

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	Friday 5 April 2013
3.	Title:	Proposed Road Humps at Laughton Road, Thurcroft
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To inform Cabinet Member of comments and objections received to the proposal to install road humps at Laughton Road, Thurcroft and officers responses to the objections.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to resolve that

- i. the objections not be acceded to**
- ii. Barratt/David Wilson Homes be authorised to install road humps on Laughton Road, Thurcroft as shown on drawing No 126/17/TT219**
- iii. the correspondents be informed accordingly**

7. Proposals and Details

As part of the Planning consent allowing Barrat/David Wilson Homes to construct approximately 369 dwellings on land adjacent to Laughton Road, a condition was imposed to install traffic calming features on Laughton Road. The reason for this was that a Transport Assessment submitted by the Developer confirmed that the existing speed of traffic on Laughton Road was excessive and together with an increase in traffic as a result of the development mitigation was required. The locations of the traffic calming features are shown on drawing No 126/17/TT219a attached as appendix A.

In accordance with statutory requirements for the installation of Road humps the proposals were advertised by notice on street and by letter to the affected premises.

As well as the usual statutory consultees, fifty four letters were sent out to residents. Twelve residents and the Bright Bus Company commented on the proposals, which are summarised below.

- Flat top humps damaged bus suspensions
 - The scheme proposals are for a number of speed cushions and one flat top road hump. However this is a plateau 7.1m long with a height of 75mm. It is designed to be bus friendly and has been used in other areas of the Borough which are used by buses. We are not aware of any reports of suspension damage or grounding
 - There is no speeding problem
 - A number of complaints about speeding traffic have been received over the years but funding for such a scheme could not be justified on the grounds of accident saving since the road traffic accident history here is low. The Transport Assessment submitted by the Developer also confirmed excessive speeds in this part of Laughton Road.
 - Money should be spent elsewhere
 - The proposals are being funded by a developer as part of a section 278 agreement specifically for this scheme and cannot be spent elsewhere.
 - Other Councils don't use road humps and have removed them
 - There are a number of traffic management and road safety schemes in the Rotherham area which use speed humps and cushions as an effective way of reducing vehicle speeds. Whilst a small number of Councils have removed traffic calming features, speed cushions and humps are still widely used both in South Yorkshire and across the country.
 - They are suspension damaging devices; the humps will damage low ground clearance sports cars
 - All road humps are installed in accordance with current regulations and guidance. Research for the Department for Transport (*PPR004, Sept 2004 Impact of road humps on vehicles and their occupants*) into the allegations that road humps can damage vehicles and cause undue wear and tear has found that this is not the case.
 - Install a speed camera.
 - Within the South Yorkshire area, the current rules for the use of safety cameras are contained in the Handbook of Rules and
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Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales 2006/07. Rule 7 in the handbook sets out the 6 criteria for proposed sites, all of which have to be satisfied for a safety camera to be installed. This site fails on the criteria relating to the number of killed and serious injury collisions.

- The two cushions outside 129 Laughton Road are too close to the railway bridge
 - They are located within in accordance with the guidelines set out in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 7/96 Highways (Road Humps Regulations 1996)
- Speed cushions located near Clarke Avenue are close to vehicular entrances to 79 and 94 Laughton Road.
 - The speed cushions have been located in accordance with Traffic Advisory Leaflet 7/96 Highways (Road Humps Regulations 1996), in order to influence the speed of traffic within a specific area of Laughton Road, adjacent to large new housing development. This is the optimum location for these speed cushions due to the proximity of the Clarke Avenue junction and the existing road layout. This location should not unduly affect vehicle access to these properties

In view of the responses to the objections above it is recommended that the objections received should not be acceded to and the proposals implemented.

8. Finance

The proposals will be financed and constructed by Barrat/David Wilson Homes as part of an agreement entered in to under section 278 of the Highways Act 1980

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposals are in line with objectives set out in the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy / Local Transport Plan 3.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix A – Drawing No 126/17/TT219a

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