

Petition for Downs Road Traffic Calming Measures

At a meeting on 25th January 2012 at Priory Middle School organised by Central Bedfordshire Council / Councillor Roger Pepworth, it was decided to remove the Downs Road barrier and re-open the road to two-way traffic. Prior to the barrier being introduced traffic volumes in the street amounted to 18,297 vehicles per week with approximately 5% breaking the 30mph speed limit. With the removal of the barrier traffic volumes are likely to return to this level.

The residents of the "rat run" section of Downs Road (between Great Northern Road and Borough Road) hereunder signed request that Central Bedfordshire Council in liaison with other relevant authorities introduce traffic calming measures to alleviate the health and safety issues arising from this volume of traffic and speeding cars.



Issues of Health and Safety

- Residents of Downs Road find it difficult to exit their driveways onto Downs Road due to volume of traffic, speeding traffic and sight lines being blocked by cars parked on the street. This has resulted in numerous near misses and several collisions.
- For the same reasons, access to and egress from Allen Close and Grove Road onto Downs Road is also often hazardous.

- Drivers travelling through Downs Road often speed and drive without due care and attention. This has resulted in a number of “accidents” and near misses. Two of the more extreme examples over the last 20 years are cited below.
 - A car rammed a vehicle situated outside house number 38A and shunted the vehicle across the road into the Garden of number 43 (demolishing the garden wall on the way) and then went on to crash into another vehicle parked outside number 45.
 - “Joy riders” overturned the car they were driving by using the back of a Porsche Carrera as a ski ramp blocking the road between Great Northern Road and Allen Close.
- Downs Road is used by many pedestrians to access Blows Down as well as the tennis club, football pitches and horse paddocks situated behind Downs Road and accessed via Barton Avenue. In addition, many children use the street on their walk to schools in either direction: Priory Middle school to the north; and the lower, middle and upper schools at the Manshead site to the south. The constant stream of traffic during peak times (7.00am to 9.30am and 3.00pm to 7.00pm) and speeding traffic at other times represent a danger when crossing the road.
- Air and noise pollution.

