

Petitions Panel

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	Wednesday 29 November 2017
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways.
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions – Petition requesting 20 mph speed restriction in Abbotsbury.
Executive Summary	A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council's published petitions scheme) in relation to requesting a 20mph speed restriction in Abbotsbury.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not applicable
	Use of Evidence: Site investigations and latest available five years worth of road traffic collision data (June 2012 to May 2017)
	Budget: The cost of introducing a Traffic Regulation Order would likely to be between £6500 and £7500 – costs are for context only and do not represent actual costs, they include officer time and costs of the signing and lining as well as costs associated with the legal process.
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW
	Other Implications: None

Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled Abbotsbury 20 mph request

Recommendation	The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.
Reason for Recommendation	In order to comply with the County Council's published scheme for responding to petitions and so as to enable local people to connect with local elected decision makers.
Appendices	Appendix A - Copy of petition Appendix B - Plan of Abbotsbury
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme
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1. Background to the Petition Scheme

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010. The Scheme was subsequently updated by the County Council on 21 July 2016.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be dealt with by a small customer focussed panel. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

2. Petition – Request for a 20mph speed limit in Abbotsbury.

- 2.1 The County Council received a petition organised by Laura Jones on 11 October 2017. This reads as follows:

"We would dearly love for Abbotsbury to have a 20mph speed limit and speed bumps in some of the roads. My street Back Street (30mph) sees vans and cars racing up to 55mph. I can't let my five year old daughter outside without firmly holding on to her and it is impossible for her, or anyone else, to play or walk freely without danger. Fear of speeding traffic affects my and many other peoples' lives and mental outlook, especially as there are either no, or very shallow pavements in this village.

I would be extremely grateful if you could forward the petition, article and details of my campaign to all the councillors. I would be happy to come to a councillors' meeting to talk about it".

- 2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Panel are invited to note and discuss. A copy of the petition can be found at Appendix A and the petition contains 51 signatures.
- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include one or more of the following:
 - taking the action requested in the petition
 - considering the petition at a council meeting
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - referring the petition for consideration by the council's Audit and Governance Committee
 - calling a referendum
 - writing to the petition organiser setting out the Panel's views about the request in the petition.

- 2.4 Alternatively, the Panel may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

3. Context

- 3.1 A map can be found at Appendix B showing the extent of the existing speed limits within Abbotsbury. The County Council adopts Department for Transport guidelines for setting speed limits as policy. There are various criteria that need to be satisfied in order for a speed limit to be reduced. In

short, speed limits should be set at a level that is “self enforcing” and where there is an evidenced need for a reduced risk or if a discernible difference in driver behaviour could/would be achieved. The speed of traffic is an important consideration when reviewing speed limits. Speeds should be close to the requested/proposed lower limit in order for it to be “self enforcing”.

- 3.2 Collision data available to the County Council is provided and validated by Dorset Police. It includes collisions that occurred on public highway reported to the police that resulted in personal injury to any person(s) involved.

It is accepted that this data is not the complete picture of collisions that have occurred however, it is the most robust and reliable data available to the County Council.

It is standard practice to assess the most recent five year period of collisions when considering/identifying safety schemes.

Between June 2012 and May 2017 there has been one slight collision in the whole of Abbotsbury where a vehicle was in collision with a pedestrian.

- 3.3 If a 20mph speed limit were to be supported it is important to consider that this request is one of close to 120 other requests for a new Traffic Regulation Order across the Dorset County area. It is unlikely to rank highly against other requests and if it were to be included it is not possible to commit to when it would be implemented.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it, possible options are available in paragraph 2.3.

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November 2017