

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

20 February 2009

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

50. A179 Provision of Toucan Crossing and Reduction in Speed Limits *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

The report was presented in order to seek approval for the reduction of the 50 mph speed limit to 40 mph on the A179 between the Bamburgh Road roundabout and the West View Roundabout following an objection to the proposal.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Portfolio Holder that at his meeting on 22 September 2008, approval had been given for the introduction of a Toucan crossing and the reduction in the 50 mph speed limit to 40 mph between Bamburgh Road and West View Roundabout.

An objection had been raised by a member of the public who did not think that a reduction in the speed limit would make the road safe. He had also suggested that the A179, west of Bamburgh Road be rebuilt as a dual carriageway. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised him that there was not enough money available at present but that the measures outlined should benefit the general road safety on that stretch of road.

A further letter had also been received from the same member of the public outlining that the 50 mph signage had been removed and 40 mph signage erected, prior to his objection being formally considered. The Director of

Neighbourhood Services said that an investigation would take place to elicit why this had happened and the Portfolio Holder and member of the public would be informed of the outcome of this. He clarified that it was not unusual for preparatory work to take place prior to the scheme being started proper. The Portfolio Holder expressed disappointment that this had occurred.

The member of the public had expressed concern of the safety of the A179 following an accident which had occurred there previously and asked that this could be included in the next Local Transport Plan (LTP). The Director of Neighbourhood Services indicated that consideration as to which roads were prioritised for safety/ improvement schemes was done on a scoring matrix and that the updated scheme list would be brought to the Portfolio Holder for consideration in the near future. The next LTP runs from 2011-2016, and major works such as introducing a dual carriageway on the A179 west of Bamburgh Road could be considered at this time.

The member of the public had also made suggestions to improve road safety in various locations in the town but had as yet had no feedback on these. The Portfolio Holder asked that an action plan be drawn up regarding these earlier suggestions.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the objection to the proposed speed limit change and re-endorsed the decision of the meeting on 22 September 2008 for the introduction of a Toucan crossing and the reduction in the 50 mph speed limit to 40 mph between Bamburgh Road and West View Roundabout.

The Portfolio Holder asked that an investigation be made to find out why signage had been removed from the area prior to the objection being considered and that he and the member of the public be informed of the outcome.

The Portfolio Holder asked that he be given the results of the scoring matrix when the next LTP is drawn up.

The Portfolio Holder asked that an action plan be drawn up regarding road safety suggestions submitted by the member of the public.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 26 February 2009