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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 29 January 2014  
**Subject:** Poynters Road Dunstable – Petition Requesting Speed Reducing Measures  
**Report of:** Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety and Public Protection  
**Summary:** This report presents a petition received from residents of Poynters Road seeking the implementation of speed reducing measures.

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**Contact Officer:** Nick Chapman  
nick.chapman@amey.co.uk  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** Dunstable Icknield  
**Function of:** Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

##### **Financial:**

There is currently no funding identified to implement any speed reducing measures in Poynters Road.

To implement a hard-standing for a safety camera van would cost in the order of £5k, subject to the proximity of buried services, and this is not currently funded.

##### **Legal:**

None from this report

##### **Risk Management:**

None from this report

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

None from this report

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

None from this report

##### **Community Safety:**

None from this report

**Sustainability:**

None from this report.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**That the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services notes the content of the report and will pursue the use of speed cameras in Poynters Road during the next financial year (2014/15), subject to available funding..**

**Background and Information**

1. A petition has been received signed by 168 residents of Poynters Road Dunstable requesting measures to reduce the speed of traffic on Poynters Road to 20mph that would also include zebra crossings.
2. Poynters Road is a distributor road, one of the main access roads to the Woodside area from the M1 motorway as well as being a link from Luton and Dunstable into Houghton Regis. In this respect although predominantly having residential frontage it carries significant mixed traffic including HGVs.
3. In the summer of 2013 the road required major reconstruction that was facilitated through a road closure, and it is since the completion of these works that residents feel the speed of vehicles has increased.
4. In line with the Council's Local Transport Plan for Dunstable and Houghton Regis and the Freight Strategy, the Council is working towards implementing a 7.5 tonne weight limit on Poynters Road and the plan is to deliver this no later than the opening of the Woodside Link Road.
5. The introduction of speed reduction measures on Poynters Road would impose additional HGV numbers onto the A505 and currently air quality on this road and Poynters Road are an issue. Air quality assessments are being undertaken and in order to provide realistic results these need to be carried out over a 12 month period (to avoid seasonal variations etc). Currently, monitoring is already underway at the Boscombe Road gyratory site (this started in October this year following completion of the improvements) and at sites in Poynters Road, which started collecting data in November 2012. Having collected the data over the required period, the Defra published air quality bias factors will need to be factored into the readings and this will not be able to be done until March /April 2014, the time when Defra usually publish their figures. On this basis we will not be in a position to robustly compare air quality from both sites (Boscombe Rd and Poynters Rd) as is required until May/June 2015. If the diversion of the HGV's down the A5 and through Boscombe Road fails the Air Quality Assessment then we will not be able to proceed with the weight limit at that time.
6. In addition, there is the need to carry out an economic evaluation of the diversion for HGV's and again if this fails we will not be able to proceed at that time. If both evaluations are acceptable then the weight limit can proceed, although implementation would likely to be towards the end of 2015 at the earliest.

7. The Woodside Link Road scheme is currently going through the Development Consent Order Process, when the Government appointed Examining Authority considers the case for and against the scheme, before recommending whether the scheme should obtain planning permission. The current deadline for completion of this process is the 8th April 2014, followed by the inspectors report and recommendation in September 2014. Assuming approval is granted, the pre-contract works will start late 2014 alongside the A5 - M1 Link works and construction completed towards the end of 2016. If the air quality and economic assessments fail, then this is the earliest the weight limit on Poynters Road could be implemented.
8. In response to the concerns of residents, speed measurements have been undertaken by the police since the re-surfacing in October 2013 and these can be compared to similar measurements undertaken in 2010. The results are shown in Appendix 'A' and 'B'.
9. Whilst overall vehicle numbers using the road are lower now than in 2010 the percentage of those vehicles exceeding the prosecutable threshold has increased significantly. It can be assumed that this is in part due to the improved surface quality and in part to the reduced vehicle numbers reducing congestion, thus offering increased opportunities to speed. In the week sampled 44,268 motor vehicles out of the weekly total of 149,304 were travelling at 35 mph or more and potentially liable to prosecution.
10. It is accepted by the police that there is a significant occurrence of speeding on Poynters Road and, as a result, the police would be prepared to undertake enforcement using a mobile camera unit. However, there is currently no suitable location for this to take place and as a result a hard standing would be required for the enforcement van.
11. In terms of physical traffic calming the current usage of the road by mixed traffic with significant numbers of HGV's makes this road unsuitable for the type of traffic calming measures that would be required to reduce the speeds to 20mph standards. These would normally comprise a series of raised features and, given the current speed levels, would have to be spaced at the minimum spacing, approx. every 80m, to achieve the required speed compliance.
12. Features of this type and frequency to obtain 20mph compliance would be extremely noisy for residents and would, given the numbers of HGV's cause accelerated wear on the newly reconstructed carriageway. To implement such measures prior to the implementation of the weight restriction is therefore unlikely to provide a satisfactory way forward. Likewise the reduced number of similar features necessary to gain 30mph compliance would result in similar problems.
13. Alternative methods of speed reduction would be unlikely to be practical in this location for similar reasons.

