
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 24 July 2018
Subject: Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable – Watling Lower

Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways

Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the installation of two raised tables, incorporating a carriageway narrowing, in Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the proposals be implemented as advertised.

Contact Officer: Charlotte Dunham
charlotte.dunham3@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Dunstable Watling

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

This scheme supports the following objectives within the Central Bedfordshire Council Local Transport Plan (LTP):

- B – Reduce the impact of commuting trips on local communities
- C – Increase the number of children travelling to school by sustainable modes of transport
- J - Reduce the risk of people being killed or seriously injured.

Financial:

This scheme will be funded from the LTP Integrated Schemes budget for 2018/19.

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: Target Cost to be determined	Budget: LTP Integrated Schemes
Expected delivery: March/April 2019	

Background and Information

1. These proposals were brought in response to concerns about excessive vehicle speeds on Bull Pond Lane, in the vicinity of Watling Lower School.
2. Watling Lower School is situated in a signed 20mph zone. The carriageway is wide and the school is set back. Drivers may therefore be unaware of the school when approaching. There are also issues with parents parking on the footway at school drop off/pick up times. This contributes to congestion and creates a safety issue for parents and pupils attempting to cross the road.
3. The scheme objective is to enhance road safety by introducing measures to control speeds, protect crossing areas and reduce the incidence obstructive and inconsiderate parking.

Proposals

4. The proposal is to install two raised table uncontrolled crossings, 75mm in height. At each location, the carriageway has been narrowed to a width of 5m.
5. The proposal was formally advertised in May 2018. Consultations were carried out with the Emergency Services and other statutory bodies, Ward members and the town council.
Residents located in close proximity to the proposed restrictions were individually consulted by letter. A copy of the Public Notice is provided at Appendix A. A copy of the letter sent to residents is provided at Appendix B.

Representations

6. Two representations were received, expressing support for the proposal. Bedfordshire Police also responded to express their support. A copy of these representations is provided at Appendix C.

Conclusion

6. Officers' recommend that this proposal is implemented as published.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Public Notice

Appendix B – Copy of letter to those affected by the proposal

Appendix C – Representations

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING FEATURES IN BULL POND LANE, 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 construct raised features incorporating uncontrolled crossings and carriageway narrowing's in Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable.

These proposals are part of a scheme to reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for all road users.

A pair of flat top uncontrolled raised crossings at a nominal height of 75mm, extending approximately 8.25m in length and incorporating carriageway narrowing's and extending across the revised road width of 5m, are proposed to be sited at the following locations in Dunstable:-

1. Bull Pond Lane, sited approximately 13m south east of the projection of the north western property boundary of 23 Hawthorn Close.
2. Bull Pond Lane, sited approximately 9m south east of the projection of the south eastern property boundary of 36 Bull Pond Lane.

Further 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 5003.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 8th June 2018.

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Director of Community Services
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait

May 2018

Appendix B – Residents Letter



The Property Owner

Bull Pond Lane
Dunstable

10/5/2018

Dear Sir or Madam

Central Bedfordshire Council will shortly be publishing 2 separate proposals for a number of highway improvement schemes within your area. Details can be viewed on site or at:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/public-statutory/notices.aspx>

These include raised features *and* revisions to waiting restrictions in Bull Pond Lane and a small section of Hawthorn Close and are given below:

3. **A pair of flat top uncontrolled raised crossings at a nominal height of 75mm, extending approximately 8.25m in length and incorporating carriageway narrowing's and extending across the revised road width of 5m, are proposed to be sited at the following locations in Dunstable:-**
 4. Bull Pond Lane, sited approximately 13m south east of the projection of the north western property boundary of 23 Hawthorn Close.
 5. Bull Pond Lane, sited approximately 9m south east of the projection of the south eastern property boundary of 36 Bull Pond Lane.
2. **Revisions to waiting restrictions in: Bull Pond Lane/Hawthorn Close.**
 - a. **To revoke existing No Waiting restrictions Mon - Fri 10am – 11am replace with No Waiting At Any Time on:**
 - b. Bull Pond Lane, south western side, from approximately 1m south east of the projected boundary of 36 Bull Pond Lane in a north westerly direction for approximately 57m, and extending approximately 3m north west of the boundary of number 32 Bull Pond Lane.
 3. **To revoke existing No Waiting restrictions Mon - Fri 8am – 9am, Mon – Fri 2pm – 3pm & Mon – Fri 3pm – 4pm and replace with No Waiting At Any Time on:**
 - c. Bull Pond Lane, north eastern side, from the south eastern boundary of 23 Hawthorn Close extending for approximately 112m in a in a north westerly to approximately 8.5m south east of the boundary of 33 Bull Pond Lane.
 4. **To revoke existing No Waiting restrictions Mon – Fri 8am – 9am & 3pm – 4pm and replace with No Waiting At Any Time on:**
 - d. Hawthorn Close, north western side, from the junction with Bull Pond Lane extending for approximately 11.5m in a northerly direction.

