

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT**

9 September 2014

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION – SHIRLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL – REQUEST FOR
WARNING SIGNS, SAFETY RAILINGS AND ROAD HUMPS**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of investigations undertaken following the receipt of a petition requesting road safety measures in the vicinity of Shirland Primary School.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 6 May 2014, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition. It contains 725 signatures and reads as follows.

“PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY IN ASKING FOR ROAD SAFETY SIGNAGE ON PARK LANE, IN ORDER TO MAKE DRIVERS REDUCE THEIR SPEED AND KEEP OUR FAMILIES SAFE. ALSO FOR THE ERECTION OF MORE SAFETY RAILINGS AND SPEED HUMPS”.

Background

Shirland Primary School was relocated from Goose Green Lane to Park Lane in 2011. At the time of construction, it was not considered necessary to provide warning signs but the situation was to be monitored to see if any future action might be required. A traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing was installed at the time on the A61 to facilitate pedestrian access to the school.

In line with most schools, the school has developed a School Travel Plan in a bid to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport for transporting the children to and from the school.

Officers have spent a considerable amount of time observing the traffic situation at Shirland Primary School based on the comments received from the Head Teacher and others. This includes the speed of passing traffic in both directions, the parking situation, pedestrian activity, etc. A meeting with the Head Teacher has also taken place to carry out joint observations at the

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site. The observations suggest there are generally no parking related problems and little evidence of speeding vehicles. Pedestrians are able to cross the road without any problems and there is no evidence of excessive speeding or heavy traffic. This has been the case throughout the extensive observations at this site. Yellow 'School Keep Clear' zig-zags were installed in March 2013.

Officer Comment

As a result of the petition, Councillor Collins has attended a site meeting with the lead petitioner along with the acting Head Teacher, Parish Councillors and other supporters of the petition. It was discussed at the meeting that warning signs would be provided on each approach to the school.

It was explained at the meeting that road humps could not be justified due to the lack of a collision history on this road coupled with the potential noise and vibration nuisance these may present to nearby residents.

With regard to pedestrian guard rails, there are already adequate railings in place at each of the pedestrian accesses to the school.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Lewis has been consulted and made the following comment:

"A request for warning signs were part of my initial approach to highways, which eventually saw the installation of the zig-zag markings. I am therefore happy that signs are now being installed".

(3) **Financial Considerations** This work forms part of the approved Local Transport scheme for small scale signing and lining schemes at a cost of approximately £500.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Highway Authority is empowered by Section 66 of the Highways Act 1980 to provide rails in the highway where necessary for the purpose of safeguarding persons using the highway. The power to provide road humps is set out in Section 90A of that Act, with the requirement for consultation set out in Section 90C.

The power to erect traffic signs is set out in Section 65 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Where warning signs are provided, they must conform with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.

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.

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- (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 in the Traffic and Safety Section of the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Steve Alcock, extension 38176.
- (8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:
- 8.1 Approves the erection of warning signs on each approach to Shirland Primary School, Park Lane, Shirland.
- 8.2 Refuses the request for speed humps at this time.
- 8.3 Notes the fact that there are already safety railings present.
- 8.4 Agrees that the local Member and petitioners be informed accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment