

Agenda Item No. 4(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

20 December 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND OBJECTIONS TO A
PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURE - MAIN
STREET, HILTON**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To consider both objections to introducing an additional traffic calming feature and to consider a petition received requesting road safety improvements along Main Street, Hilton.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 14 September 2017, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition requesting Derbyshire County Council improve road safety along Main Street, Hilton (Minute No. 00/17 refers). The key statement from the petition reads as follows:

“We the undersigned hereby petition Derbyshire County Council to improve road safety on Main Street, Hilton, Derbyshire, through the implementation of traffic calming measures such as the installation of chicanes, making Main Street a closed road with no through route, changing the crossing from a zebra crossing to a pelican crossing.”

Prior to the receiving this petition, officers attended a site meeting on 28 April 2017 with the Local Member, Councillor Patten, and a District Councillor, where a number of traffic matters were raised during a village walkabout. Hilton Parish Council was aware of the discussions between Councillor Patten and officers acknowledged that Councillor Patten had been keeping them informed.

A key issue to arise from the village walkabout was the effectiveness of a particular traffic calming arrangement on Main Street, close to its junction with Mill Lane (Appendix 1 – Consultation Drawing).

Background

The location, shown in Appendix 1, has two pre-cast concrete traffic calming speed cushions adjacent to one and other on each side of Main Street. It has been raised as a concern that it is not effective in helping to maintain vehicle

speeds within this residential environment. Following the village walkabout, a site meeting was arranged with the residents who live closest to the speed cushions. At this meeting, in August 2017, it was visually evident that vehicles were deliberately positioning themselves in the middle of the road so that they could drive between the two speed cushions without having to alter their approach speed.

The most appropriate and cost effective solution was to promote the installation of a third cushion, centrally positioned to supplement the other two speed cushions shown in Appendix 1. This arrangement would replicate similar arrangements in situ further along Main Street. A formal consultation was consequently undertaken with regard to installing the additional cushion.

The requests made in the Petition, such as changing the type of traffic calming and upgrading the Zebra crossing to a Pelican crossing, were also discussed verbally at the village walkabout in April 2017, and in further email correspondence following the meeting.

Officers have, in the last year since the meetings, also introduced additional signage to try to encourage traffic, particularly Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), to use The Mease as an alternative to using the Main Street. A further scheme of improvement has also been carried out to the Zebra Crossing on Main Street to upgrade its belisha beacons with LED lights surrounding them to make the crossing much more visible.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Patten has commented that the County Council has already put some measures in place to help alleviate lorry movements along Main Street, as the existing 7.5 tonne Environmental Weight Limit is regularly breached. Officers have installed some directional signing to encourage traffic, particularly HGVs to use The Mease as a more suitable route.

Improvements to the existing zebra crossing on Main Street would be welcomed as cars frequently do not stop. A traffic survey is being carried out through the Neighbourhood Plan group in the village and the findings of this will help to shape any future proposals. A submission has been made through a recent planning application for a residential development off Derby Road, Hilton (see Appendix 2) for the developer to fund a scheme of work through a Section 106 agreement for the installation of a further Zebra Crossing and an extension to the 30mph speed limit on Derby Road, adjacent to Main Street. With the proposed increase in housing developments for the surrounding area, a traffic plan for the future of Hilton is needed and any recommendations to look forward would be welcomed.

In respect of the objections to the proposed additional traffic calming feature, it has been some time since the request for the installation of the additional road

hump. This was as a result of a number of residents requesting the implementation of an additional road hump to deter vehicles speeding along Main Street. The original scheme was installed a number of years ago and the third hump was not installed at that time due to objections received regarding concerns over possible vibration damage to the adjacent properties. However, this has now been addressed.

Hilton has expanded dramatically since the original humps were installed and the original concerns over vehicle speeds have raised themselves again. It is therefore proposed that the additional hump be installed, as part of collective measures to reduce speed and help reduce traffic flow and use by HGVs.

