

**STOCKPORT COUNCIL**  
**EXECUTIVE REPORT – SUMMARY SHEET**

**Subject: Windlehurst Road Traffic Calming Consultation**

**Report to: (a)** Marple Area Committee

**Date:** Wednesday, 10 March 2021

**Report of: (b)** Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

**Key Decision: (c)** **NO / ~~YES~~** (Please circle)

Forward Plan ☐ General Exception ☐ Special Urgency ☐ (Tick box)

**Summary:**

This report has been prepared to present the findings of a consultation with residents and businesses of High Lane in relation to the existing traffic calming measures on Windlehurst Road.

**Recommendation(s):**

Currently there are no recommendations associated with this report until such time that further funding is made available to progress into the next steps.

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** (if decision called in): **(d)**  
Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee

**Background Papers** (if report for publication): **(e)**

There are none.

Contact person for accessing  
background papers and discussing the report

**Officer:** Pam Hibbert  
Tel: 0161-474-4840

**‘Urgent Business’: (f)** **~~YES~~ / NO** (please circle)

**Certification** (if applicable)

This report should be considered as ‘urgent business’ and the decision exempted from ‘call-in’ for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as ‘urgent business’ was obtained on \_\_\_\_\_ /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

## **Windlehurst Road Traffic Calming Consultation**

### **Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to present the findings of a consultation with residents and businesses of High Lane in relation to the existing traffic calming measures on Windlehurst Road.
- 1.2 This report provides the background to the current concerns raised and includes a summary of these. Details of the public consultation are set out, with a detailed supporting consultation report appended and this is concluded with a summary of the next steps which are to be progressed.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. A series of consultations have taken place ahead and following the opening of the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR) in October 2018. This led to the implementation of a series of mitigation measures throughout High Lane.
- 2.2. During the first stage of public consultation in 2015, Stockport Council asked for feedback from local residents and stakeholders to understand existing issues and concerns in relation to the predicted, potential increase in traffic as a result of the A6MARR to inform the development of the proposed mitigation measures.
- 2.3. The comments received included:
  - The speed, behaviour and make up of traffic flow on the A6, Windlehurst Road, Torkington Road, Threaphurst Lane and various residential roads, in particular heavy goods vehicles using local roads;
  - Congestion at the A6 / Windlehurst Road junction;
  - Rat-running on various residential roads; and
  - The level of provision for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users on the A6, Windlehurst Road, Torkington Road and Threaphurst Lane including access to Middlewood Railway Station.
- 2.4. The comments received were used to inform the development of traffic mitigation measures which included the introduction and construction of:
  - A 20mph speed limit on various residential roads;
  - Speed management measures on Windlehurst Road and Andrew Lane;
  - Improvement works at the A6 / Windlehurst Road junction;
  - 'Quiet lane' measures on Threaphurst Lane (entire length) and Torkington Lane (from Threaphurst Lane to Windlehurst Road) including 30mph speed limit entry gateway signing, speed restraint measures, improved street lighting and road markings;
  - A reduced speed limit from derestricted (60mph) to 40mph on Torkington Road (from Threaphurst Lane to the existing 30mph speed limit near Torkington Manor);

- A zonal 7.5 tonne weight limit (with exceptions for bus services and local access) in an area bounded by the A6 (not included in restriction), Torkington Road / Offerton Road (not included in restriction), Barnsfold Road / Hawk Green Road (not included in restriction), Ridge Road / Wybersley Road (included in restriction) and Light Alders Lane (not included in restriction);
- A new Puffin (traffic signal controlled pedestrian) crossing on the A6 near Alderdale Drive and the War Memorial; and
- Pedestrian, cycle and equestrian facilities at the crossing proposed as part of the A6MARR scheme at Norbury Hollow Road.

2.5. However, further local traffic concerns have been raised by Members and local residents. As a result, Stockport Council undertook a feedback consultation exercise during February 2020. The aim of this consultation was to understand these local traffic concerns and seek to identify possible solutions that could alleviate some of the problems.

2.6. One question on the response form related to Windlehurst Road and asked respondents to identify issues and potential solutions. The responses were reviewed and several concerns were raised relating to the current traffic calming measures along Windlehurst Road.

2.7. A further public consultation has been undertaken in January to February 2021 which focused specifically on the existing Windlehurst Road traffic calming and this report presents an overview of the results of this consultation.

### **3. LEGAL POSITION/IMPLICATIONS**

3.1. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **4. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS**

4.1. No alternative solutions were considered as part of this consultation.

### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1. An area wide public consultation was undertaken between Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021, asking the local community for their views on the existing traffic calming measures along Windlehurst Road between the A6 and Broadhurst's Bridge.

5.2. The consultation comprised a letter drop to 500 properties that either directly live or work on Windlehurst Road or where access to their property can only be made via Windlehurst Road. This letter provided the public with an opportunity to either complete a paper survey or return by freepost or via an online survey webpage on Stockport Council's 'have your say' website.

5.3. Temporary signage was erected throughout High Lane on lighting columns to ensure that residents in the surrounding area were able to provide their views.

5.4. In addition, local Councillors were notified of the intention to consult prior to the consultation period commencing.