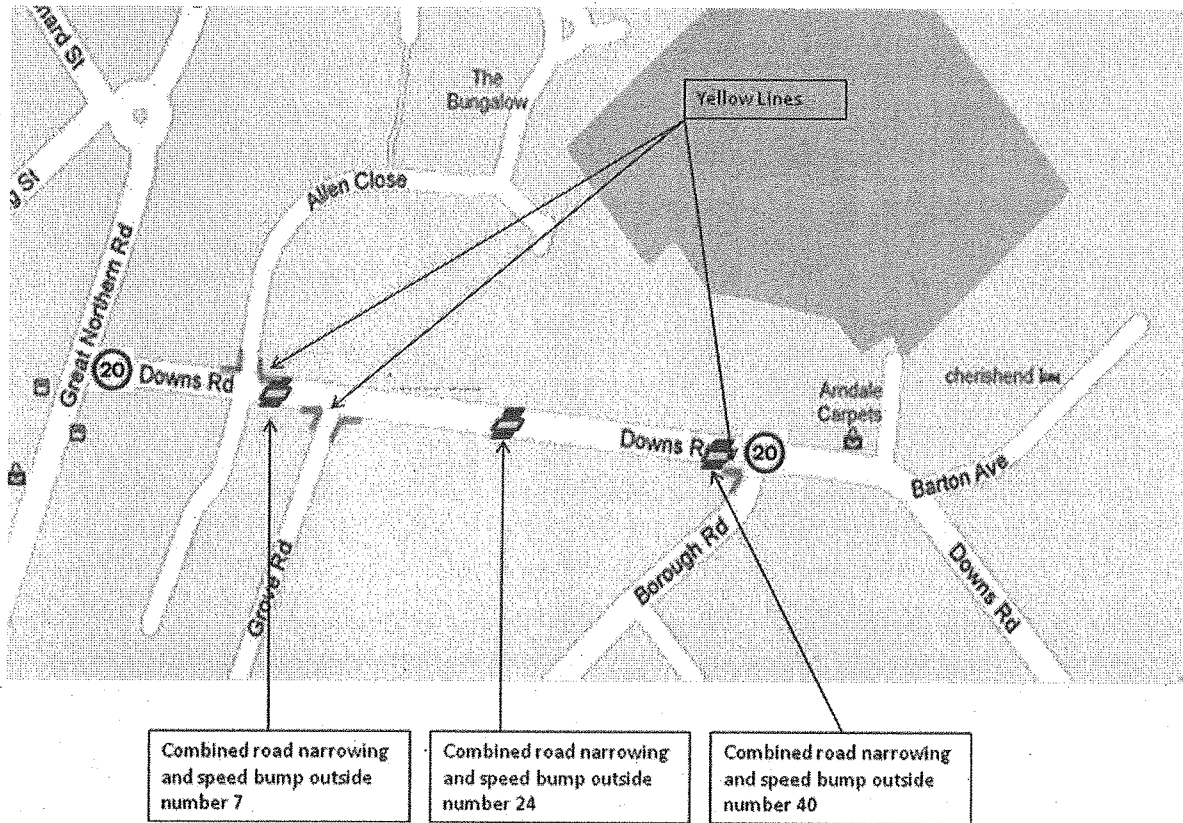
Traffic Calming Measures

The traffic calming measures requested are a mix of the following:-

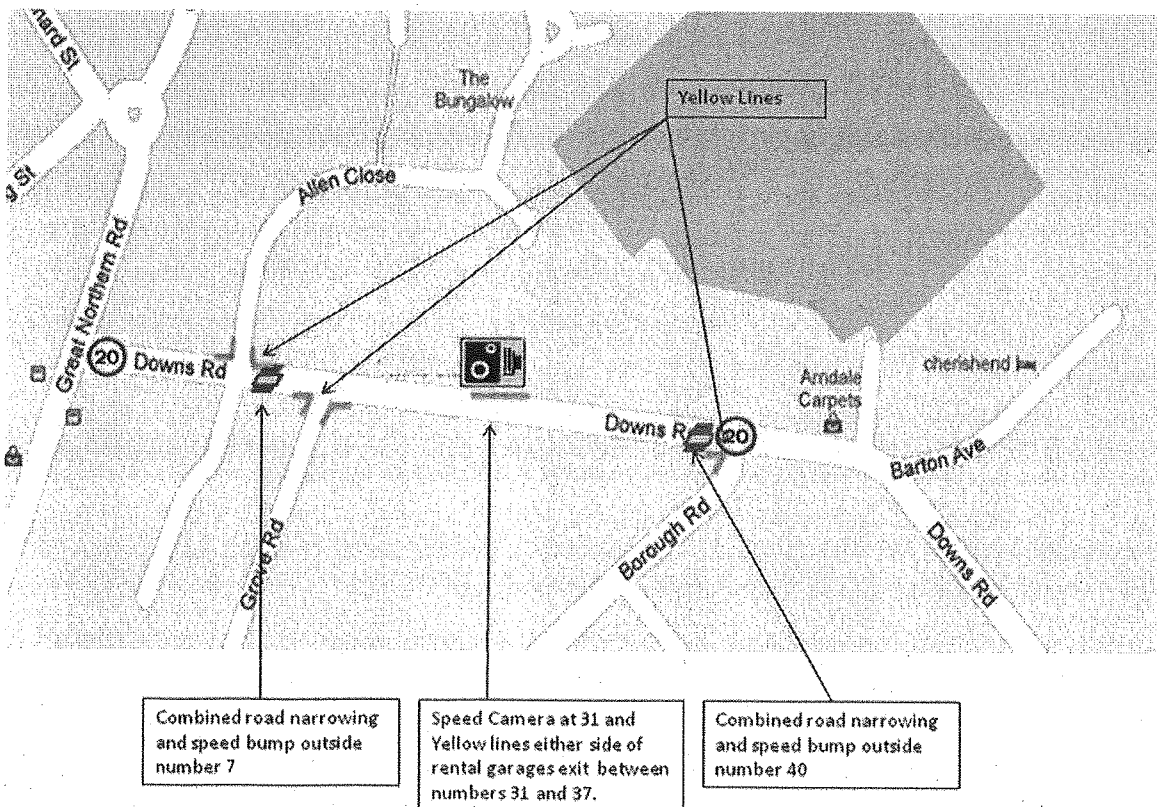
1. That the speed restriction on Downs Road be reduced to 20mph.
2. The introduction of combined road narrowing and speed bumps at strategic points in the rat run section of Downs Road.
3. The introduction of double yellow lines on Downs Road six yards either side of Allen Close and Grove Road (and possibly also at the access/egress point for 17 privately rented garages (plus three additional vehicles) next house numbers 31 and 37.
4. The installation of a speed camera half-way down the “rat run” section of Downs Road (around house number 31).

For discussion purposes 3 Traffic calming measure options are suggested and illustrated below although the Council may wish to put forward alternative solutions based on legal requirements and their expert technical knowledge.

