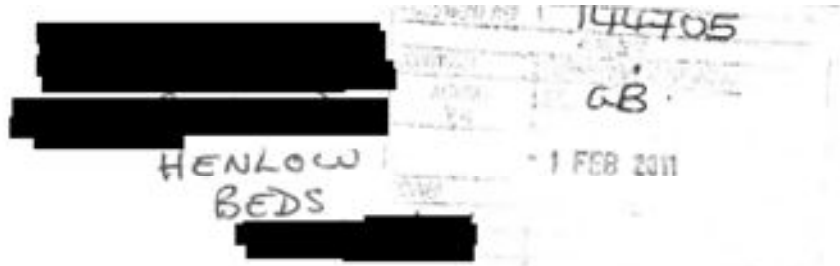
Your sincerely

Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
HENLOW
BEDS
XXXXXXXX

Appendix C – Objections and other representations

Objection No. 4

✓



PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING - CHURCH ROAD,
HENLOW

THE TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

Being a resident of Groveside for 50 yrs. And reading about the Traffic Speed Hump, and narrowing the road, to 'STOP SPEEDING' traffic. To help school children to cross the road safely. I don't see traffic speeding. It is always at a stand still, and queuing up, into and out of Groveside. At times it has taken me 35 minutes to enter Groveside. And seen school Busses mount footpaths to get round.

- Better use of funds maybe to:-
- 1/ Extend footpath on pit side (Maybe take part of pit) to church. And but a crossing at church.
 - 2/ Cut speed limit to 20mph. And have a Police presents now and again (People will soon get the right idea).
 - 3/ Extra parking Bays at entrance to Groveside, so parked cars are off road. at Junction (At moment children walk between parked cars, making it dangerous.

2/

Have the powers that make these proposals, ever visited, Church Road, and Graveside a few times, to see situation at "First Hand" DOUBT IT.

SPEED HUMP

GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION :-

will not help pedestrians to cross safely, in wrong position, and children will use hump as if it like a Zebra crossing.

Therefore, I object to your proposal of a "SPEED HUMP" in Church Road, Harlow.

Funds could be better spent on childrens Safety. As traffic is only going to increase, as school expands. Forward thinking and wise thinking, should be taken Now

Yours Sincerely



Appendix C – Objections and other representations

Objection No. 5

From: xxxxx xxxxx [mailto:xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx]

Sent: 08 February 2011 16:55

To: Central Beds Consultation

Subject: Traffic Calming Measures Church Road, Henlow

Dear Sir

We live just around the corner from Church Road in Park Lane.

We were surprised and angry about the necessity to put in a road hump on Church Road. The road is a quiet country lane leading nowhere except to a small housing estate and Henlow Middle school. During 15 minutes in the morning and afternoon parents do drop children off and pick up but the vehicles are moving slowly as it is only a matter of some 200 yards from turning into Church Road to drive to where the children are left. Few children walk along the lane to and from school as the vast majority are either bussed or driven in.

In a time of austerity we believe it is a total waste of money and unnecessary. To our knowledge there has never been an accident in the road.

Sincerely

Xxxxx xxxxxxx

Appendix C – Objections and other representations



PROPOSED Traffic Calming on Church Road, Henlow (Single speed hump).

Your Reference: DB/45958/3.12/404396.

<p>This Authority has considered the proposed Traffic Regulation Order as outlined in your letter and offer the following comments for further consideration.</p> <p>Comments</p>	
<p>This Authority has considered the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders as outlined in your letter dated the 11th January 2011, together with the reason(s) given. The proposals are accepted by this authority, therefore no objections will be offered.</p>	X

Name: - ... Steve Welham

Address ... Traffic Management Section,

Bedford Heights, Manton Lane,

Bedford. MK41 7PH

Signed:- ... S. P. Welham.