

Middleton Site Meeting Notes

17 November 2006-11-17

Parish Council

Dryden Phillipson
David Curtis
Ray Ainge
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NCC

Sheila Cheney

Purpose of meeting – To discuss options and proposals for traffic calming measures

General Comments

Main Street is entirely within Conservation area – signing, lighting and road markings can be visually intrusive. It is unlikely that the existing village lighting can satisfy the safety requirements of introducing what is effectively an obstruction in the highway. This obstruction would need to be justified by gathering evidence of accidents and speed data.

To accommodate large vehicles such as the dust cart and agricultural vehicles a chicane would need to be approximately 20 metres from end to end. This can make siting difficult if accesses and visibility are not to be obstructed. On-street parking within and approaching the chicane would become unusable and therefore affected residents should be consulted early in the proceedings to ensure they will not object.

To work well there should be a reasonably steady traffic flow from both directions so that drivers know there is a good chance of having to give way to oncoming traffic.

It was not possible to install the traffic monitoring device in Main Street as hoped because there are few metal items of street furniture available. There are other options available to Parishes and residents and I enclose a fact sheet 'Initiatives to Tackle Speeding' for your information.

Specific

It would difficult to place a chicane near the Wellingtons Nursery without obstructing driveways and the bus stop. It would displace or could result in inappropriate on-street parking by parents dropping/picking up children. I have some concerns about its proximity to the bend and junction with The Hill and Ashley Road. It may however be possible to introduce a single Give Way feature to slow traffic entering the village.

The proposed site near the post box appears to be less problematic as there are fewer accesses concentrated in the area.

Costs

The new contract commencing in September 2007 will have a new Schedule of Rates and therefore any estimated costs given at this time must be used as a rough guide only. However the estimated cost of a similar scheme including design fees, safety and technical audits and improved lighting is £20,000.

Action

I will request a visit from either SID (Speed Indicator Device) or SDR (Speed Detection Radar) for Ashley Road and The Hill. I will ask if the visit can be made at morning peak but this may mean a wait as that is the most requested time. I will ask if the visit can include Main Street later on the same day.

I will ask the police officer who manages traffic data monitoring to try and install 'pipes' or the 'box' for 7 days in Ashley Road, The Hill and Main Street but again you may have to wait for this as resources have to be prioritised to sites with a history of accidents.

Currently the budget for minor works such as traffic calming is allocated on a County wide basis and it is unlikely that your request would score highly enough for consideration as there is no recorded speed problem or injury accidents. However the way the budget is allocated could change in the future and I advise the Parish Council to complete and return the Highway Improvement request so that it is on file. There is no hurry to do this as requests are assessed in October / November each year so new requests will not now be looked at until 2007.

Enclosures

Highway Improvement Request Form 2008-09
Initiatives to Tackle Speeding contact sheet.