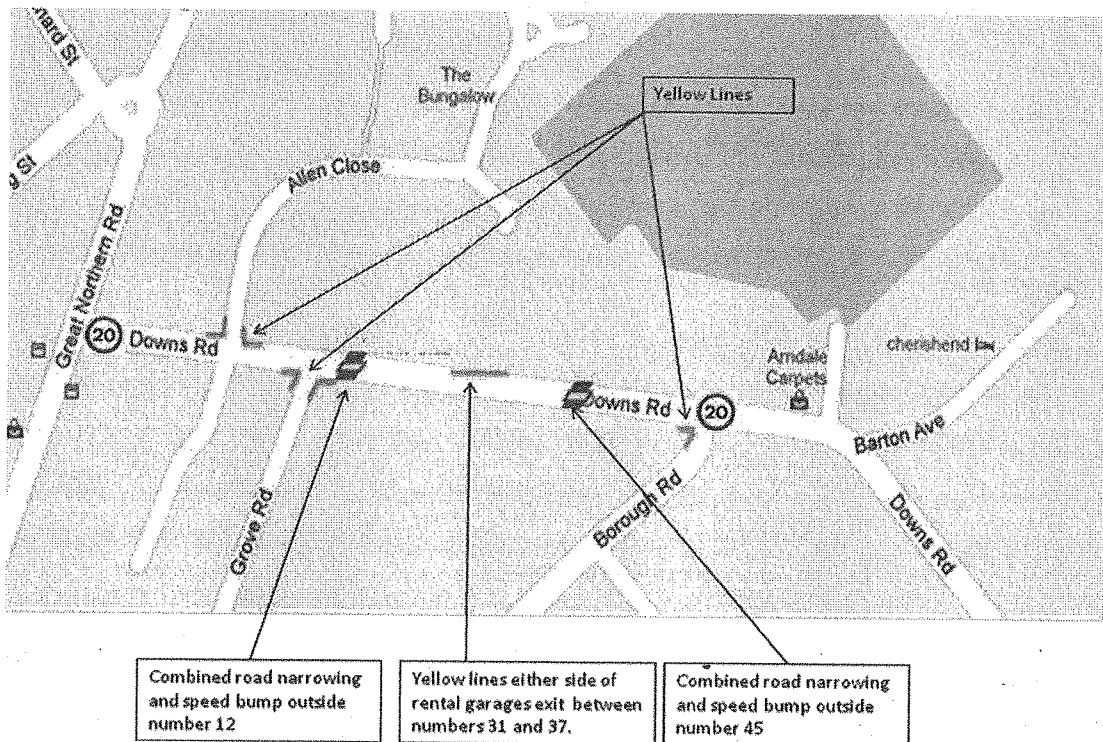
Traffic Calming Measures – Option 1



Traffic Calming Measures – Option 2



Traffic Calming Measures – Option 3



NOTE: All suggested positions for combined road narrowing and speed bumps do not affect resident driveways.

Petition Signatories

We, the under signed, request that Bedfordshire Central Council install traffic calming measures in accordance with one of the three suggestions above or similar.

Name	House Number	Preferred Option	Signature
KEITH THOMAS	45	ANY	
LIZ THOMAS	45	ANY	
PAM WILSON	43	Any	
BRYAN WILSON	43	Any	

Petition Signatories (Continued)

Name	House Number	Preferred Option	Signature
MICHAEL GREHAN	6	ANY	
JANIS BAILEY	4	ANY	
<i>Amy Leigh Skinner</i>	47	Any	
JANET PILBODEN-SKINNER	47	ANY	
<i>Mick Pilbouden Skinner</i>	47	Any	
RUA TOMKINS	32	ANY	
S LAWRENCE-ROLLS	38	ANY	
MATT ROLLS	38	ANY	
DARREN SNEE	36	ANY	
IMOGEN SNEE	36	ANY	
RICHARD MENIFF	34	ANY	
LINH LAM	34	ANY	
ALEXIS HARRIS	2	ANY	
BOJ HARRIS	2	ANY	

Petition Signatories (Continued)

Name	House Number	Preferred Option	Signature
Jodie Courtney	10	any	
Maryn Courtney	10	any	
Conine Courtney	10	any	
NICOLA SNEE	36	ANY	
Jane RICHES	41	ANY	
CHRIS HUBERT	53	ANY	
SHARON HUBERT	53	ANY	
DAVE HICKMAN	29	ANY	
Deborah Chanson	29	ANY	
DOROTHY COOPER	24	ANY	
Anthony Duffy	26	Any	
Julie Duffy	26	Any	
CHRISTOPHER DUFFY	26	ANY	
Jim HODGE	55	ANY	

Petition Signatories (Continued)

Name	House Number	Preferred Option	Signature
Angie Kadje	25	Any	
Michelle Dale	23	Any	
David Hammond	25A	Any	
Jennife Hammond	25A	Any	
Matt Balaam	9	Any	
Glue Anantora	7	Any	
SAMANTHA ODOI	7	ANY	
Kevin Peacock	21	Any	
Denise Peacock	21	any	
Steven Peacock	21	any	
Damen Peacock	21	any	
DAWN SMITH	9	ANY	
PAT ROBERTS	30	ANY	
B. LEWANDOWSKI	27	ANY	

