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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting

**Date:** 20 June 2011

**Subject:** **Petition – Speed Control Measures, Tilsworth**

**Report of:** Basil Jackson

**Summary:** The purpose of the report is to consider a petition with 87 signatures from local residents received by Central Bedfordshire Council requesting that speed control measures be considered in Tilsworth.

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Contact Officer: Nick Chapman

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Heath and Reach

Function of: Council

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

#### **Financial:**

Cost of Speed assessment circa £1,200

The cost of maintaining this existing gateway is currently being assessed.

#### **Legal:**

Inability to enforce existing speed limit without works to bring entry point up to standard.

#### **Risk Management:**

None as a result of this report.

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

This report and recommendation does not have any implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.

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

None as a result of this report

#### **Community Safety:**

None as a result of this report

#### **Sustainability:**

None as a result of this report

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**That the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities-Services is requested to note the contents of the report, and resolve that the requirement for maintenance of the existing 30mph gateway and the placing of the location on a future assessment list be notified to the lead petitioner, ward member and parish council.**

### **Background and Information**

1. A petition with 87 signatures was received by Central Bedfordshire Council. The lead petitioner a local girl aged 9 whose family resides in the village and who attends Leighton Middle School.
2. The petition draws attention to the following
  - The speed of vehicles entering Tilsworth from the A5 direction
  - The condition and adequacy of the existing signs and markings from that direction.
  - Difficulties in crossing the road in the centre of the village
  - A desire for either traffic calming or a Vehicle Actuated Sign to deter speeding.

### **Speed and volume of Traffic:**

3. Tilsworth is currently subject to a 30mph speed limit.
4. There is currently no speed or traffic volume data on file for this road. Collection of traffic speed and volume data would need to be collected and assessed.

### **Additional Information**

5. The existing entrance to the 30mph limit in Tilsworth approaching from the A5 is marked with two 30mph signs, a red patch and a 30mph roundel on the road surface. The existing signs require replacement/cleaning and are partly obscured by foliage and the red patch and roundel are failing and require re-marking.
6. A report from Bedfordshire Police states that under the circumstances they are unable to enforce the speed limit when entered from that direction as the signs and markings are not sufficiently clear.
7. The location to which the petitioner refers in crossing the road to catch a school bus is however in the village centre and several hundred metres from the entrance. The road is also quite bendy between the entrance and the village centre. It may be possible therefore that higher vehicle speeds may be experienced from vehicles approaching from the Stanbridge direction.
8. It is currently not policy to implement new vehicle actuated signs as a speed control measure within villages. Whilst some benefit can be obtained from them it is limited in magnitude and is seldom more than one or two miles per hour.

9. Traffic Calming would normally only be considered in village locations either as a direct response to a requirement to reduce casualties or as part of a safer routes to school scheme. Neither apply in this location.

### **Conclusion and Way Forward**

10. In order to achieve the first priority to return the existing 30mph gateway to enforceable condition it will be necessary to clean/replace signs, cut back the hedge, repair the red patch on the carriageway and replace the 30mph marking. This will be costed and placed upon the list for maintenance works to be carried out when resources permit.
11. The site will also be placed on the list for future speed assessment. A budget is available this financial year for this to be carried out and a list is being prepared based on the order in which such requests are received.
12. Following the assessment the petitioner, ward member and the Parish Council will be advised of the outcome and any recommendations.
13. Currently the available financial allocation for non safety related integrated schemes for the next three years has been allocated through the Local area Transport Plans to the four key growth areas in Central Bedfordshire. Tilsworth does not fall into one of those areas and thus it is unlikely that there will be any funding available for any further works through that budget.
14. There is however no reason why the parish council cannot seek to fund additional speed management measures itself. This is a model that has been successfully used on a number of occasions for signs and traffic calming.
15. It is requested therefore that the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities-Services approve this course of action and the lead petitioner, ward member and parish council be notified.

### **Appendices: Petition**

## Appendix A

### Petition

I am here tonight to speak about the bend off the A5 towards Tilsworth, past Tilsworth Golf club.

I would firstly like to introduce myself. My name is Sophie Rushby and I am aged 9 years old. I attend Leighton Middle School. In order for me to get to school I have to cross the road to catch the school bus which stops outside The Anchor Public House. I have only lived in Tilsworth for a short time. During this time my mum and I think that crossing the road has become a real danger. Apart from myself there are also several other children that have to cross the road.

It is clear that vehicles are exceeding the speed limit of 30mph, thus endangering the lives of residents. Finding a safe place to cross the road has become a gamble as the bend continues around for some time before leading into a straight road. My mum and I regularly change where we cross!!

It is only a short time ago that a taxi sped round the bend too fast in icy conditions and crashed into our fence. I am glad to say we were out at the time.

The amount of traffic is heavy during rush hour time as Tilsworth can be used as a cut through route.

The residents of Tilsworth believe that there are insufficient traffic road sign to indicate traffic to slow down and that Tilsworth is waiting for an "accident to happen".

The sign of 30mph which is painted on the road is unacceptable and totally inadequate as is the 30mph sign which is placed right on the bend and gives motorists absolutely no warning until they actually approach the bend.

I therefore present to you a petition from the residents of Tilsworth and would ask that action is taken by the council for either road bumps or a flashing speed sign to be put in place. Both of which are more of a deterrent to speeding vehicles.

Thank you

