

Petition – Lets Work Together to Stop the Speeding and Misuse of our Villages

Report by Executive Director: Place

1 Purpose of Report

To advise the Board of a decision by the Petitions Committee on 10 December 2019 to pass a petition from F. Gilbert calling upon the Council to work with her and others who signed the Petition to stop speeding and misuse of villages whereby roads may be classified as “B” but are residential and through traffic has to respect this.

2 Petition

The petition was signed by 112 residents. 75 signatories did not provide an address, the remaining 37 listed their addresses in the following streets in Bonnyrigg – High Street, Burnbrae Road, Hillhead, Viewpark Gardens, Polton Road, Broomieknowe, Golf Course Road, James Leary Way, Pentland Road

3 Petitions Committee

At a meeting of the Petitions Committee on 10 December 2019, it was agreed that the Petition be passed to the Police and Fire and Rescue Board for consideration.

4. Conclusion of Investigation by Road Services

4.1 Assessment of the road crashes causing injury occurring on the High Street/Hillhead/Golf Course road section of the road during the past 5 years determines it is no worse than over junctions/sections of road within Bonnyrigg and other towns in Midlothian.

Vehicle speeds were recorded during a continuous 6 day assessment and show that vehicle speeds were not excessive and were mostly observed around the existing speed limit. Therefore the Council has no plans to introduce either a reduced speed limit or traffic calming. In this instance the vehicle speeds which are a cause for concern for local residents should be enforced by the Police.

As High Street/Hillhead is part of an important B classified local distributor road and important bus route, there is no plan to impose any weight restrictions on the route.

Persons living close to a road, are likely to experience some ground borne and airborne vibration. Previous research has shown there is no evidence to demonstrate that ground borne vibration is a source of significant damage to buildings and there is no evidence airborne

vibration can cause even minor damage. On that basis any person who felt their property had suffered structural or superficial damaged caused by road related ground borne or airborne vibration would have to demonstrate the damage was directly caused by traffic.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Council do proposed to introduce double yellow lines north of the junction with the Golf Course road as it is considered this measure would assist vehicles exiting from the road. It would also be seen by oncoming vehicles thereby reducing the risk of a road crash.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Resource

The decision of the Petitions Committee on 10 December 2019 was to refer the Petition to the Board for consideration. The Board's remit does not extend to instructing the installation of signs or road markings. It is understood the Petitions Committee's decision was by way of passing the matter to the Police and Fire and Rescue Board with a view to the concerns raised in the Petition being drawn to the attention of Police Scotland. The Board's remit does include notification of any Midlothian policing matters.

5.2 Risk

None

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- X Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The availability of a Petitions Committee allows stakeholders to raise issues for consideration by the Council. The Petitions Committee in considering the Petition referred it to the Police and Fire and Rescue Board in accordance with its remit regarding notification of any Midlothian policing matters.

4.8 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

4.10 IT Issues

Not applicable.

5 Recommendation

1. The Committee is invited to note the decision of the Petitions Committee on 10 December 2019 and refer the matter of vehicle speeds causing concern to local residents to Police Scotland for enforcement.

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