

Michael Potter

From: Clare A Ratcliffe
Sent: 30 November 2016 16:17
To: Roger Bell
Cc: Belinda Ridout; Michael Potter
Subject: Application for a 30 mph speed limit though MoS with additional road signage
Attachments: Copy of 2994_Mar16 speed survey milton on stour 2016.xlsx; MoS Petition.pdf; Submission to GTC from MoS.pdf

Dear Roger

Application for a 30 mph Speed Limit through Milton-on-Stour with additional road signage

Gillingham Town Council considered the above-mentioned application at their Full Council meeting on Monday, 28th November 2016. An extract from the minutes appears below:

206. To receive and consider a submission/petition from residents at Milton-on-Stour for a 30 mph speed restriction through the village.

Cllr Von Clemens asked if a representative from the Milton-on-Stour residents would like to address the meeting. Mrs Pippa Hayward made a presentation on behalf of the residents of Milton-on-Stour regarding the request to the Town Council to consider and support a 30 mph speed restriction through the village. Members had been sent a copy of petition prior to the meeting.

The presentation highlighted an accident on 17th February 2016 on the B3092 near the primary school that took out a telephone pole and resulted in loss of telephone and internet connection for the whole village for a day. The accident could have very easily caused a fatality. There have been seventeen accidents over the last five years. The speed limit must be reduced.

The volume of traffic has increased. Pedestrians from the village have described navigating the B3092 to reach the church, school or footpath/cycleway as scary and dangerous. There are fifteen children who need to cross the road to go to school. There are many others who need to cross for other recreational reasons. The Scouts are unable to use the field beside the church because the road is considered to be too dangerous.

The application for a 30 mph speed limit is supported by the school community, the village community and PCSO Vicky Levy.

Cllr Von Clemens asked Cllr Mrs Hunt, as ward member of Milton-on-Stour, if she had anything to add.

Cllr Mrs Hunt was fully supportive of the petition. Many years ago there was a fatality on the B3092. The speed restriction should be reduced. Martins Lane is a race-track and so is Mapperton Hill. Cllr Mrs Hunt recommended that the petition was supported and sent to the county council.

Cllr Mrs Ridout commented as Lead Member of the Traffic Management Working Party, as follows:

The working party has worked closely with Milton-on-Stour Road Safety Committee and the report is backed by substantial evidence. The working party continues to work with Milton-on-Stour Primary School on a number of safety issues, including a speed limit past the school. These two campaigns have been working in close liaison with the Town Council. A lot of work has gone into this petition, which gives a very full account of the traffic safety issues and the solutions proposed. Following a recent working party meeting, I was asked to look into the cost of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and how many would be needed for a reduction in the speed limit across Milton-on-Stour and, if this were approved, how would it affect the TROs already listed for Gillingham. Is there enough money for all of these?

Cllr Mrs Ridout précised an email from Mr Michael Potter, DCC Collision Reduction Manager, as follows:

The cost of a TRO varies. The cost of advertising is relatively static; each TRO requires two adverts totalling £1,000. Whilst this may seem insignificant, advertising costs soon swallow up a fair chunk of the available budget, with the remainder used for the associated signing and lining. For example; there is one speed limit change programmed for 2017/18 that is likely to cost in excess of £10,000.

If there is evidence of need and the criteria for a TRO application is met, then this would be the over-riding factor(s) for each application; however, whilst the basic criteria may be satisfied, the limited budget for the setting of speed limits and other TRO related work (i.e., parking restrictions) and the availability of resources significantly restricts the number of TROs that can be processed. Therefore, the available budget and resource has to be focused where the need is greatest.

In the past, DCC Highways had a budget of over £100,000 to process TROs; the budget for 2016/17 is less than £50,000 and could potentially be reduced further for 2017/18. Nearly 200 TROs have been requested for 2017/18 but only 20 have been identified for approval, subject to public consultation and legal processes.

The existing 40 mph limit on Post Office Road at Milton-on-Stour could be looked at again; however, it is unlikely to rank high against other TRO applications across the county.

I am confident that DCC Highways would be able to come up with a series of measures that would aim to reduce or better manage vehicle speeds in Milton-on-Stour.

Cllr Monksummers commented that he had been a resident in the Milton-on-Stour ward for 25 years until the boundary was changed recently and was also a major campaigner to get the footway/cycleway installed from Peacemarsh to Milton-on-Stour. The petition is an excellent piece of work. Traffic will increase once the planned house building starts to the south of Gillingham. Agricultural vehicles have got bigger, heavier and faster. The SpeedWatch group set up soon folded due to insufficient volunteers. The roads are rat runs and many of the speed restriction signs have become lost in hedges and therefore prohibit speed enforcement. Cllr Monksummers totally supported the initiative.

Cllr Ms Baker asked whether a pedestrian crossing could be installed by the school, similar to the one recently installed at Peacemarsh.

Cllr Mrs Ridout replied that a pedestrian crossing at this position would not meet the criteria.

Cllr Mrs Hunt proposed that **“the Town Council fully supports the petition by the residents of Milton-on-Stour for a 30 mph speed restriction on the B3092 and the roads through the village”**. Cllr Monksummers seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Von Clemens thanked the representatives of the Milton-on-Stour for attending the meeting.

Please could you pass this information to the relevant officers together with the other documents attached to this email. Thank you.

Clare

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