- 5.5. A total of 946 replies were received in response to the consultation. This is included 827 online responses, 105 written responses, 11 emails and 3 voicemails. All of which have been reviewed and analysed to understand the general feeling towards the existing traffic calming measures along Windlehurst Road.
- 5.6. A high level summary of the response has been provided. A review of the results indicates that the majority (81%) of respondents agree that traffic calming on Windlehurst Road should be reviewed and removed in some sections. The results for the respondents who either Agreed or Strongly Agreed that traffic calming should be removed for Section 1 (between the A6 and Andrew Lane) and Section 2 (between Andrew Lane and Broadhurst's Bridge) are summarised within the following table.

| <b>Response</b> | <b>Section 1 - A6 to Andrew Lane</b> | <b>Section 2 - Andrew Lane to Broadhurst's Bridge</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Strongly Agree  | 60%                                  | 77%   |
| Agree           | 18%                                  | 12%   |
| Total           | 77%                                  | 89%   |

- 5.7. The table above identifies that there is support for removal of the traffic calming along both sections of Windlehurst Road. However, there is greater support for removal of the traffic calming along the northern section (section 2 between Andrew Lane and Broadhurst's Bridge). It is however noted that many of the responses were received from residents living away from the Windlehurst Road area itself.
- 5.8. Respondents were also asked to select all boxes that applied to the following statement: 'As a result of the traffic calming. The following table summarises the responses for Section 1 (between the A6 and Andrew Lane) and Section 2 (between Andrew Lane and Broadhurst's Bridge).

| <b>Response</b>   | <b>Section 1 - A6 to Andrew Lane</b> | <b>Section 2 - Andrew Lane to Broadhurst's Bridge</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| I feel more comfortable walking or cycling along Windlehurst Road | 4%                                   | 2%  |
| I don't like driving along Windlehurst Road                       | 80%                                  | 86%   |
| I think there is too much road noise                              | 18%                                  | 19%   |
| I feel that the speed of traffic has reduced                      | 14%                                  | 9%  |
| I don't like how the traffic calming scheme looks                 | 19%                                  | 23%   |
| Other   | 21%                                  | 20%   |

- 5.9. In addition to specific questions raised in the survey, respondents were invited to provide additional comments on their opinion of the existing traffic calming features. The table below indicates the common themes raised as concerns in both Sections 1 and 2 along Windlehurst Road.

|   | <b>Section 1</b>                        | <b>Section 2</b>                                |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Vehicle Damage                          | Vehicle Damage                                  |
| 2 | Traffic calming ineffective             | Traffic calming too severe                      |
| 3 | Unpleasant / uncomfortable journey      | Suggests speed cameras as alternative           |
| 4 | Traffic calming too severe              | Traffic calming ineffective                     |
| 5 | Traffic calming increases air pollution | Unpleasant / uncomfortable journey              |
| 6 | Too many speed bumps                    | Causes vehicles to swerve around speed cushions |
| 7 | Suggests speed cameras as alternative   | Traffic calming increases air pollution         |

5.10. It is noted that there are some conflicting comments that have been received, namely that in some circumstances, the feedback was that the traffic calming was ineffective, whilst others believed the traffic calming was too severe.

5.11. Whilst there appears to be an overwhelming majority on the desire for the traffic calming measures to be removed, it should be noted that the responses requested alternative measures including, speed cameras, indicating that there is and has been a concern for speeding vehicles.

5.12. For further detailed analysis of the consultation, a detailed report providing commentary on consultation methods, the responses and comments received to the consultation can be found in the 'Windlehurst Traffic Calming Measures – Consultation Report' included as **Appendix A**.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. There are currently no financial implications and no proposals have been identified within this report.

6.2. However, it should be noted that any proposals which do arise from the next steps are subject to securing the appropriate funding and aligns with both local Councillor, community and officer recommendations.

## **7. TIMESCALES**

7.1. The next steps of this process include a meeting with Local Councillors at the end of May or early June to discuss the way forward in relation to the consultation results.

## **8. EQUALITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1. Equal Opportunities

- To provide a suitable and safer environment for pedestrians and other road users. The scheme contributes to the Council's vision statement "Promote equal life outcomes for all by tackling known inequalities across the borough of Stockport".

8.2. Sustainable Environment

- To develop and sustain a healthy, safe and attractive local environment which contributes to Stockport. Stockport Council understands the responsibility it has to lead by example and help the broader community make a positive contribution to the local environment.

## **9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1. This report provides information on the latest consultation undertaken in High Lane and the presents the findings of the survey in relation to existing traffic calming measures along Windlehurst Road.
- 9.2. The consultation report identifies that approximately half of the responses received to this public consultation were from residents who live outside the High Lane area. It is considered likely that these residents utilise Windlehurst Road as a driving route and would not experience the impacts of speeding along Windlehurst Road to the same extent as the residents who live alongside or adjacent to the road who are directly affected on a daily basis.
- 9.3. Within the consultation and the correspondence received, the speed of vehicles is still very much a concern, particularly with those who walk, cycle and ride horses along this route.
- 9.4. It is recommended that additional analysis is undertaken to better understand the various perspectives based on geographical locations prior to any decisions being made regarding the retention or removal of the existing traffic calming measures along Windlehurst Road.
- 9.5. Currently there are no recommendations associated with this report until such time that further funding is made available to progress into the next steps.

### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers to this report.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Pam Hibbert on telephone number Tel: 0161-474-4840 or by email on [pam.hibbert@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:pam.hibbert@stockport.gov.uk)