

Petitions Panel

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	2 October 2018
Officer	Michael Potter, Collision Reduction Team Manager
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled ‘Installation of effective traffic calming procedures along Sandleheath Road, Alderholt
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council’s published petitions scheme) in relation to Sandleheath Road, Alderholt. The petition states:</p> <p><i>We, the undersigned residents of Sandleheath Road, Alderholt, hereby petition you to arrange for the monitoring of the volume and speed of traffic travelling along this road, particularly between the peak hours of 07:30 – 09.30 and 16.30 – 18.30.</i></p> <p><i>The speed limit is currently set at 30mph, but this limit is ignored by most car drivers.</i></p> <p><i>The road is used as a ‘rat run’ to and from Salisbury and has become extremely dangerous. There are no footpaths, many bends, road narrowings and concealed entrances.</i></p> <p><i>We believe it is now essential that traffic calming measures are put in place to slow the traffic down.</i></p>
Impact Assessment: <i>Please refer to the protocol for writing reports.</i>	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not applicable.
	Use of Evidence: Stats 19 Road Traffic Collision Data
	Budget: Not applicable.

Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled ‘Installation of effective traffic calming procedures along Sandleheath Road, Alderholt’

	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>No applicable.</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>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.</p>
Appendices	<p>Appendix A – Copy of Petition Appendix B – Plan of Sandleheath Road – traffic management measures</p>
Background Papers	<p>Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme</p>
Officer Contact	<p>Name: Michael Potter Tel: 01305 22 1767 Email: m.potter@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

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 and 15 February 2018.

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 4,250 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

2. Petition – Installation of effective traffic calming procedures along Sandleheath Road, Alderholt

2.1 The County Council received a petition organised by Lisa Fitz-Gerald on 7 August 2018. This reads as follows:

We, the undersigned residents of Sandleheath Road, Alderholt, hereby petition you to arrange for the monitoring of the volume and speed of traffic travelling along this road, particularly between the peak hours of 07:30 – 09.30 and 16.30 – 18.30.

The speed limit is currently set at 30mph, but this limit is ignored by most car drivers.

The road is used as a 'rat run' to and from Salisbury and has become extremely dangerous. There are no footpaths, many bends, road narrowings and concealed entrances.

We believe it is now essential that traffic calming measures are put in place to slow the traffic down.

2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Panel are invited to note and discuss this. The petition contained a total of 56 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 our 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 Sandleheath Road is a rural road with several properties including working farms spread across its length.

3.2 The existing 30mph limit on Sandleheath Road came into effect in June 2003. There is no street lighting present throughout the route therefore repeater signs are placed at regular intervals along the road to remind drivers of the speed limit.

3.3 There are several speed and traffic management measures in place throughout Sandleheath Road in the form of warning signing and lining.

3.4 A plan showing the extent of Sandleheath Road highlighting the location of speed/traffic management measures currently in place can be found at Appendix B.

3.5 There is no formal policy in place for the installation of physical traffic calming measures as their application is dictated by the circumstances.

3.6 Physical calming measures are more common in urban areas. One reason for this is streetlighting is often deemed to be required. An additional reason is linked to the nature of use of the route. Non-motorised traffic use is much more common in urban areas and traffic flow generally higher which improves the effectiveness of the calming features.

3.7 Physical calming measures such as chicanes or narrowings are typically installed in areas where there is a history of road traffic collisions linked to a general poor level of adherence to the speed limit.

3.8 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.

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

3.10 Between June 2013 and May 2018 there have been zero collisions reported on Sandleheath Road.

3.11 No recent traffic surveys have been carried out on Sandleheath Road, the most recent was completed in 2002. Data from this survey is not relevant and cannot be relied upon as evidence for the current situation.

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.

Andrew Martin

Service Director for Highways and Emergency Planning
September 2018