
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20 December 2017
Subject: Miletree Crescent Dunstable – Consider objections to proposed traffic calming features.
Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways
Summary: This report seeks approval from the Executive Member for Community Services for the implementation of traffic calming features in Miletree Crescent, Dunstable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the scheme to install two pairs of bolt-down speed cushions and associated signage, be implemented as published

Contact Officer: Steve Lakin
Steve.Lakin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Dunstable Watling
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal supports Local Transport Plan Objective J.

Financial:

If approved, the scheme will be funded from the Highways Integrated Transport budget for 2017-18.

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.

Budget and Delivery:	
Estimated cost: £6,000	Budget: Highways Annual Plan for 2017-18.
Expected delivery: January - March 2018, subject to agreement on booking road space	

Background and Information

1. A scheme to address excessive speeds in Miletree Crescent Dunstable was included in the 1017-18 Highway Annual Plan Council following representations from local residents.
2. The need for measures had been endorsed by Bedfordshire Police who conducted an automated survey of vehicle speeds over the period 9th-15th November 2016. This showed that 58% of vehicles were travelling above the prosecutable speed limit of 24 mph with poor compliance of the limit being slightly worse in the direction towards Oldhill.

Scheme Proposal

3. The scheme proposal involves the installation of two pairs of bolt down cushions in the locations shown in the plan at Appendix B.
4. The proposal was formally advertised by public notice in November 2017. Consultations were carried out with the Town Council, Ward members, the emergency services and other statutory bodies. Fifty members of Miletree Crescent received a letter inviting comment.

Significant Objections

5. No significant objections, defined in CBC's constitution as an objection from a parish council, ward member or local landowner, were received during the consultation period.

Comments

6. Ten individuals provided a written representation during the consultation period. These representations, with names and addresses redacted, are reproduced at Appendix C. The salient points raised by respondents included:
 - i) That the requirement for a traffic calming scheme in Miletree Crescent had not been adequately justified.
 - ii) That the scheme did not include sufficient features to maintain a 20mph speed along the entirety of Miletree Crescent.
 - iii) That the siting of cushions was inappropriate in relation to sight lines and vehicle crossovers.
 - iv) That the choice of raised features was inappropriate because of the impact on noise, pollution levels and wheel alignment.
 - v) That a full width road hump would be more effective than cushions at controlling speeds.
7. Several respondents took the opportunity to press the case for the traffic calming of adjacent roads.

Officer response

7. Officers have considered the comments made by respondents and offer the following observations:
 - i) The evidence collected on vehicle speeds provides a reasonable justification for a low-cost scheme designed to achieve a greater level of compliance with the 20-mph speed limit.
 - ii) The separation between features is in accordance with highway design guidance, including for example Local Transport Note 1-07. The scheme will be monitored following implementation to assess its impact.
 - iii) The location of crossovers and the proximity of street lighting were important considerations when determining the appropriate siting for each set of cushions.
 - iv) Whilst the effects of raised features will result in a marginal increase in vehicle emissions there will be a negligible impact in Miletree Crescent as congestion is minimal and traffic flows are low. The type of cushion has been selected to minimise the potential for any significant noise disturbance.
 - v) The use of bolt-down cushions is considered appropriate given the type, volume and speed of traffic using Miletree Crescent.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Proposal public notice

Appendix B – Layout plan

Appendix C - Representations



PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN MILETREE CRESCENT, DUNSTABLE

Notice is hereby given that Central Bedfordshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 A-I of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, propose to install speed cushions in Miletree Crescent, Dunstable. These proposals are part of a scheme to reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for all road users.

Install speed cushions of a height of 0.06 meters and length of 3 meters, partially extending across the carriageway at the following locations in Miletree Crescent, Dunstable:

1. Miletree Crescent outside and opposite numbers 13/15
2. Miletree Crescent, 68m from the above location outside and opposite numbers 23/25

Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices or tel. 0300 300 5302.

