

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

**Subject: Partial Removal of Windlehurst Road Traffic Calming**

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

**Date:** 18 October 2023

**Report of: (b)** Director of Place Management

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

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency  (Tick box)

**Summary:**

To report the findings of a consultation exercise on the proposed mitigation measures once the partial removal of traffic calming has taken place.

**Recommendation(s):**

For the Marple Area Committee and the Cabinet Member to consider the consultation responses and instruct Network Management to continue with the partial removal of traffic calming measures, and installation of virtual speed cushions.

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

Communities & Transport Scrutiny Committee

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

[Stockport Council - Agenda for Marple Area Committee on Wednesday, 10th March, 2021, 6.00 pm](#)

[Stockport Council - Agenda for Marple Area Committee on Wednesday, 4th August, 2021, 6.00 pm](#)

[Stockport Council - Agenda for Marple Area Committee on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2022, 6.00 pm](#)

[Stockport Council - Agenda for Marple Area Committee on Wednesday, 19th October, 2022, 6.00 pm](#)

[Stockport Council - Agenda for Marple Area Committee on Wednesday, 13th September, 2023, 6.00 pm](#)

Contact person for accessing  
background papers and discussing the report

**Officer:** Gemma Brady  
gemma.brady@stockport.gov.uk

**'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.

## Marple Area Committee

### Partial Removal of Windlehurst Road Traffic Calming

#### Report of the Director of Place Management

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the findings of a consultation exercise on the proposed mitigation measures once the partial removal of traffic calming has taken place. As shown in **Drawing No: NM31-WINDLEHURST\_RD-02.**

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A series of consultations have taken place ahead of and following the opening of the A6 to Manchester Relief Road (A6MARR) in October 2018. This led to the implementation of a series of mitigation measures throughout High Lane.
- 2.2. At the June 2022 Marple Area Committee, approval was given to the removal of speed cushions 4 to 9 on Windlehurst Road, between Andrew Lane and Torkington Lane, which have been highlighted as a priority by ward councillors.
- 2.3. Due to concerns from some residents regarding the partial removal, mitigation measures were proposed and affected residents were consulted with.
- 2.4 Accident data:

Between 01/01/2014 and 01/01/2017 before the traffic calming measures were installed:

There were five reported accidents, one serious and four slight.

One slight accident was at the junction of Windlehurst Lane and Andrew Lane which was a turning manoeuvre.

The other four accidents occurred at the junction of Windlehurst Lane and Torkington Road. Two of which were turning manoeuvres and two relate to drivers taking the bend too wide, one was an inexperienced driver drifting into the wrong lane.

Between 01/01/2017 and 01/01/ 2023 after the traffic calming measures were installed:

There were two reported slight accidents. One 65m north of the junction with Andrew Lane where the driver collided with a parked vehicle. The other being a turning manoeuvre at the junction of Torkington Lane.

- 2.5 There are vehicle active signs on Windlehurst Lane on the approach to the junction with Torkington Lane. These were installed as part of the A555 mitigation measures and are to be retained.

### 3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 To avoid confusion, the legal notification was posted at the same time as the consultation for the mitigation measures. Though the consultation document stated the responses were for the mitigation measures only, some residents still used this form to comment on the removal of the cushions (**see Appendix A - Consultation Letter**)
- 3.2 The Local Ward Councillors have been consulted and no adverse comments were received.
- 3.3 Greater Manchester Police have been consulted with and no adverse comments were received.
- 3.4 From a total of 65 letters sent to residents, we received 36 (56%) direct responses. Of those responses, 7 (19%) selected that they agreed with the proposals and 25 (70%) selected that they did not agree. Within the responses that selected they did not agree was one response on behalf of 15 residents combined. This response was split between objecting to the legal notifications to the removal of the cushions and commenting that they disagreed with the mitigation proposals. 4 (11%) respondents did not specify whether they agreed or disagreed to the proposals.
- 3.5 It should be noted that although some respondents ticked 'agree' to the mitigation measure proposals, they appear to in fact to agree to the legal notification to the removal of the cushions, rather than the mitigation measures. Some respondents ticked 'disagree' to the mitigation measures where they appear to be disagreeing to the legal notification of the removal of the cushions.

Some comments made by those who selected 'agree' to the proposals:

- A resident stated that traffic calming was required. Dangerous for pedestrians, horses, cyclists and turning traffic. Footpath is narrow in places with no footpath on the other side.
- Slowing traffic on Windlehurst Road just means motorists will use Andrew Lane as a rat run more and more following the opening of the bypass A555. the traffic on Andrew Lane has increased considerably as has air pollution.
- We welcome attempts to control speeding and agree to any measures replacing the speed cushions which are proven to cause damage to the cars of even those who drive carefully.
- Is a Speed Camera an option?
- The bumps should be removed further up Windlehurst towards A6.

