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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 5 September 2017  
**Subject:** Cromer Way, Luton – Petition requesting various highway Improvements  
**Report of:** Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways  
**Summary:** This report is to note the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and to suggest a way forward.

**Recommendation(s):**

1. To note the petition, report and appendices.
2. To note that the issues raised by the petitioner will be considered by the highways officers when compiling the authority's rolling four year programme of integrated transport works, the process for which is set out in Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Transport Plan.

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Contact Officer: Steve Lakin  
[Steve.lakin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.lakin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)  
Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: Toddington Ward  
Function of: Council

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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<p><b>Council Priorities:</b></p>
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<p>The petition is in relation to the safe and efficient use of the highway network.</p>
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<p><b>Financial:</b></p>
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<p>None from this report.</p>
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<p><b>Legal:</b></p>
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<p>None from this report.</p>
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<p><b>Risk Management:</b></p>
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<p>None from this report.</p>
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<p><b>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</b></p>
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<p>None from this report.</p>
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<p><b>Equalities/Human Rights:</b></p>
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<p>None from this report.</p>
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**Community Safety:**

None from this report.

**Sustainability:**

None from this report.

**Background and Information**

1. The authority has received a petition signed by over 500 people requesting that:  
*“traffic calming measures and enforcement are introduced on Cromer Way to address the immediate risk to public safety from speeding vehicles.”*  
  
*“action is taken to deter Cromer Way being used by traffic as a short cut (rat run) due to traffic congestion on the A6.”*  
  
*“the Highways authority ensure that there is sufficient road capacity to accommodate the increased traffic that will result from the building of homes to the north of Luton to ensure that this traffic is not encouraged to use Cromer Way due to poor planning.”*
2. Responsibility for Cromer Way falls jointly to Central Bedfordshire Council (Streatley parish) and Luton Borough Council as the road straddles the border between the two authorities.

**Officer comments**

3. Both Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Council will (re)assess highway improvement priorities during the autumn, making decisions at that time as to the specific schemes to be included in the following year’s programme of works. The lead petitioner has been advised that Cromer Way will feature in the next CBC review and that the data collected on speeds and collisions will be important considerations. However, as funding is constrained, road safety funding is directed to locations where collisions are most heavily clustered.
4. In their review, both authorities will pool available historic data to assess whether there is evidence that Cromer Way is being used as a diversion route to avoid localised congestion hotspots.
5. Both authorities are working in collaboration to ensure that the proposed development to the north of Luton is carefully planned and that the traffic impacts are modelled and understood.

**Appendices:**

- A Petition and accompanying correspondence
- B Location Map
- C Minutes of the meeting of Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Borough Council and Bedfordshire Police officers on 20 June 2017

## Appendix A

# Make Cromer Way Safe Signed Petition

  
Dovedale  
Bushmead  
Luton  
Bedfordshire  
LU2 7FQ

1 August 2017

To: Mr Trevor Holden Chief Executive of Luton Borough Council  
Mr Richard Carr Chief Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council

We the undersigned request that:

- Traffic calming measures and enforcement are introduced on Cromer Way to address the immediate risk to public safety from speeding vehicles.
- Action is taken to deter Cromer Way being used by traffic as a short cut (rat run) due to traffic congestion on the A6.
- The Highways authority ensure that there is sufficient road capacity to accommodate increased traffic that will result from the building of homes to the north of Luton to ensure that this traffic is not encouraged to use Cromer Way due to poor planning.

Please find attached a petition with 671 signatures in support of the above.

This petition is also supported by:

Ms Nadine Dorris (MP)  
Mr Kelvin Hopkins (MP)  
Streatley Parish Council  
Cllr Rachel Hopkins (LBC)  
Cllr David Franks (LBC)  
Cllr Jeff Petts (LBC)  
Cllr Michael Garrett (LBC)  
Cllr Norman Nicols (CBC)  
The Police