Officer Comment

In accordance with the legislative requirements for the installation of traffic calming measures, the additional cushion was formally advertised from 5 July to 26 July 2018. This was achieved through an advert in the local press (Derby Telegraph), on-street notices and a letter drop to all fronting properties within the surrounding vicinity. A consultation package was placed on display in Etwall Library and at County Hall during this period. The Council received five comments during the consultation period. Hilton Parish Council was fully supportive of the scheme; a resident who lived close to the works was supportive but with alternative comments/suggestions and three further residents objected to the scheme.

The alternative comments and suggestions made were in relation to the County Council undertaking action to encourage vehicles, particularly HGV traffic to use the Mease as an alternative to the Main Street. This has been identified and a signing scheme positively directing HGV traffic to use the Mease has been implemented.

A further alternative suggestion was for the existing road hump scheme to be replaced with horizontal traffic calming measures in the form of chicanes. This suggestion was also put forward through the petition and is therefore addressed later on in the report.

The County Council considers that road humps are an effective means of controlling vehicle speeds and that they can play an important role in helping to reduce personal injury collisions. Their effectiveness relies on creating vertical deflection to vehicles as they pass over them, an aspect of which makes drivers view them in a negative way. As Main Street already has traffic calming in place, this proposal is to merely add another cushion to an existing arrangement to simply prevent drivers from driving down the centre of the road at speed to avoid having to travel over them.

The personal injury collision history for Main Street, Hilton, over the last five years (1 August 2013 to 31 July 2018), shows there has been three personal

injury collisions involving pedestrians. One fatal collision occurred in April 2017 when a vehicle collided with a pedestrian during a Police pursuit incident. Two further slight injury collisions occurred as a consequence of a vehicle reversing off a private driveway and colliding with a child pedestrian walking along the footway, and another involved a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle having stepped out from behind a parked bus. Whilst these collisions are regrettable, they are very difficult to legislate for and not ones which can simply be addressed through highway improvement works.

One aspect of the petition relates to the suggestion for Main Street to be closed and made a no through road. This would present a number of issues; namely a location with sufficient space to provide a vehicular turning head, increased journey times for people living on or close to Main Street. The HGV traffic from the various industrial units off Sutton Lane also needs to be able to turn left onto Main Street to reach the A50, something which the Council has encouraged through the scheme of positive signing for HGVs. It is not therefore felt there is any benefit taking the above into account.

The petition also calls for the traffic calming scheme on Main Street to be replaced with a horizontal traffic calming scheme, such as chicanes. For the County Council to consider the potential removal of traffic calming and to change it into a new chicane type arrangement would likely cost around £50,000. This would be difficult to justify when you consider that, aside from the unfortunate fatal collision in April 2017, which involved a police pursuit, there have been no reported personal injury collisions involving vehicle speeds being a contributory factor over the last five years.

The final suggestion in the Petition was to upgrade the Zebra crossing to a Pelican (Push Button) crossing on Main Street. It is often a perception that these types of crossings are a safer option than Zebra crossings, but this is not the case. A Zebra Crossing provides a clearly defined crossing point where, from a motorist's perspective, pedestrians are expected. The existing Zebra Crossing on Main Street is positioned on a raised platform which forms part of the existing traffic calming scheme along Main Street and the installation of the LED lights around the beacons have made the crossing more visible.

In summary, it is felt that the additional traffic calming cushion should address the concerns and the proposal is fully supported by the Local Member and the Parish Council. In respect of the suggestions made in the Petition, some measures have already been implemented that address some of the concerns, and the non-justification in relation to others are outlined above.

(3) Financial Considerations The approximate cost of £3,000 for works relating to the proposed installation of the additional traffic calming

cushion forms part of the approved Local Transport Plan 2017-18 Capital Programme.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The County Council, as the Highway Authority, has undertaken the proposal to consult on the installation of an additional traffic calming feature in accordance with Statutory Instrument No.1026: The Highways (Traffic Calming) Regulations 1999.