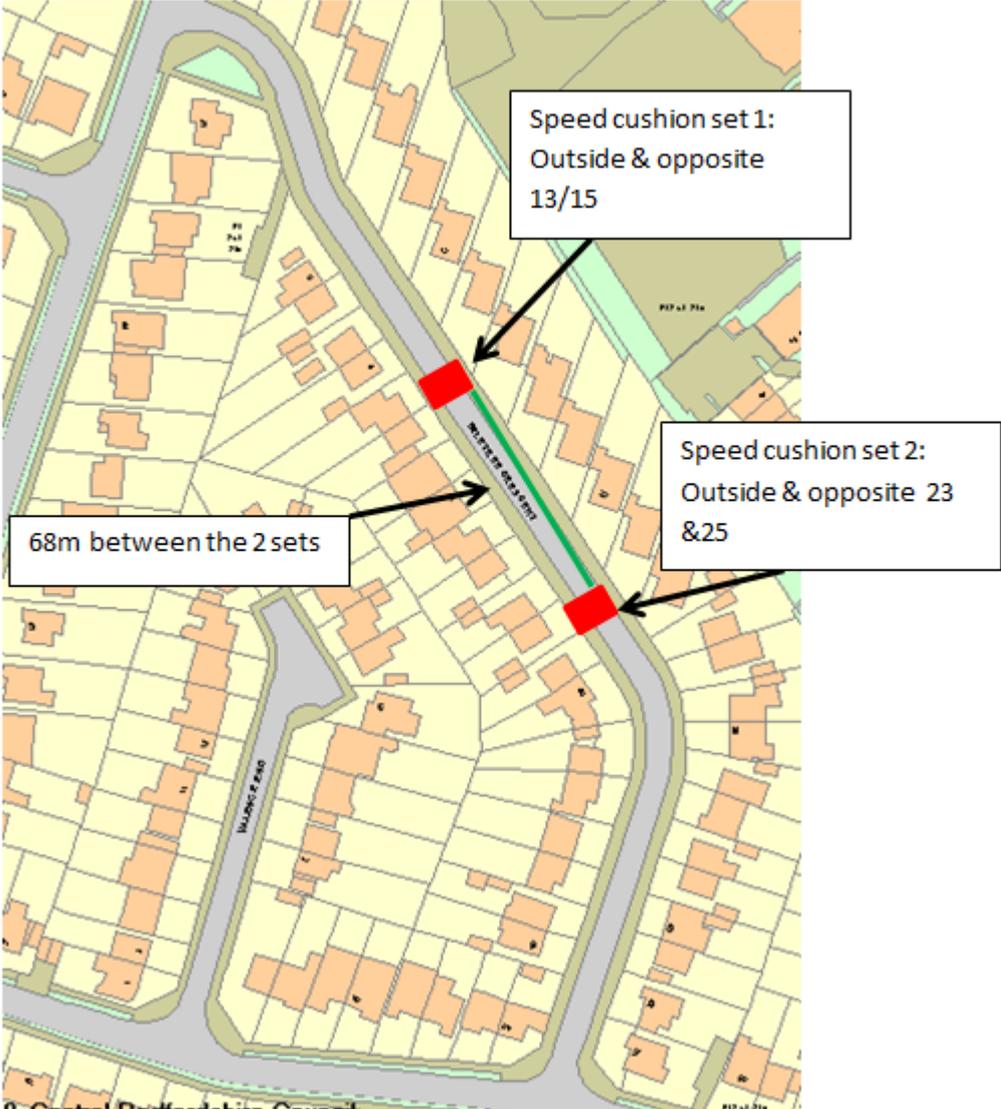
Comments should be sent in writing to Charlotte Dunham at the address below or e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 22nd November 2017.

October 2017

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

Appendix B – Layout Plan



Appendix C - Written representations

-----Original Message-----

From: Email
Sent: 01 November 2017 15:52
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Speed Cushions on Miletree Crescent

To whom it may concern,

Regarding the installation of speed cushions on Miletree Crescent, I am in total agreement. However, with only 68 metres between the proposed sets, I feel that there is space for at least one more and preferably two more sets. The current proposal gives opportunity for excess speed between last cushion and road end in either direction.

Yours sincerely,

Mr xxx

Miletree Crescent

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 05 November 2017 16:05
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: speed cushions-Miletree Crescent

From
Xx
Xx Miletree Crescent
Dunstable.

I have received a leaflet regarding proposed speed cushions and I think they are a good idea as cars do speed along this road.

I think they should also be on the road between Lowther Road and the bend as some cars speed up coming from Lowther Road.

As my neighbour has a hedge, people find it difficult to see if any cars are coming when backing out of my drive and I think it would help if cars were made to slow down.