### Supporting Facts

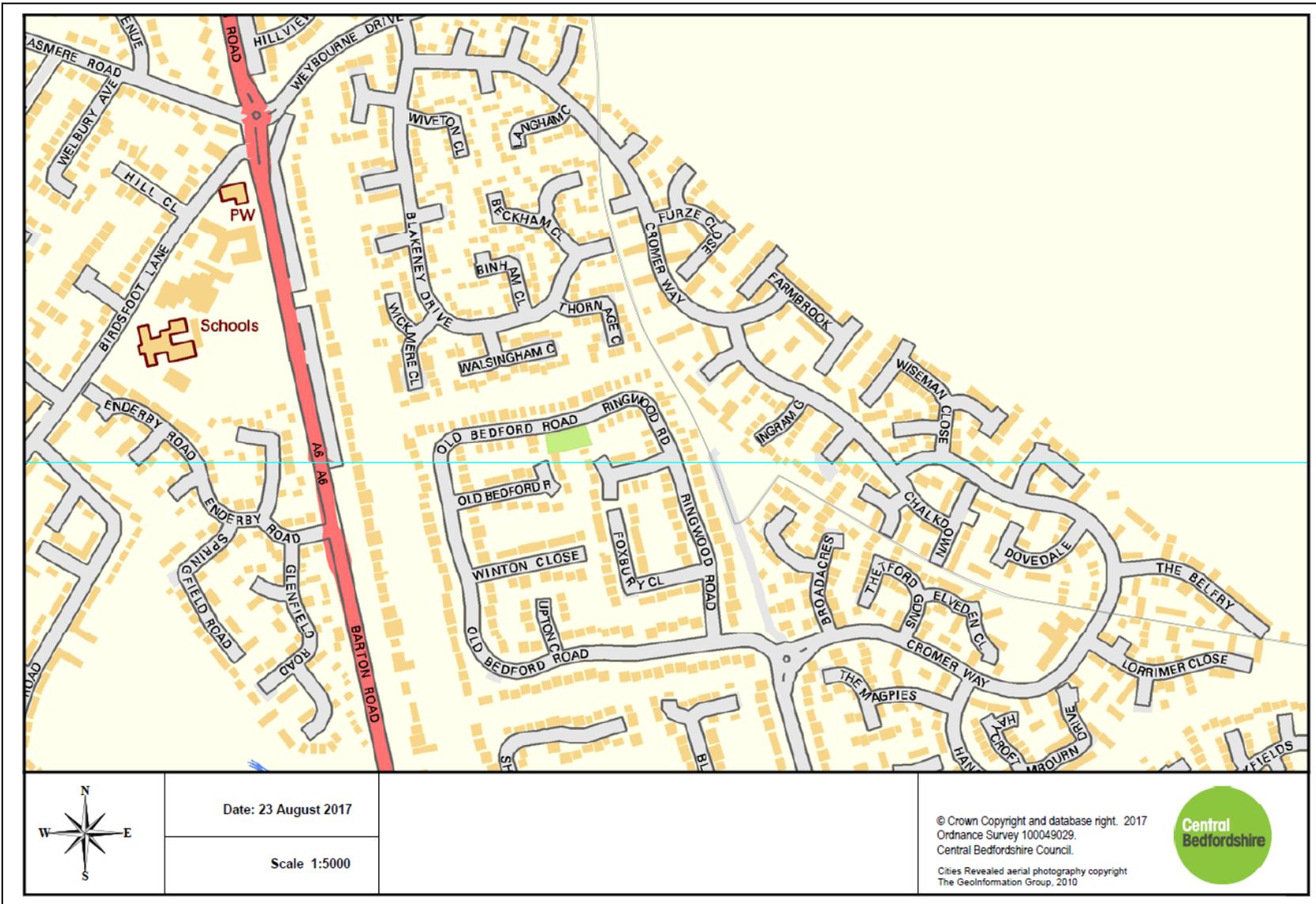
- 50,885 vehicles using road over 7 days – Police data May 2017.
- 5,545 Vehicles speeding over 7 days – Police data May 2017.

- 5,701 vehicles speeding over 7 days which equated to 18% of all traffic – Police data June 2017.
- The number of accidents and frequency. Corner of Chalkdown was closed last week due to an accident between a delivery vehicle and a car.
- Cromer Way is recognised as “one of the most dangerous roads in Luton” Cllr Franks and Cllr Costin.
- Especially vulnerable groups, 4 Schools in the area, senior residents of Bushmead Court Sheltered housing and Castletroy residential home.
- LBC had already approved traffic calming in 2011 to be completed by 2015. LBC documented 21 casualties in support of the planned traffic calming. This never took place.
- Review of Cromer Way by Mr Andrew Martin.
- Council’s statutory duty and common law duty to protect the public.