Section 4 of the above act, states that where a Highway Authority proposes to construct a traffic calming work in a highway they shall:

- (a) consult the Chief Officer of Police for the area in which the highway is situated; and
- (b) consult such persons or organisations representing persons who use the highway or who are otherwise likely to be affected by the traffic calming work as the highway authority thinks fit.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

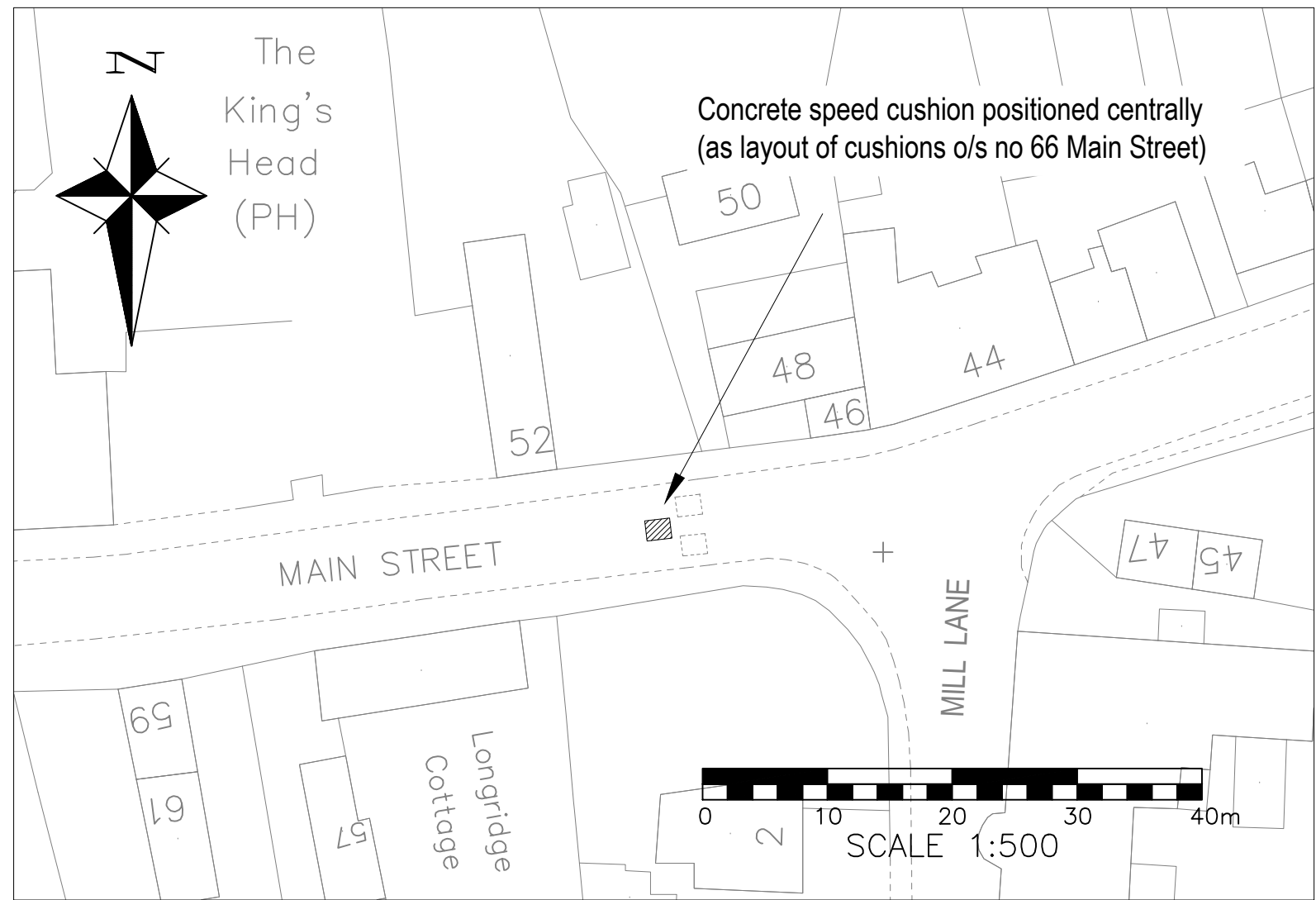
(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

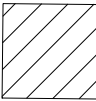

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Richard Handbury, extension 38569.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