Kind regards

xxx

From:
Sent: 05 November 2017 21:04
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Proposed Installation of speed cushions on Miletree Crescent

5) As you are no doubt aware, the busy thoroughfare route of Lowther Road quite rightly has a speed cushion at the Zebra crossing by Ardley Hill school along with a speed camera close by. There is a second speed cushion/bump at the intersection with the Oldhill (nearby to the local shops) and a speed indicator & awareness camera on Lowther Road (opposite to Churchill Road) from the direction of Beech Road.

I am therefore bemused at the need for two speed cushions on Miletree Crescent, a very minor road, with no schools, no shops or accident black spots.

As I pointed out in my previous e-mail below, the number of vehicles parked on and along side the road at Miletree Crescent (14 as of the other day) act as their own speed calming system. Please come and visit the road early evening & early morning and/or at weekends to see the extent and affect of the parked vehicles; I often struggle to manoeuvre in and out of the driveway at No. 22 because of the proximity of parked vehicles on the road.

In my view any unnecessary expense should be avoided and monies spent elsewhere on road maintenance projects and/or roads posing accident black spots.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of both of my e-mails and I look forward to receiving your response.

With kind regards,

xxx

Resident @ xxMiletree Crescent, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 xx.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 06 November 2017 18:47

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: Proposed installation of speed cushions on Miletree Crescents

Dear Sirs/Madam ,With reference to the above proposal , I strongly OBJECT to the installation of these speed cushions .

The traffic flow on this road is extremely low and parked cars generally form a natural barrier that prevents speeding . I have lived at this house for 52 years , the speed limit during most of that time was 30 mph , yet to my knowledge no accident has occurred so I cannot see how any modifications can be justified especially now it is a 20 mph limit .

To suggest two speed cushions close to each other are required is an absolutely unnecessary expenditure , where in the local area many roads require repairs. In addition my house will be in - between these two cushions so we will have bumping noise and due to acceleration, de acceleration the pollution level will increase . A lot traffic is from the surrounding houses using cars that have not had time to warm up and for example the exhaust catalytic converters have not become operational adding to pollution levels.

It is my view these speed cushions are not required , they will result in additional traffic noise , increased pollution and based on past 52 years of living in this road they are not required and the expenditure cannot be justified .

Yours faithfully xxx 6-11-2017

X Miletree Crescent
Dunstable
LU 63LS

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 09 November 2017 07:39
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Speed Cushions in Miletree Crescent, Dunstable

Regarding your proposal to install speed cushions in Miletree Crescent.

I would like to suggest that either we need a third cushion somewhere on the section of road from Lowther Road to the bend in the road, or one of the other cushions re-sited somewhere along this part of the road, as people also speed on this section. Our neighbours and myself - who live on the bend - find it quite difficult to get out of our houses sometimes, because one minute there isn't a vehicle in sight and the next we have a speeding vehicle to contend with, also it would not be a good idea if someone is not familiar with the road, and speeds round the corner, and then has to brake suddenly because of the speed cushion!

Hoping you will consider this when you undertake this work.

Xxx
Xxx Miletree Crescent,
Dunstable,
Beds.
LU6

From:
Sent: 08 November 2017 10:30
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Proposed installation of speed cushions on Miletree Crescent, Dunstable LU6 3LS

Charlotte

Having seen the proposed layout I would like to thank you and the council for doing something at last. The data that has been recorded really has demonstrated the dangers of the majority of vehicles travelling along Miletree in what is a very residential road with elderly and young families alike. My elderly wife and I have constant nightmares when we here the screeching of brakes and sounding of car horns fearing that cars will one day crash into our house.

It's been a long time in coming but my fellow neighbours and I hope that this will be the start of a more quieter road and a become a safer place to live.

Something to consider:-

Over the years when it's been very cold and icy, black ice has been on the bend of the road towards the Lowther Road end. Due to the ridiculous speeds of some drivers at this point they have lost control of there vehicle and ended up in our gardens or bounced off the kerbs. If this can be prevented it will help all concerned. So I would like to see additional cushions implemented which would keep the average speed down to a more acceptable level. Can this be done and also spread more along the road?

Is this the only option (cushions) that was proposed or is there any other solutions you may have considered?

Regards

Mr xx

From: xx

Sent: 13 November 2017 16:18

To: Charlotte Dunham

Subject: Proposed installation of speed cushions on Miletree Crescent, Dunstable Beds

Charlotte

I have seen the proposed siting of the speed cushions, but I am in the process of applying to drop my curb line and to extend the entrance of my driveway but the new measures will impede the entrance to my new driveway. So is it therefore possible to re locate them up or down the road please?

