

## 20 mph Speed Limit in Lasswade Village

### Report by Hillary Kelly, Head of Customer Services

#### 1 Purpose of Report

To present a petition from residents of Lasswade Village for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit at that location.

#### 2 Petition

- 2.1 The attached petition (**Appendix 1**) has been received from Mrs Janet Jerome, Candleford, 2a Elm Row, Lasswade for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in Lasswade Village.

#### 3 Petitions – Rules and Procedures

- 3.1 In accordance with the decision of the Council on 25 September 2012 when the Petitions Committee was established, it was agreed that:-

- (a) the Head of Customer Services would have responsibility for validating petitions; and
- (b) that the Petitions Committee would have the final decision on those which were deemed by the Head of Customer Services to be invalid, etc.

- 3.2 The procedures for the Midlothian Council Petitions Committee are modelled on those in use at Renfrewshire Council. The adopted Midlothian procedures identify 11 categories for which petitions cannot be made. The submitted petition is not proscribed by any of these categories and is therefore valid.

- 3.3 The petition is in the following terms,viz:-

*“Plea*

*This petition seeks to create an enhanced and safe road environment for the residents of Midlothian's Conservation Village of Lasswade by, creating a "20's Plenty" speed limit on the A768 High Street and its adjacent feeder roads as outlined on the appended map.*

*Critical Factors*

*1. Over the past three years, the growth of housing developments in Midlothian has resulted in an ever increasing volume of traffic using the A768. Although access to and from Polton Road has been improved, access to Westmill Wynd, School Green and Lasswade Park has become increasingly hazardous. Also, the Laird and Dog car park, G2G3 premises and all the Village residents who have a driveway adjacent to the A:768, find it increasing difficult to join the road as the traffic flow is too fast, even at 30 mph, to enter the main road safely.*

2. The road at the Bridge across the River North Esk requires the negotiation of a 45 degree corner when travelling West through the Village and several recent collisions demonstrate that vehicle speed on approach is critical, especially when a large bus or lorry is part of oncoming traffic.

The current 30mph limit travelling West on Melville Dykes Road is 20 yards beyond the entrance to the Village and only 5 yards before the junction with the 8704 road from Hillhead. This is clearly an anomaly. Also, at the entrance to the Village travelling East, the speed limit area is so close to a sharp 40 degree bend that many vehicles do not slow sufficiently to negotiate the corner and are forced to cross the centre line into the path of oncoming traffic at the apex.

3. The excessive speed of some traffic on the A768 and Polton Road has long been a major concern of Lasswade residents. Despite traffic calming measures on Polton Road and the road narrowings at both entrances to the Village, a significant percentage of vehicles exceed the 30mph speed limit, some of them to an alarming and dangerous extent. At peak times, heavy volumes of traffic create queues which slow down traffic, however, when traffic is lighter, there is a serious speeding problem with all sizes of vehicles (including buses) when entering the Village.

4. The above concerns have been voiced consistently over the past three years by Lasswade and District Civic Society to Midlothian Council Members and Officials, to no avail. Members of LDCS and the residents of Lasswade have noticed that a significant amount of road safety measures, including speed reminding signs, traffic calming measures and speed restrictions have been applied widely throughout Midlothian. Conversely, strong pleas from Lasswade and surrounding district for a less dangerous and lower risk road environment, within a designated conservation area, have been neglected.

5. The considerable number of signatories appended with this plea of petition clearly demonstrates the weight of local opinion which Midlothian Council surely cannot ignore. During the signature canvassing the canvassers were astonished at the depth of feeling and frustration expressed by residents and other users about the speed and behaviour of vehicle drivers going through the Village. The signees put forward a number of alternative solutions as noted below:-

Speed Cameras for the current 30mph zone.

Speed Signs showing vehicle speed and "slow down" message.

Speed Bumps

Yellow boxes at junctions such as at the entrance at G2G3 and the Laird and Dog, where employees and customers find it impossible to enter the traffic stream every week day evening.

Better road marking at bends to ensure traffic moving in opposite directions is kept well apart.

Bridge Widening.

A Village By-pass."

- 3.4** The petition itself contains a total of 254 signatures. A copy of this petition has been placed in the Members Library.

## **4 Report Implications**

### **4.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising from this report. In the event that the Committee agree to support the petition the revenue implications of that decision would require to be quantified to allow the recommendation to be considered.

### **4.2 Risk**

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

### **4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ 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 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Not applicable.

### **4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Not applicable.

### **4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

The availability of a Petitions Committee allows stakeholders to raise issues for consideration by the Council.

### **4.7 Ensuring Equalities**

Not applicable.

### **4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

Not applicable.

### **4.9 IT Issues**

Not applicable.

## **5 Recommendation**

The Committee is invited to consider the petition from residents of Lasswade Village for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit at that location.

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