

Agenda Item:

Regulatory Committee

4b
(i)

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	30 July 2015
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions - Petition requesting 'Improving Road Safety in Rushall Lane, Corfe Mullen'
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council's published petitions scheme) requesting 'Improving Road Safety in Rushall Lane, Corfe Mullen'.</p> <p>The Scheme states that if a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee.</p> <p>It is for the Committee to decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.</p>
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not required.
	Use of Evidence: Not required.
	Budget/ Risk Assessment: N/A
Recommendation	The Committee 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location Plan• Site signing and lining plan
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme Dorset County Council Speed Limit Policy Document Copy of petition and supporting papers Traffic and Speed Counts 2014/15
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Andrew Brown Tel: 01305 225142 Email: a.brown@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. **Background to the Petition Scheme**

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme (based on the national model) was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee. 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 – Petition requesting 'Improving Road Safety in Rushall Lane, Corfe Mullen'**

- 2.1 The County Council received a petition on 14 June 2015 organised by Mr Richard Wirdnam of Warland Way, Corfe Mullen. This reads as follows:-

This petition is about improving road safety in Rushall Lane, Corfe Mullen and asks Dorset County Council to consider means of improving road safety - such means to include speed restrictions, additional traffic awareness signs and the cutting back of vegetation.

- 2.2 As this petition now contains more than 50 signatures, the Committee are invited to note and discuss this.
- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include:
- taking the action requested in the petition
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - holding a meeting with petitioners
 - referring the petition for consideration by the council's audit and scrutiny committee
 - calling a referendum
 - writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition
 - no further action

3. **Context**

- 3.1 The petition contains 955 signatures from within the County of Dorset. There were a further 46 signatures from outside Dorset and 11 with no signature.
- 3.2 Rushall Lane is a C Class road located between Corfe Mullen and Lychett Matravers as shown on the attached plan. The lane is 2.2 km's in length.
- 3.3 There have been no reported personal injury accidents in the latest available 5 year period (01/12/2009 to 30/11/2014) along this section of road.
- 3.4 Rushall Lane is a rural country lane flanked by hedgerows and trees with a number of residential properties set back from the highway at the western end, followed by a nursing home and driveways to more properties.

Along the route there are a number of stables with a high number of horses stabled at them. Rides out include using Rushall Lane and local bridleways. Warning to drivers is given by way of 3 horse warning signs, which are used in locations where drivers might expect to see a higher than usual number of horse's, specifically near stables and bridleways.

Towards the eastern end near Stoney Down Farm there are 2 sharp bends which are signed at each end by double bend signs with additional 'SLOW' road markings. The majority of the lane has no centre lines, however there are warning centre lines located through the double bends.

Near the junction of Waterloo Road is Castle Court School which is a private school for children from pre school age to 16 years old.

3.5 Rushall Lane has an existing 7.5 tonne vehicle van (except for loading) restriction.

3.6 Following a request from local County Councillor Mrs Jefferies and local residents in 2014, the site was fully investigated to ascertain if further measures were required.

As part of the investigation 2 separate traffic and speed surveys were carried out at 2 different locations which are shown on the attached plan. Survey results are summarised below:

Thursday 18 September 2014 to 24 September 2014 (inclusive of both dates) at the eastern end

	7 Day average volume	85%ile speed	Mean speed
Westbound	408	36.5	30.3
Eastbound	454	39.8	32.8

Monday 23 March 2015 to Sunday 30 March 2015 (inclusive of both dates) near Rushall Park Stables.

	7 Day average volume	85%ile speed	Mean speed
Westbound	361	46.5	37.7
Eastbound	390	46.7	38

The studies showed that traffic mean speeds are acceptable on a rural lane such as this.

Further to the traffic surveys 2 site visits were carried out in conjunction with the local county councillor and users of the lane from the stables.

On site, as per para 3.4 it was noted that there are 3 No. existing horse warning signs, 2 double bend warning signs with associated 'SLOW' markings and a hazard centre line through the area of bends.

- 3.7 The Committee is asked to consider the petition and evidence in conjunction with the context before making a decision as to a way forward, examples of which are shown in para 2.3.

Andrew Martin
Head of Highways
June 2015

Rushall Lane – Location Plan





