

Agenda Item No. 4(c)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**23 December 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION REGARDING TRAFFIC SPEEDS – A6175 FURNACE HILL  
ROAD, CLAY CROSS**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of the receipt of a petition signed by 38 residents of Furnace Hill Road, Bridge Street and Dewley Way, Clay Cross.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

**Background**

The receipt of the petition was acknowledged by the Cabinet Member on 7 October 2014. The petition, which has been received in the first instance by Clay Cross Parish Council and forwarded to Derbyshire County Council for consideration, has no specific subject but the originator expresses concerns about a number of aspects associated with living on Furnace Hill Road, including the following:

- Noise of vehicles at all times of the day and night.
- Vehicle speeds well in excess of the 30mph speed limit.
- No controlled crossing for pedestrians.

The petition was accompanied by three separate letters, one from the petitioner and two from residents of Bridge Street.

**Site Details**

Furnace Hill Road has been in use for many years as an access route from its junction with Market Street to commercial premises on Bridge Street and to parking areas for the town centre. The carriageway was improved considerably following the development of the Tesco supermarket and the new roundabout access on to the A61. As a consequence of the improvements, this route was re-classified A6175, which links the A61 to the M1, thus reducing through traffic in Clay Cross town centre and the sub-standard sections of road and junctions that used to form part of the

A6175. The residential properties where the petition has originated from were constructed subsequent to this re-classification.

### **Officer Comments**

At the present time, there is very little development on the north side of Furnace Hill Road and currently no bus service, so it is unlikely that the number of pedestrians crossing the road, compared to the volume of traffic, would meet the criteria required for consideration of a controlled crossing. Since the new road has been constructed, there have been no reported injury collisions with the exception of the fatal injuries sustained by a solo motorcyclist who had been riding in excess of the speed limit according to the Police report.

Due to the nature of the traffic that principal roads carry and their function within the road hierarchy, there are only certain types of traffic calming measures that are suitable. For instance, adequate two way width needs to be maintained at all times for the largest of vehicles and vertical deflection (eg road humps) is not recommended for use on such routes, mainly due to the noise generated by such features not being acceptable to nearby residents.

The use of speed cameras has also been given consideration but their provision is restricted to sites where a high proportion of speed related injury collisions have occurred. The number of collisions on Furnace Hill Road is not sufficient to meet the necessary criteria. As will be appreciated, following widespread criticism of safety cameras, it is essential that there is justification for the use of this method of speed control to ensure the continued public acceptance of them.

Further extensive development is planned for the large area of land to the north of Furnace Hill Road which may include a further link road between the A6175 and the A61, and would be likely to reduce the current volume of traffic on Furnace Hill Road.

Speeding in general is a problem on many roads throughout the County and the Government is trying to address this issue nationally through education. This Authority supports campaigns and works in close partnership with the Police to identify other methods of reducing speeds. Ultimately, the Police are responsible for enforcing speed limits and, if it is considered that the speed limit is routinely being abused, this should be raised with them to enable enforcement action to be considered.

### **Local Member Comment**

Councillor Wright has been consulted.

(3) **Financial Considerations**      There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

## Other Considerations

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

(4) **Key Decision** No.

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

(6) **Background Papers** Correspondence held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Sue Pollard, extension 38634.

(6) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

6.1 No action be taken at this time but the situation continues to be monitored, particularly in the context of the likelihood of new development nearby.

6.2 The local Member and petitioners be informed accordingly.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**