Yours sincerely

Mr 

# Appendix B - Location Map



## Appendix C

**Cromer Way  
Meeting Notes for 30-6-17  
Meeting held at Central Bedfordshire Council offices**

<b>Attendees</b>	
Steve Lakin (SL)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Steve Welham (SW)	Bedfordshire Police
Christine Davy (CD)	Luton Borough Council

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>																									
	<p>Meeting called due to a recent complaint received from a member of public regarding speeding issues in Cromer Way. Cromer Way is on Luton Borough Council's provisional programme of works for 2020/21. However, this was from a complaint from the Blackney Drive end of Cromer Way and therefore, the additional complaints and speed information will mean the priority is increased and is likely to bring the works forward.</p> <p>A check of Central Bedfordshire's system in January 2017 showed one complaint in 2014. There has been no representation from Streatley Parish Council or from CBC's Ward Councillors.</p> <p>Parish councils within Central Bedfordshire can apply through CBCs Rural Match Funding (RMF) process for a highways improvement scheme. The maximum value of such schemes is £50,000 and parish councils are expected to contribute half of the total design and construction cost. The RMF process increases the likelihood of a scheme that would otherwise not have been prioritised being included in Central Bedfordshire's programme of works.</p>																									
<b>2</b>	<b>Speed data</b>																									
	<p>SW stated that he had repeated the speed survey near Dovedale and found that there was a substantial reduction in the flow of traffic however; the speed of traffic had increased. He went through all the speed data available.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Average Daily Flow</th> <th>85 %tile (mph)</th> <th>Mean (mph)</th> <th>% exceeding police prosecutable levels</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Opposite Dovedale</td> <td>June 17</td> <td>4515</td> <td>37.9</td> <td>31.5</td> <td>18.02%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opposite Dovedale</td> <td>May 17</td> <td>7269</td> <td>36.9</td> <td>29.3</td> <td>10.09%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Ingram Gardens</td> <td>Jan 11</td> <td>3939</td> <td>NA</td> <td>NA</td> <td>17.29%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Date	Average Daily Flow	85 %tile (mph)	Mean (mph)	% exceeding police prosecutable levels	Opposite Dovedale	June 17	4515	37.9	31.5	18.02%	Opposite Dovedale	May 17	7269	36.9	29.3	10.09%	South Ingram Gardens	Jan 11	3939	NA	NA	17.29%	
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o/s 35	May 16	3906	31.3	26.5	1.83%
o/s 35	Dec 15	4979	33.1	26.7	2.75%
Between Hanworth Close and Blackney Drive (LC10) (survey taken by LBC)	Mar 16	4641	31	26.8	1.38% (<36mph)

SL stated that he had arranged for speed survey between Wiseman Close and Troon Gardens, one of 43 sites across the authority where data is being collected to inform planned and potential future design works.

Community Speedwatch have also carried out a number of speedwatch surveys. SW to look at the results and check whether the vehicles exceeding the speed limit were local or drivers the area.

Post meeting note

*SW has checked the community speedwatch results and the majority are either company vehicles or vehicles on lease/finance with the registered address as the company or finance company. No private vehicle was registered to a Cromer way area resident.*

SW

**3 Collision analysis**

Injury collision data for the last 5 calendar years (2012 to 2016) was reviewed. There were 10 injury accidents 2 classed as serious and the rest slight.

Date	Location	Description	Severity	Comment/contributory factors
3/11/14	o/s 35 Cromer Way	V1 (Car) overtaking another car collides with near side of V2. Driver of V1	Slight	Hit and run. Defective tyres (V1 very likely), exceeding speed limit (V1 very likely), aggressive driving (V1 very likely), failed to judge speed of other vehicle (V1 very likely), vision obscured by road layout (V1 very likely)
25/4/12	Cromer Way jct Farmbrook	V1 (car) travelling at speed cut corner of bend and collides with V2 (car). Driver of V1 failed to stop	Slight	Hit and run Careless (V1 very likely)