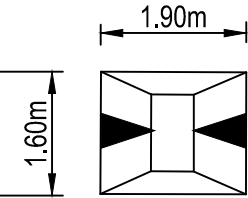
- 8.1 Agrees to the installation of the additional traffic calming cushion on Main Street, Hilton.
- 8.2 The Local Member, lead petitioner and objectors be informed of the decision.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment



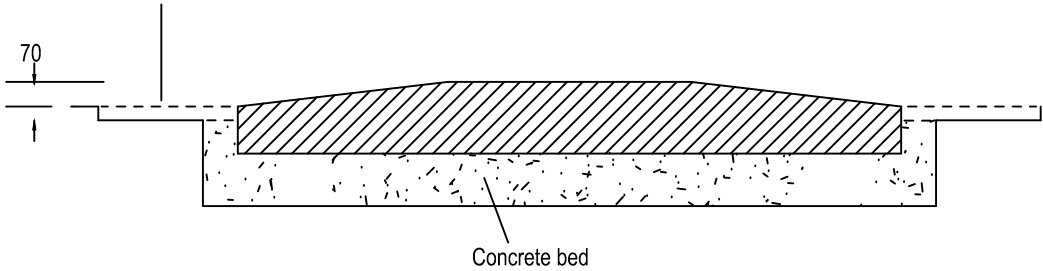
- KEY**
-  70mm high reinforced concrete speed cushion 1600 x 1900mm colour red
 -  White thermoplastic triangle (dia 1062) on both approaches

DETAIL OF SPEED CUSHION
(NOT TO SCALE)

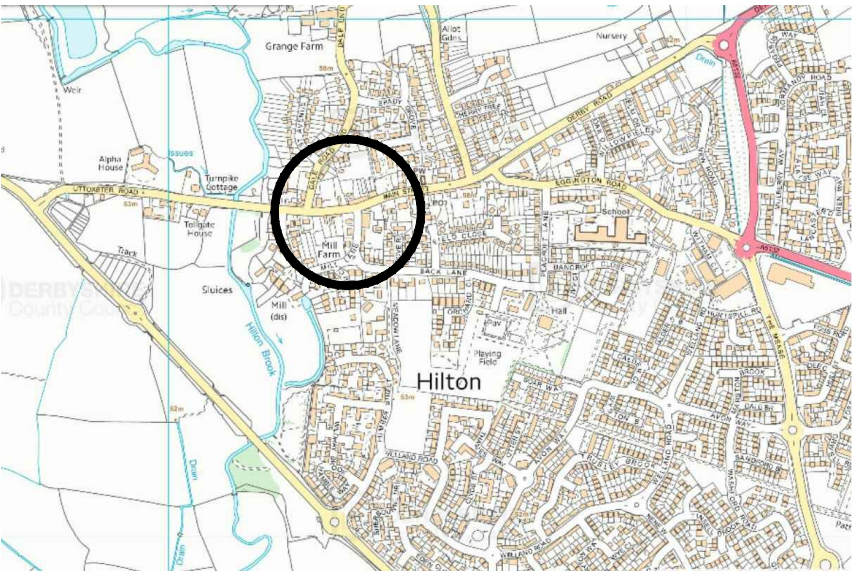


Precast reinforced concrete speed cushion with plateau - colour red

PLAN



CROSS-SECTION



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AMENDMENT DETAILS

BY CHKD APVD DATE NO.