Drawings of the proposed features in Bull Pond Lane are below:



We welcome your comments by 8th June 2018 and should be sent in writing to: traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or by post to the address below.

Yours faithfully
Central Bedfordshire Council Traffic Management Team
 Thorn Turn Depot, Thorn Rd, Houghton Regis, Dunstable LU5 6GJ

Direct telephone 0300 300 8049
Email: traffic.Consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Appendix C- Representations

Dear Sirs,

Following receipt of your communication dated 10th May '18, received 17th May '18, I am writing to contest the requirement for some aspects of the above proposals.

The speed humps, I agree, are required to slow down traffic near to school as the safety of the children is of paramount importance.

I cannot however understand the need to change the current parking restrictions between Hawthorn Close and no. 33 Bull Pond Ln. and from 36 to 32 Bull Pond Ln. to 'No waiting at Any Time'. I appreciate that that during school time, some changes may be necessary, however I'm not aware of any injury incident or near miss in this vicinity due to a problem caused by parked cars. Being an LA governor at Watling School for 6 years and resident in Bull Pond Lane for 15 years I'm sure I would have been aware of such.

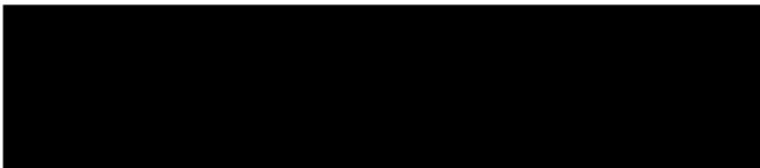
Should you wish to revise the parking restrictions to safeguard the children and parents of Watling school I can't argue with that motive however I cannot understand why the residents of and visitors to properties adjacent to these proposals should be severely inconvenienced outside of these hours and at weekends.

In recognition of this potential inconvenience to my neighbours and myself I am requesting that this decision be reconsidered and amended to something more appropriate.

There is also an issue with speeding cars in this area and it's my understanding, as a qualified highway engineer, that parked cars can reduce vehicle speeds, I'm afraid that your proposals would have the reverse effect. |

Clearly there are other reasons for the 'No waiting at Any Time' being implemented which isn't related to the safety school children, I would be pleased if you send me a communication to advise me of these reasons along with any evidence you have that support this requirement.

Yours faithfully,



Forward to Andrew Selous M.P.

Hi

I live on Bullpond lane [REDACTED] where the parking restriction changes are planned to happen. I'm in support of the crossing points and speed humps that are being suggested/planned as this is a great idea. However I ask you to reconsider the double yellow lines that are part of the planned changes. There are little / to no parked cars on that part of the road outside of school drop off/ pickup times. For which there are already waiting restrictions in place just not enforced to any degree that would or does dissuade people parking there within the restricted times. As the restrictions are in place already to combat that, the only people to suffer from the planned parking restrictions are residents that may need visitors to park on the road outside of the school drop off/ pickup times. Maybe Zig Zag (already in place on the opposite side) between the crossing points so that parking restrictions are in place during school hours would be better leaving residents free to park on the road outside of school hours. I also believe that a campaign of enforcing the current restrictions would see an improvement for the safety of children going to and coming from school. Parking enforcement cameras placed in the school grounds could also assist with the enforcement, saving the labour intensive effort of sending an enforcement officer.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]
|