

REPORT: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 21 November 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Petition relating to Traffic Calming
Stratton Park, Widnes

WARDS: Farnworth

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report receipt of a 25 signature petition requesting the installation of traffic calming on Stratton Park, Widnes

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That

(1) the report be noted

(2) the request for traffic calming on Stratton Park be declined due to it being contrary to the Council's policy on Traffic Calming;

(3) An alternative scheme of enhanced signing and road markings be passed to the local Area Forum for consideration; and

(4) The petitioners be informed accordingly

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A petition carrying 25 signatures has been received from residents of Stratton Park, Widnes requesting the installation of 'speed bumps' on the highway with the work being funded through the local Area Forum. Reproduced as Appendix 'A', the petition is based on addressing a number of alleged risks to highway users and is critical of established Council policy relating to the retrospective provision of physical traffic calming.

3.2 Current Council policy relating to the installation of physical traffic calming was established primarily in June 2000 when the Executive Board adopted a prioritisation and qualification process with two central requirements for any location at which traffic calming is requested: the route must not be a cul-de-sac and it must have hosted a road traffic accident resulting in personal injuries, in the previous five years.

3.3 At the Executive Board meeting of 29th. July 2004, this qualification approach was again considered. The Board resolved that the current policy of traffic calming schemes being focused on reducing accident and casualty numbers in the Borough should be endorsed and requests be subject to each scheme addressing an identified casualty problem.

- 3.4 Requests for physical traffic calming measures on Stratton Park have been received over a two year period. However, these requests have always been declined because the route does not meet the established qualification criteria due to it being a cul-de-sac with no injury accident record in the last five years.
- 3.5 Police records show only one injury accident on Stratton Park going back as far as 1990, and this involved a car/car collision at the junction with Cronton Lane due to a driver reversing into Stratton Park off the main road.
- 3.6 All new housing areas are constructed with integral traffic calming to allow a 20mph. speed limit to be introduced on adoption. The possible methods of calming are many - geometry, surface finishes, gateways, mild humps etc. Stratton Park is constructed with speed reducing features incorporated through its alignment and the use of speed tables and speed readings when taken on the longest straight part were an average of 19mph. It is intended that a 20mph speed limit will be introduced at this location in the near future. However, given current recorded speeds it is extremely unlikely that driver behaviour will be significantly affected by this measure.
- 3.7 However, in order to enhance road safety and encourage drivers to further restrict their speeds, a scheme has been designed using extra signing and road markings, (see Drawing Number 7321), which could be implemented at short notice utilising Area Forum funding.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of implementing the proposed signing and lining scheme is £2,500. The local Area Forum is shortly to consider supporting this work.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 **A Safer Halton & Children & Young People in Halton:** The existing road safety record for Stratton Park does not justify physical traffic calming, based on the Council's existing traffic calming policy. However, the alternative scheme of signing and lining work has been designed to raise driver's awareness of their speed, encourage safer driving practices and thereby enhance feelings of safety for Stratton Park residents.
- 6.2 **Halton's Urban Renewal, A Healthy Halton & Employment & Learning Skills in Halton:** - No implications
- 6.3 **Equality & Diversity Issues:** No Implications.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The proposed signing and lining scheme has been safety audited to maintain road safety in the area.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 8.1 Background information held in the Traffic Management Section, Environment, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2GW. Contact: S. Johnson, ext. 3010