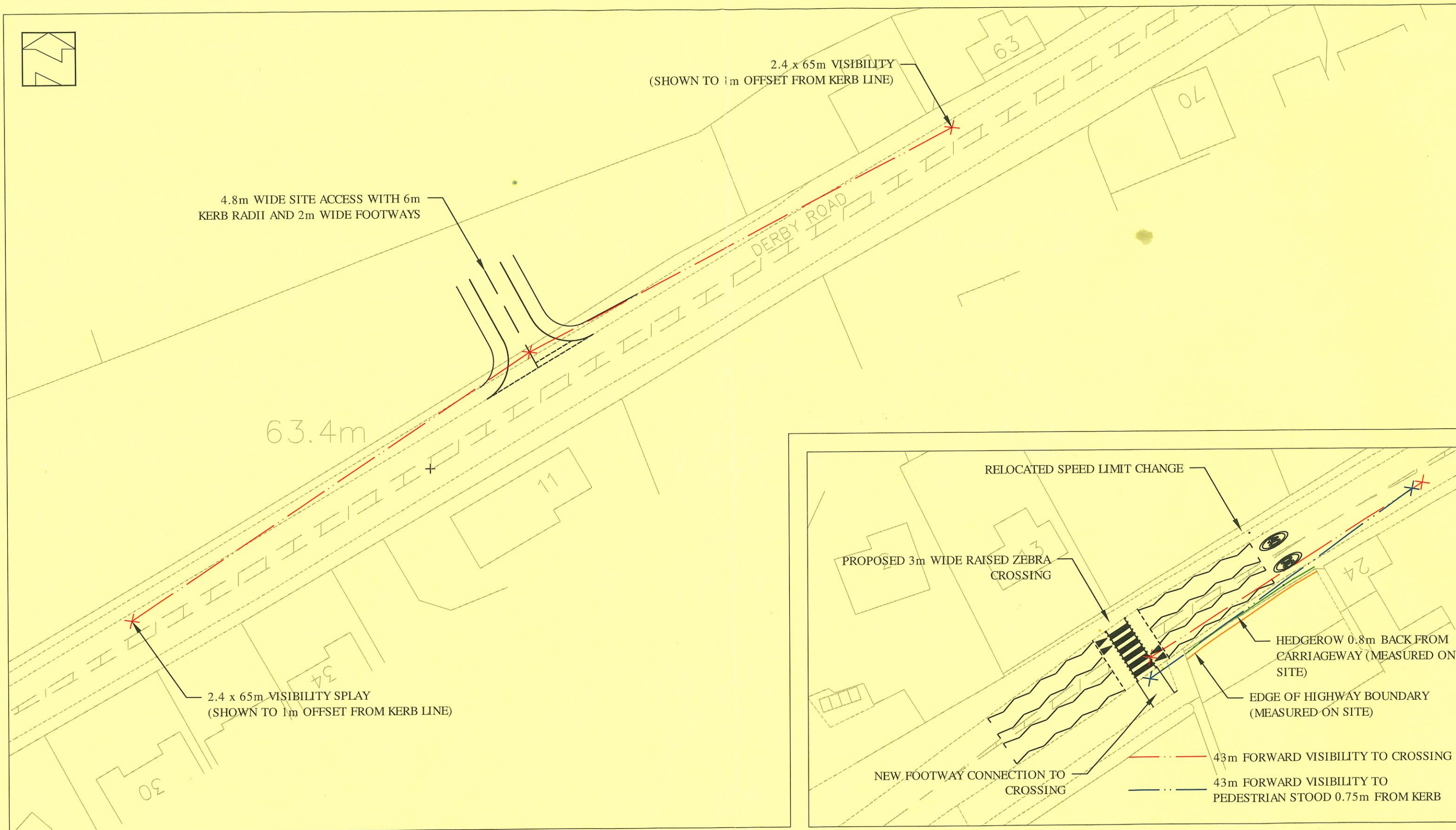


MIKE ASHWORTH
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment



ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE 420 x 297 (A3)

DRAWN	FJO	CHECKED	AS	APPROVED	AS
Date	Jun 2018	Date	7.6.2018	Date	7.6.2018
PROJECT TITLE					
Main street - Hilton Additional Speed Cushion					
DRAWING TITLE					
Consultation Drawing					
DCE Project Reference No.				SCALE	
18-020501				1:500	
Drawing Number					
HMHD/020501/Consult					



Project:

Proposed Residential Development
Derby Road, Hilton

Client:

Harworth Estates

Title:

Proposed Access Junction Layout
and Zebra Crossing

ADC 
INFRASTRUCTURE

Drg Size:

A3

Scale:

1:500

Date:

05/05/2017

Drg No:

ADC1589/001

Rev:

-

Rev

Description

Date