

Petitions Panel

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	13 March 2019
Officer	Michael Potter
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled ‘20mph limit on Lubbecke Way, St George Rd, Eddison Ave and Long Bridge Way, Dorchester including speed humps on Lubbecke Way.
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council’s published petitions scheme) requesting that a 20mph limit be installed for Lubbecke Way, St Georges Rd, Eddison Ave and Long Bridge Way including speed humps on Lubbecke Way. The petition states:</p> <p><i>We the residents of Lubbecke Way, St Georges Road, Eddison Avenue, Acreman Road and Long Bridge Way, Dorchester formally request that the council consider our request for road calming measures in the above-mentioned roads.</i></p> <p><i>De to it being a residential zone and the only access to an industrial estate and recycling centre, the above road incur a large volume of traffic.</i></p> <p><i>Residents request 2 types of traffic calming measures</i></p> <p><i>A: All 5 roads speed limit reduced to 20mph</i> <i>B: Speed reducing humps down Lubbecke Way</i></p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>(Note: If this report contains a new strategy/policy/function has an EQIA screening form been completed?)</p> <p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>(Note: Evidence within the body text to support the recommendations and, where relevant, include a description of how the outcomes of public consultations have influenced the recommendations.)</p> <p>Budget:</p> <p>(Note: Have any VAT implications been identified?)</p>
<i>Please refer to the protocol for writing reports.</i>	

Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled 20mph limit on Lubbecke Way, St Georges Rd, Eddison Ave and Long Bridge Way, Dorchester including speed humps on Lubbecke Way

	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>None identified</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<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>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix A – Copy of letter from Dorchester Town Council regarding the petition Appendix B – Plan showing location of relevant area Appendix C – Plans showing extent of proposed parking restrictions on Lubbecke Way under Experimental Traffic Regulation Order – Options A, B and C Appendix D – Plan showing extent of proposed 7.5 tonnes weight restriction on section of St Georges Rd and Long Bridge Way under Traffic Regulation Order.</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme Department for Transport circular 01/13 – Setting Local Speed Limits</p>
<p>Officer Contact</p>	<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 – 20mph limit on Lubbecke Way, St Georges Rd, Eddison Ave and Long Bridge Way, Dorchester including speed humps on Lubbecke Way

2.1 The County Council received a petition with 193 signatures organised by Mr O'Shea on 18 December 2018 via Dorchester Town Council. This reads as follows:

We the residents of Lubbecke Way, St Georges Road, Eddison Avenue, Acreman Road and Long Bridge Way, Dorchester formally request that the council consider our request for road calming measures in the above-mentioned roads.

Due to it being a residential zone and the only access to an industrial estate and recycling centre, the above roads incur a large volume of traffic.

Residents request 2 types of traffic calming measures

A: All 5 roads speed limits reduced to 20mph

B: Speed reducing humps down Lubbecke Way

2.2 Dorchester Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee discussed the petition on 3 December 2018; it was resolved that:

That the petition, supported by the Committee, asking for a 20mph limit in Lubbecke Way, St Georges Road, Eddison Avenue, Acreman Road and Long Bridge Way plus speed reducing measures down Lubbecke Way be forwarded to DCC [Dorset County Council] for their consideration.

2.3 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Panel are invited to note and discuss this.

2.4 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.

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

3. Context

3.1 St Georges Road, Eddison Avenue, Acreman Road and Long Bridge Way are predominantly residential in nature with predominately terraced semi-detached properties. On street parking is commonplace along most of the roads in question due to the majority of properties not have off-street parking and/or being used by people working in Dorchester to park during the day. A plan showing the location of the roads mentioned is at Appendix A.

3.2 Lubbecke Way is different in nature to the other roads included within this petition, whilst there are residential properties it is less densely populated with development on one side of the road only. On-street parking on Lubbecke Way has increased in recent years and its use has changed markedly since July 2018, when it became the access to the recycling centre, Wessex Water treatment plant and other industrial units. A plan showing the location of Lubbecke Way is at Appendix B. The majority of on-street parking on Lubbecke is believed to be commuters parking for the duration of the working day.

3.3 Lubbecke Way was designed as a standard industrial estate road. The western section of Lubbecke Way was constructed in the early 1990's and was intended to be the start of a road to replace and relieve St Georges Road from the traffic associated with the household recycling centre and the various industrial activities at the eastern end of the road. This was undertaken in line with Town and District Council aspirations. It is understood that this proposal was first included as a policy in the Local Plan in the late 1980's and was included and adopted in the 2006 Local Plan.

3.4 The increase in on-street parking on Lubbecke Way raised levels of conflict between vehicles, in particular large vehicles associated with the recycling centre and industrial units.

3.5 There is an ambulance station on Lubbecke Way. The conflict created by parked cars occasionally resulted in ambulances not being able to easily access the main road causing delay to emergency call outs.

3.6 As a result of this conflict the Network Development Team alongside the Community Highways Team have investigated the introduction of parking restrictions to improve the flow of traffic and to reduce the level of conflict on Lubbecke Way. These measures are not yet in place but parking on the junction between Lubbecke Way and the main B3143, Kings Road has been prevented through the use of 'Police no waiting cones'. Adherence to these cones has been good with the junction largely clear of parked vehicles; formal parking restrictions are planned for this junction. Details of the proposed parking restrictions on Lubbecke Way are at Appendix C (Option B).

