

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 February 2024

Report of the Director of Highways and Transport

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Accrington North;

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

**Lancashire County Council (Moss Hall Road and Thorneyholme Road,
Accrington, Hyndburn Borough) (Road Humps)**
(Appendices 'A' to 'C' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

Following investigations and formal public consultation it is proposed to introduce Traffic Calming features in Thorneyholme Road and Moss Hall Road in Accrington.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the proposals for new Traffic Calming features on the various lengths of road as detailed within this report and as set out in the Notice of Proposal at Appendix 'A' and Plans at Appendix 'B', for the reasons outlined in the Statement of Reasons at Appendix 'C'.

Detail

It is proposed to install three flat top road humps along Thorneyholme Road along with a raised junction table at its junction with Moss Hall Road due to concerns raised by the community and the increase in traffic from the new housing development with the intention to slow traffic, creating a safer and more community friendly environment for pedestrians and other vulnerable user groups.

During the planning application process carried out by Hyndburn Borough Council for the new housing development at the end of Thorneyholme Road, Lancashire County Council recommended that Thorneyholme Road would greatly benefit from traffic



calming measures in the form of a junction table and flat top humps to ensure that vehicle speeds are kept to the 20mph limit.

Following a number of complaints received by Lancashire County Council regarding vehicle speeds on this road, it was felt that the additional traffic from the new development could likely exacerbate the situation. Therefore, in line with the planning conditions for the development, mainly to mitigate the impact of the increase in traffic, it was considered appropriate to consult on the possible introduction of these Traffic Calming measures.

Appendices

Appendices 'A' to 'C' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Notice of Proposal
Appendix 'B'	Plans
Appendix 'C'	Statement of Reasons

Consultations

Formal consultation was carried out between 13 October 2023 and 10 November 2023 and advertised in the local press and notices were displayed on site. Divisional county councillors were consulted along with the council's usual consultees and the consultation documents posted on the council's website.

Objections

As a result of the consultation, one item of correspondence was received in response to the introduction of new speed humps on Thorneyholme Road on the grounds that the noise from cars continually travelling across the speed humps will further impact on the objector's mental health.

The main points raised in the objection are as follows:

- The objector states that the introduction of the speed humps will create noise as the vehicles come onto, and off, the road in both directions, car after car, every hour on the hour until 10.30pm, potentially causing the objector further mental health issues.
- The objector believes that the issue with speeding, road noise and lights glaring from vehicles is not caused by the new housing estate but from the football club, stating that the amount of traffic to and from the football club has caused 90% of the problems since it was built.
- The objector states that they are scared to go out in their own car at weekends due to the possibility of being unable to park their car near to their house upon return, believing that this is due to visitors to the football ground parking their vehicles outside residents' houses along Thorneyholme Road.



- The objector states that they feel persecuted regarding this matter and believes that these issues have been brought about totally by the football club's inconsiderate and dangerous drivers who have no regard for safety. They further state that they are amazed that no one, to date, has been seriously injured or killed.

The objector strongly requests that these humps should be at the roundabout where the road is wider and also a stop sign and white lines should be put across the outside of the club leading on to Thorneyholme Road, so they have to stop, look and give way to any traffic using Thorneyholme Road.

Officers Comments

Traffic calming schemes are introduced to aid road safety by reducing the speed of vehicles on a road which, in turn reduces the potential for road traffic accidents. In this case, the speed humps do not conflict with any existing driveways and are considered 'bus friendly' with longer ramps and a 6-metre-long plateau that are much quieter than the standard 1.5m flat top speed tables. Furthermore, all traffic calming schemes undergo a full formal consultation process and safety audits as well as consultation with the emergency services before their introduction.

The comments regarding the strong request to relocate the speed humps closer to the roundabout and installing additional signage have been duly noted. However, officers have visited Thorneyholme Road to assess the existing speed limit signs and noted that no additional signs are required as they meet the national Department for Transport guidelines. Additionally, traffic calming schemes are designed in accordance with government departmental guidelines and on their own merits meeting specific needs, and there is no one measure or treatment that will fit all needs.

Additional concerns raised by the correspondent have been acknowledged and they have been advised of the following:

- With regards to vehicle lights causing issues and visitors travelling to the Sports hub, it is advisable to contact Hyndburn Borough Council which may be willing to provide information of the sports hub's planning arrangements regarding visitors travelling to the hub and refer the vehicle headlight issue to the borough council's environmental health department.
- In relation to any concerns regarding traffic speeds, the proposed junction table and flat top humps are being proposed with the intention of keeping the vehicle speed to the 20mph limit.
- If regular incidents of nuisance or dangerous driving are witnessed, the police can be contacted directly either by the non-emergency telephone number: 101, or on the Lancashire Constabulary 'Do It Online' webpage, providing the registration numbers of the vehicles to be reported.



Officers Recommendation

Officers recommend the proposed measures are implemented as advertised.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

The implications are set out in the report.

Financial

These proposals are linked to the new housing development and are being funded from the Section 278 monies by the developer, as such there is no financial implication for the county council.

Risk management

Road safety may be compromised should the proposed restrictions not be approved.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