Some comments made by those who selected 'disagree' to the proposals:

- A resident stated splitter islands are basically refuges for pedestrians and there is no evidence they slow traffic down.
- A number of residents stated they are opposed to traffic calming measures.
- One resident raised concerns that the speed of cars will increase and make it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road, requesting a 20mph speed limit.
- Another resident stated the proposed splitter islands would be an option which would reduce the boy racers, requested a speed camera and virtual speed cushions (markings) are just a waste of paint and labour.

Comments made by those who did not specify agree or disagree to the proposals:

- Vehicles have to move to the middle of the road to avoid speed humps causing greater pollution; and noise with constant speed changes. The access is much better off to the A6; we need a clear road to Torkington Lane, which will be much safer. The vehicles parked in Windlehurst Village at the end Andrew Lane half on the road, and half on the pavement on double white lines, should be removed before an accident occurs.
- If the speed cushions must be moved then the speed limit should be reduced to 20mph to reduce the chance of accidents and allow pedestrian to safely cross the road.

### 3.6 Traffic Services comments

- Any application for a new speed camera site is assessed by the Safer Roads Partnership who will determine if the site meets the criteria based on the number of killed or seriously injured persons. Enforcement is targeted at locations where there is evidence of personal injury collisions related to speed as a contributory factor. Therefore, considering the data shown at 2.6, Windlehurst Road does not meet the criteria for a speed camera.
- Traffic island narrowing lanes, using traffic islands and/or road markings can give the impression of a more confined road and result in reduced speeds. The proposed traffic islands are not intended for pedestrian use.
- Some residents had concerns that the virtual cushions will not be as effective as the physical ones. Virtual cushions are in place elsewhere in the Borough and we have received positive feedback since their installation.
- Parking within a double white line system is enforced by the police.
- Letters can be issued to landowners to advise them that it is their responsibility to cut back any vegetation that is overgrowing the footway, causing an obstruction.
- 20mph speed limits are not advised on a strategic route due to the amount/type of traffic using this route.

## 4 PROPOSALS

4.1 Due to the lack of support from residents and accident Traffic Services recommendations are to remove the physical cushions and replace with virtual cushions only as shown on **Drawing No: NM31-WINDLEHURST\_RD-02**.

4.2 To monitor the road for the next three years reporting these results to Marple area committee.

## 5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The removal of the traffic calming measures will be funded by the Highways Infrastructure Programme (HIP) budget.

## 6 TIMESCALES

6.1 Work is scheduled for Autumn/Winter 2023

## 7 EQUALITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 7.1 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".

### 7.2 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.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 For the Marple Area Committee and the Cabinet Member to consider the consultation responses and instruct Network Management to continue with the partial removal of traffic calming measures, and installation of virtual speed cushions.

### Background Papers

[Stockport Council - Agenda for Marple Area Committee on Wednesday, 10th March, 2021, 6.00 pm](#)

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Anyone wishing further information please contact Gemma Brady on [gemma.brady@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.brady@stockport.gov.uk)

## Appendix A



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Occupier

Our Ref: NM31/Windlehurst/23  
19/07/2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Removal of Windlehurst Road Traffic Calming Measures, High Lane**

Following the Marple Area Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 approval was granted to remove six sets of speed cushions on Windlehurst Road, between Andrew Lane and Torkington Lane.

The notification will be advertised by Legal Services in the local press and on-site. The closing date for comments will be **10<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. You can view details of the legal notices on our website at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/proposed-traffic-regulations-in-your-area>. Please follow the instructions on the notice to make any comments.

As the above is at legal notice stage, we are consulting with local residents on the proposed mitigation measures as per the attached plan, **Drawing No: NM31/Windlehurst Road\_Rd/02**

The proposals include:

Installation of 3 x traffic island

Installation of virtual speed cushions

Please use the form overleaf to make comments on **the mitigation measures** only. Alternatively, you can send your response to [tro.consult@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:tro.consult@stockport.gov.uk)

Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Brady'.

**Gemma Brady**  
Transportation Officer

**Objections to the removal of speed cushions must be made via the legal notice instructions.**

**This form is to make comments on the mitigation measures only**

**Introduction of Traffic Calming Measures**

**Please put 'X' against your preferred preference**

Agree	
Disagree	

**Name & Address (Anonymous responses will not be considered)**

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**Comments**

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***Please note all consultation responses will be considered, however, individual responses will not be provided.***