Petition Signatories (Continued)

Name	House Number	Preferred Option	Signature
D. ROOM	40A	ANY	
T. K. ROOM	40A	ANY	
N. HOLOHAN	38A	ANY	
R. "	"	"	
PHIL CATER	22	"	
KATE CATER	22	"	
CLIVE MACKAY	8	- 11 -	
A. MCMENAMIN	28	ANY	
C. MCMENAMIN	28	ANY	
C. TRIPPANERA	20	ANY	
M. TRIPPANERA	20	ANY	
H. NIAL-VELTON	19	ANY	
JAE DOYLE	25A	ANY	
R. HAMMOND	25A	ANY	

Petition Signatories (Continued)

Name	House Number	Preferred Option	Signature
MRS KRISTIE RICHES	41	ANY	
MRS G. Luke	37	ANY	
Miss A. Hill	39	ANY	
Bernard Webb	13	ANY	
FRANK J. JURY	40	ANY	
S. CHRISTIAN.	23	ANY	
Marie Rousseau	49	ANY	
Jinny Bruce	49	ANY	
PETER SMITH	31	ANY	
RENE SMITH	31	ANY	
RUSSELL SMITH	31	ANY	

Summary

An attempt was made to contact all households (by “door knocking”) in the Downs Road area directly affected by the rat run traffic (i.e. All Downs Road houses from Great Northern Road to the Borough Road turn – 2 to 40 and 7 to 53 which totalled 45 households in all).

Of the 45 houses, residents from 37 households signed the petition (82%). Of the remaining 8; 3 did not answer or were vacant at time of canvassing, 4 were against traffic calming measures (2 of which thought parking was a greater priority) and 1 was unable to sign for reasons unrelated to the traffic calming measures.

Description	Number of Houses	Number of Residents
Signed	37	70
Against	4	-
Uncontactable / Vacant	3	-
Other	1	-

All people contacted were asked to read the petition as set out at pages 1 to 4 of this document before signing. The vast majority read the petition in full and many discussed the proposals in detail whilst a small minority opted to sign after a brief description by the canvasser. Residents were advised that no one under the age of 18 should sign. (Note: 2 signatures were pp-ed: one by a wife as her husbands writing hand was in plaster; the other by a daughter (carer) on behalf of her elderly mother).

Signatories were advised that they could select a preferred option as set out on pages 3 and 4 of this document or enter “ANY” if they would be happy to see any of the options or another as specified by the highways experts at the Council. All signatories opted to put “ANY” on the basis that any traffic calming measures would likely be better than none.

Residents who wished to be selective in the traffic calming measures they would be prepared to support were advised not to sign the petition. 2 of the “against” households did not sign for this reason (one did not want to sign anything with options specified (particularly speed bumps) and another did not

want double yellow lines for sightline safety at junctions because it would exacerbate their ability to find a parking space.

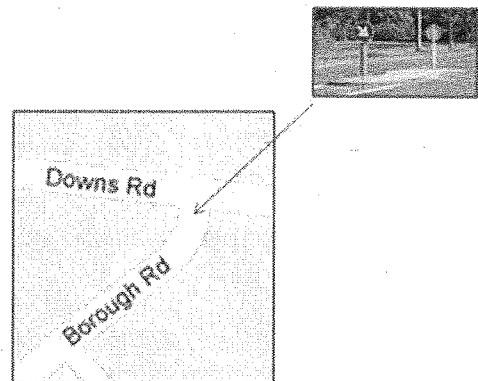
Appendix – Additional Suggestions Received During Canvassing

Whilst canvassing for signatories a number of suggestions were made in addition to the traffic calming measures specified in the petition. These are specified here for information only. They do not form part of the petition and do not imply that the signatories either approve or disapprove of these suggestions. None affect the traffic calming measures specified in the petition.

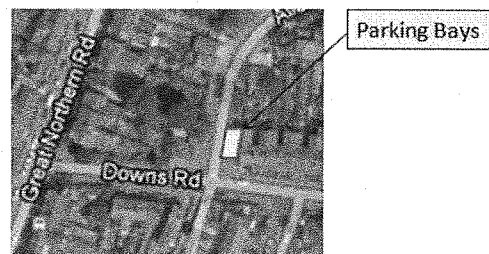
1. That a pedestrian island be placed in the centre of Borough Road at the junction with Downs Road. The purpose of the island would be twofold.

a) To stop cars from cutting the corner into oncoming traffic when turning into Borough Road from Downs Road – a regular occurrence.

b) To improve the safety of pedestrians when crossing this wide junction.



2. To introduce parking bays on the grassed land at the entrance to Allen close to alleviate the parking issues at the Great Northern Road end of Downs Road.



3. Priority at road narrowing points to reduce traffic impasses which results in cars mounting pavements to squeeze by.