## **Conclusion and Way Forward**

14. Ultimately the intention for Poynters Road is that the bulk of the heavy goods vehicles will be prohibited. Once that has been implemented there will be additional options that will be available in respect of traffic speed restraint methods, such as zebra crossings, 20 mph limits etc. Currently to attempt to reduce speeds without sufficient engineering features to make either the current 30mph speed limit or a reduced 20mph limit self-enforcing would be noisy, expensive and unlikely to be popular with residents once implemented.
15. Consequently, it is suggested that in the shorter term consideration be given to providing average speed cameras in Poynters Road. Funding will be available in the 2014/15 financial year to look at new cameras sites and Poynters Road would appear to be a priority for installation of this equipment.
16. It is also proposed that the speeds and volumes of traffic on Poynters Road should be monitored at least annually and that Poynters Road remains a priority route for funding in a future local Transport Plan for both the HGV ban and additional traffic restraint works once this has been implemented.
18. If approved, the case for the provision of average speed cameras to be fully evaluated after April 2014 with usage during the 2014/15 financial year.

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A – Speed Measurements 2010
- Appendix B – Speed Measurements Oct 2013
- Appendix C – email from the Police
- Appendix D – Petition letter.

# Appendix A

## Speeds in 2010

Over ACPO Speed Enforcement Threshold											
23rd February to 1st March 2010											
<b>Luton</b>											
<u>Data.</u>	Tues 23rd	Weds 24th	Thurs 25th	Fri 26th	Sat 27th	Sun 28th	Mon 1st	Weekly Total			
<b>Poynters Road</b>											
Towards Dunstable Road											
No: 35 mph & above per day -	1213	1243	1255	1357	1724	1623	1488				9903
Total daily volume -	11837	12240	12350	12970	10840	8314	12104				80655
Daily % 35 mph & above.	10.25	10.16	10.16	10.46	15.90	19.52	12.29				12.28
Am Peak	06:00	05:30	05:15	05:30	08:15	07:15	05:45				
Volume	109	138	132	112	127	83	140				
Pm Peak	20:30	21:00	13:45	14:30	13:15	15:00	12:30				
Volume	77	81	75	96	111	118	90				
<b>Luton</b>											
23rd February to 1st March 2010											
<u>Data.</u>	Tues 23rd	Weds 24th	Thurs 25th	Fri 26th	Sat 27th	Sun 28th	Mon 1st	Weekly Total			
<b>Poynters Road</b>											
Towards Houghton Regis											
No: 35 mph & above per day -	2278	2173	2166	2361	2702	2555	2547				16782
Total daily volume -	12373	12619	12589	12963	10228	8226	12227				81225
Daily % 35 mph & above.	18.41	17.22	17.21	18.21	26.42	31.06	20.83				20.66
Am Peak	09:45	09:00	11:00	11:00	11:00	09:45	09:00				
Volume	160	143	139	164	153	142	169				
Pm Peak	12:00	13:15	13:15	13:15	16:00	13:15	12:15				
Volume	176	148	142	164	183	194	171				
<b>Luton</b>											
23rd February to 1st March 2010											
<u>Data.</u>	Tues 23rd	Weds 24th	Thurs 25th	Fri 26th	Sat 27th	Sun 28th	Mon 1st	Weekly Total			
<b>Poynters Road</b>											
Both Directions											
No: 35 mph & above per day -	3491	3416	3421	3718	4426	4178	4035				26685
Total daily volume -	24210	24859	24939	25933	21068	16540	24331				161880
Daily % 35 mph & above.	14.42	13.74	13.72	14.34	21.01	25.26	16.58				16.48
<b>Survey Site No 55</b>											
<b>Enforcement should be prioritised at the peak times shown above</b>											
<b>Additional enforcement may be completed at other times.</b>											

