

# Minute of Meeting



## Petitions Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 18 September 2018	10.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

### Present:

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)	Councillor Baird
Councillor Curran	Councillor Russell
Councillor Munro	

### Also Present:

Mrs Logan	Petitioner
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### In attendance:

Garry Sheret	Head of Property and Facilities Management
Lyndsay Haddow	Policy Planning Manager
Gordon Aitken	Democratic Services Officer

### 1. Apology

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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Winchester.

### 2. Order of Business

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The order of business was as per the Agenda circulated.

### 3 Appointment of Chair

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The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Cassidy as Chair of the Petitions Committee

### 4 Declarations of interest

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No declarations of interest were received.

### 5 Reports

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Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Traffic Calming Measures at Old Edinburgh Road, Dalkeith	Garry Sheret
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>There was submitted report dated 3 September 2018 by the Director, Resources incorporating a petition from Mrs J Logan calling upon the Council to install traffic calming measures and signage at Old Edinburgh Road, Dalkeith to slow down traffic and alert drivers to the fact there were elderly people crossing at all times of the day, some of whom are very infirm or use mobility vehicles.</p> <p>The Committee then heard from Mrs Logan who advised that the Petition was to highlight the fact that traffic on Old Edinburgh Road was dangerous to the residents in and around the area. In order to slow it down they wished traffic calming measures to be put in place as well as signage to alert drivers to the fact that there were elderly people crossing at all times of the day, some of whom are very infirm or used mobility vehicles.</p> <p>Garry Sheret then addressed the Committee. He provided further information advising that Roads Services had assessed a request for traffic calming and or increased signage on Old Edinburgh Road.</p> <p>A traffic survey carried out from 17-25 April 2018 found an average of 3100 vehicles per day, at an average speed of just under 26mph. 85%ile speeds (ie speed which 85% of traffic travelled at or below) were 31mph.</p> <p>The traffic survey also measured gaps between passing vehicles to find how long a pedestrian would have to wait to cross the road without relying on traffic slowing or stopping. If they could cross the road in a 10 second gap then they only 4 times in the week would they have to have waited for more than one minute for a suitable gap, and two-thirds of the time they wouldn't have to wait at all. But if they needed a 15 second gap then there were 2 -3 times per hour they would have had to wait for more than a minute. This assumed crossing both lanes at once: if they used the nearby pedestrian refuge to cross each lane separately there would be less waiting time.</p> <p>The council prioritised road safety improvements by injury accidents. Traffic calming was installed where there was both an injury accident issue and a speeding issue. This was not deemed to be the case. In addition to this, adding road safety infrastructure that was not deemed essential could actually increase accidents.</p>		

The installation of traffic calming measures and signage would have a resource implication for the Council. A designed traffic calming scheme could cost in the region of £20,000 to £50,000. There was also an additional cost to maintaining any features constructed.

There followed a general discussion on the detail of the Petition and the subsequent issues raised during which Members acknowledged the effect to the community as described by Mrs Logan.

In summing-up Mrs Logan expressed surprise at some of the results of the traffic Survey which had been carried out, particularly in relation to the average speed having been estimated at 26MPH as this appeared to conflict with what the residents had witnessed.

The Chair thanked Mrs Logan for attending.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

- (a) That there was no evidence to suggest that a reduction in the speed limit at this location was either necessary or would be beneficial; and
- (b) That appropriate street signage advising drivers that there were elderly people crossing the road at all times of the day be erected on this stretch of road.

Action – Director, Resources/Head of Commercial Operations

The meeting terminated at 10.50 am.