
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 26 September 2011
Subject: **Petition – 20mph Speed Limit Forester’s Close, Haynes**
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: The purpose of the report is to consider a petition with 73 signatures received by Central Bedfordshire Council requesting that a 20mph speed limit be considered in Foresters Close, Haynes

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Houghton Conquest and Haynes
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

Cost of Speed measurement and analysis circa £500
The cost of implementation of Speed Limit Order with signs and repeaters circa £3500.

Legal:

None as a result of this report

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):

1. That the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities-Services is requested to note the contents of the report and agree that no further action other than the erection of a school warning sign be considered at this time.

Background and Information

1. A petition with 73 signatures was received by Central Bedfordshire Council. The petition was received from the Foresters Close Residents Association and has been signed by residents of the close and others from Haynes and nearby communities
2. The petition makes one single request for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit in Foresters Close for the safety of residents and the school and pre-school children.

Speed and volume of Traffic:

3. Foresters Close is currently within the 30mph speed limited area of Haynes.
4. There is currently no speed or traffic volume data on file for this road. This would need to be collected and assessed however as the road is a closed cul-de-sac it is reasonable to assume that the traffic is limited to residents and their visitors and those visiting the lower school and pre-school establishments

Additional Information

5. Foresters Close is a residential cul-de-sac off Silver End Road Haynes and is currently subject to a 30mph speed limit.
6. At the far end of the close is Haynes Lower School. This has approximately 97 children and 20 staff. There is also a pre-school that operates from within the site.
7. There have been no recorded injury collisions in the last 3 years. Prior to this petition the matter has previously been raised through the highways helpdesk by the local member and a local resident.
8. Central Bedfordshire Council has no current policy to implement a blanket 20mph speed limit outside schools. Where other works are being carried out to improve the safety of routes to school then a 20 mph speed limit will be considered as part of those works where it is deemed appropriate.

9. In the case of Foresters' Close the vehicles using it are being driven either by residents, their visitors, staff at the school or parents bringing or fetching children. All of these people are likely to be aware of the presence of the school and should therefore modify their behaviour and speed accordingly.
10. Whilst there is currently no speed data available for the close it is considered unlikely that measurements will reveal a significant number of vehicles travelling in excess of the posted limit.
11. It would also be expected that the majority of the children walking to and from school would be under at least a degree of adult supervision.

Conclusions

12. It would be possible to undertake both a speed survey and to implement a 20mph speed limit but it is difficult to see how this will modify behaviour. With the vast majority of drivers already aware of the presence of the school and the likely additional congestion at school gate times it is expected that the speeds measured at those times will already be at or close to those required for a 20 limit. In such circumstances the actual posting of the limit brings little or no benefit
13. An alternative way forward may be to erect signs warning of a school safety zone within the close to remind drivers, should they need it, of the presence of the school. This has the advantage of not requiring a Traffic Regulation Order with all of the associated costs.
14. It must also be noted that 20mph limits do not generally benefit from Police enforcement and in this case even if that were desired it would not be possible as the length of the road is insufficient for enforcement to take place.

Appendices: Petition

Appendix A

Foresters Residents Association

PETITION

For a 20 mph speed limit to be URGENTLY adopted in this Close, for the safety of the residents and the School/Pre-school children

No.	Signature	Print Name	Address
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