3.7 A 7.5 tonne weight restriction is also planned to be installed on a section of St George's Rd and Long Bridge Way in light of concerns raised by residents about the continued use of the old routes by HGVs accessing the recycling centres and industrial units. Primary consultation has been completed with no objection, public consultation is planned to begin in the near future. The extent of the proposed 7.5tonne weight restriction is at Appendix D.

3.8 Prior to taking forward the proposed parking and 7.5 tonne weight restrictions, a consultation was conducted on three options for traffic regulation. The options were:

- A – double yellow lines at the junction of Kings Road and Lubbecke Way; access protection markings to all accesses including the youth and community centre; a single yellow line with timed parking restriction (9am-6pm 7 days/week) between the two accesses to the ambulance station; double yellow lines at the junction of Lubbecke Way and the two minor road junctions to its south; and the introduction of a 7.5 tonne weight restriction to Long Bridge Way.
- B - includes all of the restrictions proposed within Option A, with the addition of a single yellow line timed parking restriction (9am – 6pm 7 days/week) along the river side of Lubbecke Way.
- C – includes all the restrictions within Option A with the addition of double yellow lines along the river side of Lubbecke Way.

3.9 These options were presented to the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment, local County Councillors, Dorchester Town Council, Dorset Police, West Dorset District Council and Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP on 24 August 2018. All consultees who responded expressed a preference for option B; no response was received from the Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP. Plans showing the extent of options A, B and C are at Appendix C.

3.10 Dorchester Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee preference for option B was decided upon following a presentation of the options by county council highway officers on 3 September 2018.

- 3.11 A public meeting on 28 September 2018, chaired by Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP, discussed requests for traffic calming measures to be installed. Representatives from Dorchester Town Council, local county councillors and County Council highway officers attended the meeting. Highway officers suggested that traffic calming measures would not be appropriate in either Lubbecke Way or St. Georges Road.
- 3.12 Traffic calming features such as humps, chicanes or narrowings are typically installed on existing roads where there has been a history of injury collisions. There have been no (zero) reported injury collision on any of the roads included within the petition during the latest available five-year period (October 2013 to September 2018).
- 3.13 Road humps, as requested in the petition for Lubbecke Way are not routinely used for traffic calming, largely due to the noise that is generated. There are also concerns with pollution levels due to vehicles slowing and accelerating rather than remaining at a constant speed.
- 3.14 Traffic calming measures on Lubbecke Way could also lead to increased levels of conflict between vehicles, particularly large vehicles. It is for this reason that previously planned road narrowings on the eastern section of Lubbecke Way were not installed upon recommendation of a Road Safety Audit completed in February 2013 by an independent third party company.
- 3.15 An additional consideration for traffic calming measures is the adverse impact it can have on the availability of off street parking. Particularly in areas where residential properties do not have access to off-street parking.
- 3.16 20mph limits, as with any other speed limit reduction request are prioritised to areas with a history of injury collisions. There have been no (zero) reported injury collisions on any roads included within the petition during the latest available five year period (October 2013 to September 2018).
- 3.17 Department for Transport (DfT) guidance in circular 01/13 Setting Local Speed Limits is adopted as policy by the county council. DfT guidance states that 20mph limits over a large number of roads should be considered where mean average speeds at or below 24mph are already achieved over a number of roads.
- 3.18 Lubbecke Way would not be suitable for a 20mph limit owing to its function and layout. The road was designed as an industrial estate road which is more suitable for a 30mph limit than a 20mph limit.
- 3.19 St Georges Road, Eddison Avenue, Acreman Road and Long Bridge Way are different in nature to Lubbecke Way and as such consideration of a 20mph limit is more reasonable, however it would not rank highly against other Traffic Regulation Order requests owing to

there being no injury collisions reported nor there being any facilities such as local shops, play areas or a school in the area.

3.20 It is understood that 20mph limits are not routinely enforced by Dorset Police. 20mph limits are enforced by traffic officers rather than a mobile camera van. The availability of resource prohibits regular/routine enforcement of 20mph limits.

3.21 Paragraph 85 of DfT circular 01/13 Setting Local Speed Limits states:

Successful 20mph zones and 20mph speed limits are generally self-enforcing, i.e. the existing conditions of the road together with measures such as traffic calming or signing compliant with the speed limit. To achieve compliance there should be no expectation on the police to provide additional enforcement beyond their routine activity, unless this has been explicitly agreed.

3.22 No recent traffic surveys have been completed by the county council on the roads included within the petition.

3.23 The proposed parking restrictions on Lubbecke Way and 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Long Bridge Way aim to improve the flow of non-local traffic on the roads included within the petition. The unregulated parking on Lubbecke Way is a reason for people avoiding using Lubbecke Way as the main access to/from the recycling centre.

3.24 The impact of the proposed parking and weight restrictions on Lubbecke Way, St Georges Road and Long Bridge Way will only be fully appreciated once in place. The impact of the proposals will be monitored.

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 2.4.

Matthew Piles

Service Director for Environment, Infrastructure and Economy

March 2018