

Report of DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

Report to EXECUTIVE BOARD

Date: 20 JUNE 2012

Subject: DEPUTATION – HAVEN CHASE 20MPH SPEED LIMIT REQUEST

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Weetwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report responds to the Deputation received by Council on the 28th March from Ella Craggs and her friends regarding their concerns over the speed and impact of traffic on Haven Chase, Cookridge for which they have requested a 20mph speed limit.
2. There is an established ongoing priority programme for the extension of 20 mph speed limits in the city. Recent changes in Government guidance for such schemes have also made it simpler to introduce schemes and the Council is working to take advantage of these changes.
3. An evaluation of Haven Chase has taken place and is detailed in the report. A programme for 20mph speed limits around schools is currently being rolled out on a prioritised basis and proposals for the Silk Mill area, including the Tinshill Pupil Referral Unit are currently at an early stage of development. Haven Chase abuts this area and hence it is considered feasible to amend any proposals to include it and nearby streets in the scheme, which is anticipated to be brought forward for local consultation and implementation early next year.
4. The Council's Speed Indicator Device (SID) has proved effective in raising awareness of speeding issues when traffic is predominantly local. This is available to local communities and may be beneficial to the residents of Haven Chase in the time before a 20mph scheme is introduced.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended to Executive Board that;
- i) A letter is written to Ella Craggs thanking her for her excellent presentation on the traffic issues on Haven Chase, Cookridge and outlining the manner in which we will meet the request contained in her Deputation.
 - ii) Note the intention to expand the planned proposal for a 20mph scheme covering the Silk Mill area and Tinshill Pupil Referral Unit, so as to incorporate Haven Chase and nearby streets. This will be progressed as part of the forward programme of priority schemes, to expand the coverage of such priority schemes in areas surrounding schools.
 - iii) Note that the Council's Speed Indicator Device (SID) is available for the local community to use to raise awareness among motorists of traffic speed issues both for Haven Chase and other areas of the city.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a response to a recent Deputation from Ella Craggs of Haven Chase, Cookridge. The request was for a 20mph Speed Limit around the streets where she and her friends live and play.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Deputation was presented at Full Council on March 28th 2012 by Ella Craggs and young residents of Haven Chase in Cookridge, who have concerns regarding the speed of vehicles on their street and have requested a 20mph speed limit.
- 2.2 The young residents perceive the speeds to be high and have concerns for their safety, emphasising that it makes them less likely to play outside. They also highlight the statistic that a high percentage of accidents occur within one mile from the home. The full speech is attached in Appendix A.
- 2.3 In recent years over sixty 20mph schemes have been introduced within residential areas across Leeds. The programme has now addressed many of the residential areas with large clusters of road casualties. However, there remain extensive areas of residential Leeds, that it has not been possible to cover with this programme to-date, where road casualty patterns are more dispersed and more extensive coverage of 20mph speed limits would be desirable.
- 2.4 Recent Government changes to the regulations concerning signing and management of 20mph speed limits came into effect in November 2011. The consequence of the regulatory change are that the requirements for a scheme to be introduced, in many circumstances, are now less onerous than hitherto, which potentially makes it possible to deliver more extensive schemes from within the resources available to the Council. The opportunities offered by these changes are now being taken on board in terms of the future development of the 20mph scheme

programmes being planned for current and future years. In particular, it is expected that it will be possible to address wider areas and thus tackle some of the more dispersed road casualty patterns. The schemes will further support sustainable mobility by walking and cycling with wider benefits to safety and the quality of local neighbourhoods.

- 2.5 Six schemes around schools were introduced in the autumn of last year as a pilot programme, which anticipated the change in guidance. One of these schemes was a 20mph scheme based around Holy Name Catholic Primary School, near to Haven Chase where the children live. A second package of 10 school schemes are now being prepared for implementation this year and development has begun for a package of a further 20 priority schemes to be included in the programme for later this year and early next year.
- 2.6 The intention is that these further schemes will cover larger areas than the schemes contained within the pilot. Using A-roads or other natural boundaries to help identify the areas, the intention is to encompass as many residential streets as possible within the schemes. These programmes are being monitored carefully and will inform the future development of such schemes. It is intended that as well as targeting road casualties, further attention will be given when establishing priorities, to the wider benefits lower speed limits bring to communities in terms of easier mobility for pedestrians and cyclists, and the wider benefits for neighbourhoods.
- 2.7 Since the Deputation was served officers have carried out speed surveys and investigated the injury accident data. The speed surveys showed that the mean traffic speed in this area was 17.8 mph, which is below the normal baseline criteria of 24mph, for the introduction of 20 mph schemes on these types of roads. Examination of the data reveals that there have been no road injuries on Haven Chase in the last 8 years.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 Ella and her friends are concerned about the speed of traffic on Haven Chase and how it inhibits them being able to play outside on the street.
- 3.2 As part of the programme development described above, the Silk Mill area based around the Tinshill Pupil Referral Unit, in Cookridge has been provisionally identified, through the future scheme evaluation and prioritisation process, for inclusion in the outline programme of 20mph schemes for implementation during 2013 (Appendix C).
- 3.3 It is feasible to extend the Silk Mill scheme proposals beyond those streets immediately surrounding the school, to include the adjacent area of Haven Chase and nearby roads, thus enabling the wider area to be covered by a 20mph speed limit with minimal modification to the proposals.
- 3.4 Whilst there are no recorded injury accidents in Haven Chase and the survey results indicate that speeds are not high, it is considered that a small extension of the scheme is both practical and potentially beneficial to residents and the local neighbourhood.
- 3.5 In cases where there are issues around local road traffic speeds, the Council's Speed Indicator Device (SID) (Appendix B) has proved to be an effective way of