## Appendix B

### Speeds in October 2013

Over ACPO Speed Enforcement Threshold										
12th October 2013 to 18th October 2013.		<b>DUNSTABLE AND LUTON.</b>								
<b>Data.</b>		<b>Sat. 12th</b>	<b>Sun. 13th</b>	<b>Mon. 14th</b>	<b>Tues. 15th</b>	<b>Wed. 15th</b>	<b>Thurs. 17th</b>	<b>Fri. 18th</b>	<b>Weekly Total</b>	
<b>Poynters Road.</b>										
Towards Houghton Regis.	No: 35 mph & above per day -	2276	1827	1770	2237	2103	2298	2448	14959	
	Total daily volume -	9112	6933	10637	10707	10968	10959	11135	70451	
	Daily % 35 mph & above	24.98	26.35	16.64	20.89	19.17	20.97	21.98	21.23	
Am Peak		11:00	10:30	10:00	11:00	08:45	08:30	09:30		
Volume		161	123	132	130	133	162	166		
Pm Peak		13:15	15:15	12:30	16:00	15:30	14:30	14:00		
Volume		192	146	155	175	175	163	174		
<b>DUNSTABLE AND LUTON.</b>										
12th October 2013 to 18th October 2013.		<b>DUNSTABLE AND LUTON.</b>								
<b>Data.</b>		<b>Sat. 12th</b>	<b>Sun. 13th</b>	<b>Mon. 14th</b>	<b>Tues. 15th</b>	<b>Wed. 15th</b>	<b>Thurs. 17th</b>	<b>Fri. 18th</b>	<b>Weekly Total</b>	
<b>Poynters Road.</b>										
Towards A505 Luton Road.	No: 35 mph & above per day -	4473	3155	3514	4436	4142	4710	4879	29309	
	Total daily volume -	10199	9243	11961	11665	11730	11884	12171	78853	
	Daily % 35 mph & above	43.86	34.13	29.38	38.03	35.31	39.63	40.09	37.17	
Am Peak		10:00	10:30	05:45	06:00	05:45	05:45	05:30		
Volume		406	211	252	275	308	306	321		
Pm Peak		14:00	15:15	16:00	16:15	16:00	15:30	15:15		
Volume		349	300	250	366	299	302	337		
<b>DUNSTABLE AND LUTON.</b>										
12th October 2013 to 18th October 2013.		<b>DUNSTABLE AND LUTON.</b>								
<b>Data.</b>		<b>Sat. 12th</b>	<b>Sun. 13th</b>	<b>Mon. 14th</b>	<b>Tues. 15th</b>	<b>Wed. 15th</b>	<b>Thurs. 17th</b>	<b>Fri. 18th</b>	<b>Weekly Total</b>	
<b>Poynters Road.</b>										
Both Directions	No: 35 mph & above per day -	6749	4982	5284	6673	6245	7008	7327	44268	
	Total daily volume -	19311	16176	22598	22372	22698	22843	23306	149304	
	Daily % 35 mph & above	34.95	30.80	23.38	29.83	27.51	30.68	31.44	29.65	
<b>Survey Site No 0377</b>										
<b>Enforcement should be prioritised at the peak times shown above</b>										
<b>Additional enforcement may be completed at other times.</b>										
Data unit on street light outside 61.										

## Appendix C

Further to our below emails, we have now taken traffic data over a period of a week with the data recording unit being positioned on a street light outside number 61 Poynters Road.

I have attached a copy of the summary for your information. When compared with traffic data taken in 2010 it can be seen that the percentage of non compliance has increased from 16.48% to the current 29.65%.

Over the week period for this latest data, the average speed is 32.6mph and the 85<sup>th</sup> %ile is 38.3mph.

Problem we have is that 44,268 motor vehicles out of the weekly total of 149,304 are travelling at 35 mph or more and liable to prosecution.

With this high number, the occasional visits that our one or two roads policing vehicles conduct will have very little impact. I have asked our mobile camera operatives to give the road their attention but have been advised that they have difficulties parking their vehicle in a position that secures the necessary view without obstructing properties or mounting the grass verge.

To avoid blocking drives it has been asked if an area of grasscrete or similar could be provided in the grass verge outside number 50 / 52 Poynters Road, the attached photograph gives shows the location. This will enable a clear view of the road and more importantly, allow the highly visible marked vehicles to be seen by the motorist. The location would then have to be secured by signing to indicate 'Police vehicles only'.

Your thoughts, even better your assistance in providing an area for the camera units would be appreciated.

Regards,

## Appendix D

Sir,

Please find enclosed a Petition signed by 168 people, residents of Poynters Road who were home, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, and 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2013.

We are Petitioning against the Speed of all traffic using Poynters Road.

Since the Road has been re-opened, we are increasingly aware of the increase of Speed.

This Anti Social menace has to stop, therefore we are Petitioning all the relevant Authorities to reduce the speed to 20mph, and to introduce traffic calming measures which would include Zebra Crossings along the length of Poynters Road Luton/Dunstable.

Copies to :-  
Office of the Chief Constable,  
Central Bedfordshire Council,  
Luton Borough Council.

For and on behalf of the Poynters Road Action Group.