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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 3 May 2017  
**Subject:** High Street and Shefford Road, Meppershall –  
Petition for traffic calming measures

**Report of:** Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways

**Summary:** This report is to note the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and suggest a way forward.

**Recommendation:** That traffic calming measures be pursued as set out in the report and that the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the meeting.

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**Contact Officer:** Paul Salmon  
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**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** Shefford

**Function of:** Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

**Council Priorities:**

The petition is in relation to the safe and efficient use of the highway network.

**Financial:**

Not allocated.

**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.

**Background and Information**

1. A petition has been received, signed by 234 people, requesting the Council installs traffic calming measures on High Street and Shefford Road, Meppershall to combat drivers exceeding the 30mph speed limit and putting lives at risk.
2. Supporting statements reference traffic speed data recorded by Bedfordshire Police which shows 4,834 vehicles travelling in excess of 35mph during one week, with almost a quarter of all traffic exceeding the 30 mph speed limit. There is concern that with approved and future planning applications for Meppershall totaling an additional 200 dwellings, the incidence of speeding will only increase.
3. The police speed data was collected in Shefford Road where speeds are likely to be higher than those in High Street. This is because Shefford Road is less built-up, has lower levels of on-street parking and more limited road-user activity likely to positively impact traffic speeds. That said, it is of concern that so many drivers are choosing to disregard the 30mph speed limit.
4. There has been one personal injury collision on Meppershall High Street / Shefford Road in the last five years. The cause of this collision was not attributed to excessive speed.
5. The Council is currently working with Meppershall Parish Council on a Rural Match Funded scheme that will introduce a 20mph speed limit near the school. The scheme will re-arrange on-street parking to enhance the natural calming effect provided by parked vehicles. Construction of the scheme is expected to take place during the current financial year.
6. In addition, a raised table will be constructed in the High Street near Fildyke Road. This is a requirement of the planning approval given to the recently consented residential development nearby. Further, there is a reasonable likelihood of similar measures being funded by developers should other planning applications be forthcoming.
7. Officers are of the view that the measures described above will achieve a significant reduction in the number of vehicles traveling in excess of the speed limit on Meppershall High Street. Should ongoing monitoring show that the further measures are required, then a new scheme will be considered for prioritisation within the authority's Integrated Works Programme. In addition, the Parish Council could promote a scheme through a future round of the Rural Match Funding process.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Petition

Appendix B – Location plan

## Appendix A

### Petition to Central Bedfordshire Council

We, the undersigned, are residents of Meppershall Village and are calling for traffic calming measures to be installed on the busy High Street and Shefford Road in Meppershall to combat drivers exceeding the 30mph speed limit and putting lives at risk.

Statistics produced by Bedfordshire Police Traffic Management in July 2015 (overleaf), show the number of vehicles driving in excess of 35MPH for the week 2 - 8 July was a staggering **4834**. During the survey, **almost a quarter of all traffic using the road exceeded the speed limit!** Total traffic recorded in the week - 19,874 vehicles.

With approved and future building planning applications for Meppershall showing an additional 200 dwellings, the number of vehicles using these roads can only increase.

Please show your support for this initiative before a child or older resident is seriously injured so that Central Bedfordshire Council looks into the issues and, ultimately, takes some action on the roads in our village.

Thank you for your support.

234 SIGNATURE.

## Appendix B