raising speed awareness in local communities. The device is available for local community use and may assist in raising awareness in the local area, in the period before a scheme can be introduced.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The Weetwood Ward Councillors have been informed of the proposed response to the deputation. They fully support the proposals and believe it is an excellent response to Ella's deputation. Subject to the Executive Board approving this report, the provisional scheme proposals for the Silk Mill area will be developed to include Haven Chase and will be subject, in due course, to further consultation with residents and Ward Members in line with the Highways & Transportation consultation procedures.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An impact assessment has been carried out on 20mph schemes around schools and residential areas and the key positive and negative impacts are:

Positive Impacts

- Make it more pleasant to walk or cycle, encouraging a more healthy lifestyle
- Improve quality of life for the local community
- Provide safer passage whilst crossing the road to all pedestrians, especially those with mobility issues, disabled people, parents supporting pushchairs and young and old people.

Negative impacts

- Journey times may be increased very slightly within the relatively small area of the scheme, however every measure is taken to ensure that this is minimal
- Speed calming features may have a slight impact on emergency services, though this is mitigated by ensuring that the appropriate features are used as part of the scheme design process.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

The recommendations contained in this report reflect the objective in the Council's Business Plan to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads (based on a 5 year rolling average).

The recommendations contained in this report are also consistent with the following strategy proposals in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (2011 - 2026) :-

- Proposal 18 - Improve safety and security, seeking to minimise transport casualties
- Proposal 22 - Define, develop and manage networks and facilities to encourage cycling and walking.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

This report is a response to a Deputation to the Council and does not request any specific financial approvals. Detailed proposals and approval for funding will be subject to a separate report in due course in line with normal procedures for developing highway schemes.

The report outlines how the request of the Deputation can be met by the adaptation of a planned scheme proposal, which forms part of an agreed programme of schemes within the Local Transport Plan.

The report also describes how changes in Government guidance for 20 mph speed limits assists in the future delivery of such schemes in a more cost effective manner.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

There are no legal implications to this report.

4.6 Risk Management

The report recommends the inclusion of a 20mph limit for Haven Chase and the adjacent streets as part of a planned scheme in the Silk Mill area, which should be beneficial in the future management of traffic speeds in these areas.

Like any other highway scheme it is subject to the normal consultation and development procedures before implementation.

5. Conclusions

The recent changes in Government Guidance allow the Council, as the Highway Authority, greater flexibility in the introduction of 20mph schemes.

A 20mph speed limit can be included on Haven Chase as part of the proposals for the nearby Silk Mill 20mph scheme, which is programmed for implementation during 2013. The extents of this scheme can be increased to encompass Haven Chase and the nearby roads. Whilst there are no accidents on Haven Chase as such, it is expected that the inclusion of the area will be beneficial to the residents of this neighbourhood and the small area can be incorporated with minimal changes to the proposals.

The Council's Speed Indication Device is available to the local community should they wish to use it in the interim period before a scheme can be implemented.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended to Executive Board that:

- i) A letter is written to Ella Craggs thanking her for her excellent presentation on the traffic issues on Haven Chase, Cookridge and outlining the manner in which we will meet the request contained in her Deputation.

- ii) Note the intention to expand the planned proposal for a 20mph scheme covering the Silk Mill area and Tinshill Pupil Referral Unit, so as to incorporate Haven Chase and nearby streets. This will be progressed as part of the forward programme of priority schemes, to expand the coverage of such priority schemes in areas surrounding schools.
- iii) Note that the Council's Speed Indicator Device (SID) is available for the local community to use to raise awareness among motorists of traffic speed issues both for Haven Chase and other areas of the city.

7. Background documents¹

The following documents relate to this report

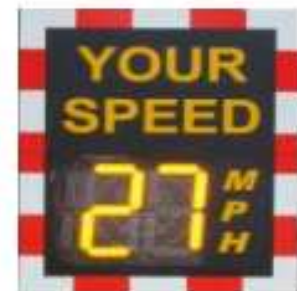
Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration impact assessment for school area 20mph schemes.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

Community Speed Awareness Scheme

- **Are you concerned about speed related issues in your local area?**
- **Are you a member of a Community Group?**
- **The Road Safety Promotion Unit is waiting to hear from you!**

Members of Community Groups can receive free training and borrow a radar activated Speed Indicator Device for use on roads where there are concerns about traffic speed. The machine can be loaned free of charge.



The S.I.D consists of an electronic display which, when sited at the roadside, displays the vehicle speed along with a 'smiley face' for those travelling within the speed limit and a 'grumpy face' for vehicles exceeding the limit.

Participating groups will be given full training and provided with risk assessment sheets, Wheelie Bin Stickers, temporary Corex Lamp Post signs and high visibility tabards.



Whilst motorists exceeding the speed limit are not prosecuted, the device is an excellent means of raising awareness of speed issues in areas where there is a problem with vehicles travelling too fast.

If you are a member of a Community Group and would like to participate in this scheme, or require further information, please contact Road Safety Team at the Road Safety Promotion Unit on 0113 2475198 or by email at road.safety@leeds.gov.uk