Will you let me know if my request for the cushions to be relocated has been accepted?

The new traffic calming measures is brilliant news and long overdue but I would like to see the cushions extended the entire width of the road and at least one or two more of them along Miletree. Can this be looked into please?

The bend in the road at Miletree has become particularly bad over the years with many cars exceeding speed limits of 35mph. So this area is of particular danger and further calming consideration should be taken in this immediate area.

Will new signage be erected and where as there is nothing indicated on the plans.

I would like to thank the council for all the work behind the scenes relating to this project.

Will any residents be able to feedback any comments once the works have been carried out?

Many thanks.

xx

Sent with BlackBerry Work

From:xx

Sent: 14 November 2017 14:15

To: Charlotte Dunham

Cc: xx

Subject: First Avenue Dunstable Bedfordshire

Good afternoon. I am writing to you today to request confirmation on the criteria required by Central Bedfordshire Council – Highways for the installation of traffic calming measures in a particular road/location.

My Aunt lives in Miletree Crescent and has been informed by letter from yourself that the Council intend to install such measures (speed cushions) in her relatively quiet road with many parked cars. I am pretty flabbergasted to be totally frank.

I live in First Avenue; a long, wide residential road bordered by 3 schools. Cars routinely use this road as a cut through because all other roads of a similar length have speed cameras. People drive at dangerous speeds down the road at all times of the day and night, totally ignoring the 20 mile/hr speed limit. Every week day the pavements and indeed the road is filled with hundreds of children walking and cycling to and from school. It is an absolute miracle that no child has been killed but it's only a matter of time!

I fail to see how Central Beds can justify spending tax payers money installing speed calming in Miletree while completely ignoring First Avenue.

Transparency around the decision making process would be helpful and my intention is to put together a petition for the residents.

I look forward to your comments and anything helpful Mrs Staples maybe able to add.

Regards,

xx

Dear Charlotte

7th November

: Re. Proposed Installation of Speed Cushions in Miletree Crescent

I am very glad to see the highways dept at last taking action against these constant high speeders along Miletree Crescent.

I live on the bend of the road towards the ~~hatter~~ ~~hatter~~ Rd end and this is where most of the minor accidents & the tooting of horns occur.

Whilst I welcome the speed cushions I do feel that

- They are incorrectly sited
- There is not enough of them, proposed x4
- Instead of individual cushions they need to extend the entire width of the road.

My suggestion is that the extended cushions are installed before the bend (hatter end) and just after the bend to immediately slow the traffic, then a further x2 more at $\frac{1}{2}$ way up Miletree then at the beginning of Miletree - Oldhill end,

Having just two sets of cushions in my opinion will ~~not~~ be very effective.

Thus please consider my options above, and help the local / elderly residents live safely!

Regards

A. Miletree Resident.

P.S. I do not have a computer.

[redacted]
MILETREE CRES
DUNSTABLE
LU6 3LS.

10/11/17.

Dear Charlotte

Ref our telephone conversation
this morning, the proposed speed
curbions for miletree crescent in my
opinion be right across the road,
if it is to be two Palys this will not
stop motor cycles as they will speed
through the centre gap, also
the pad vernior puts the cars wheel
alignment out after a few months
of negotiating them (they spread
the wheels outwards)

Yours Faithfully
[redacted]

select'
www.select.co.uk

RE: MILETREE CRESCENT (PROPOSED)
SPEED CUSHIONS.

19/11/17

I welcome the introduction of the speed cushion or thump as Miletree Crescent has become a haven for many idiotic drivers.

But I feel that a thump or a full width cushion should be placed within 40m of the Lowerthorpe Rd junction. This will ensure

speeds are kept to the 20mph limit, and a further two more along the road.

The design of the cushions should not compromise safety and the council should if necessary have a willingness to modify particularly if speeds continue to be above the recommended levels of 20mph. The height of the cushions must be at the maximum level of 100mm and length of 3.7m. As this road is not a bus route or a main transport road the gap between cushions should also be kept to a minimum.

It is imperative that the council monitors the speed again in the future to ensure the implementation of the cushions is working.

As a driver who has been driving on numerous roads around the country I can through experience say that the cushions are never wide enough & cars consistently speed over the cushions. So useless the deterrent!

Cars in Miletree must be fit for purpose!

The locals need a danger free zone but only with the council's continued support will this be achieved.

My wife and I look forward to a safer & quieter place in which to live, and a better place for our grand kids to be.