7/12/16	Cromer Way jct Chalkdown	V1 (car) runs wide at bend into path of V2 (car)	Slight	Poor turn (V1 very likely), travelling too fast for conditions (V1 possible)
21/3/16	Cromer Way jct Thetford Gardens	V1 (van <3.5 tonne) stops at junction about to turn right out but restarts in path of V2 (motorcycle)	Serious	Failed to look (v1 very likely), poor turn (V1 very likely), failed to judge speed (V1 very likely)
26/8/12	Cromer Way jct Wiseman Close	Car on wrong side of road collides with oncoming car. Driver of V1 fails to stop	Slight	Hit and run
26/10/12	Cromer Way jct Hancock Drive	Car turning right pulls out of Hancock Drive into path of car	Slight	Driver failed to look (V1 very likely)
14/11/16	Cromer Way jct Hancock Drive	V2 (van <3.5 tonne) travelling along Cromer way as passes Hancock Drive V1 (car) pulls out to turn right into path V2 loses control and hits lamp column	Slight	Failed to look (V1 very likely)
21/8/16	Cromer Way jct Hancock Drive	V1 (car) waiting to turn right. As V2 (car) passes Hancock Drive V1 pulls out	Slight	Driver failed to look (V1 very likely), junction overshoot (V1 possible), failed to judge speed (V1 possible)
6/3/15	25m east of Hancock Drive	Child pedestrian crossing road fails to judge speed of V1 (car)	Serious	Pedestrian view obscured by parked car (very likely), pedestrian failed to judge speed (very likely)
3/8/14	Cromer Way jct Dovedale	V2 (car) driving around bend. V1 (car) exits T junction turning right into path	Slight	Vision affected by layout of road (V1 very likely), failed to look (V1 possible), careless (V2 possible)

There is a small cluster at the junction of Hancock Drive however, this does not meet the Luton criteria for treatment of cluster accident sites which is 6 injury accidents within 50m in 3 calendar years and therefore, would not appear on the list.

Antisocial behaviour with motor vehicles appears to be an issue especially in the Central Bedfordshire area with 3 out of 4 injury accidents where the driver failed to remain at the scene.

	<p>Police call outs to Cromer Way between March 2013 and June 2017 were also reviewed. These included 8 calls regarding damage only accidents, 39 call regarding nuisance vehicles, 7 calls regarding injury accidents. SW stated that some of the damage only accidents involved stolen vehicles. Complaints have been made alleging erratic driving and high speed or unlawful use of motorcycles erratic driving and motorcycles. He also stated that vehicles also appear to hit the pedestrian refuge near Hancock Drive. CD to arrange for this issue to be checked.</p> <p>SW stated that the motorbikes were going into the fields at the back of Cromer Way. The riders were aware that the Police cannot chase them. This is an issue for police enforcement.</p>	CD
<b>4</b>	<b>Consideration of traffic calming measures</b>	
	<p>Luton Council has carried out the following speed restraint measures in Cromer Way over the past few years.</p> <p>Priority narrowing at the borough boundary in 2014. Changes to the priority narrowing have been included in the programme of works. Design work is expected to start early in 2018.</p> <p>Road markings (hazard and slow marking) between Blakeney Drive and priority narrowing in 2016.</p> <p>Pedestrian refuge near Hancock Drive around 2003.</p> <p>Vehicle Actuated speed sign socket near Lorimer Close installed in 2009 as part of the mobile VA speed sign programme. The sign was last in Cromer Way in 2012. Programme cut in 2013 due to budget cuts. CD to get quote for moving a mobile VA sign to Cromer Way and to check whether this can be turned to point the other way.</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire have re-marked the white lines along Cromer Way in 2017.</p> <p>SW suggested a site visit and walk of the road however, everyone agreed that this would not provide any further information at this time and that once Cromer Way is included on the respective Councils programme of works Engineers will visit site and provide a design for appropriate traffic calming features.</p>	CD
<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	
	Both Councils (re)assess priorities during the Autumn, making decisions at that time as to the specific schemes to be included in the following year's programme	SL/CD

	<p>of works.</p> <p>SL advised Cromer Way will feature in the next CBC review and that the data collected on speeds and collisions will be important considerations. The complainant was advised of this decision by email on 9 June 2017. However, it was stressed that, as funding is constrained, those roads where collisions are most heavily clustered receive priority and that Cromer Way does not currently feature at the top of the list. Hence, there is no guarantee that a safety scheme for Cromer Way will be bought forward for design next year.</p> <p>CD/SL to contact each other to see if works have been included in provisional programme of works for 2019/2020 to be put before respective Executives.</p> <p>Report to be submitted to respective Service Directors.</p>	CD/SL
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