

Briefing Note for Pewsey CATG

Area Board Issue 5998 – Rushall Pewsey Road – Request to consider Traffic Management measures

Background

An issue has been raised by Rushall Parish Council concerning speeding vehicles within the village. The Parish undertake regular monitoring of speed through the CSW initiative and a SID is deployed on a regular basis.

The most recent metro count identified the 85th percentile speed as 36 mph.

Pewsey Area Board has recognised this as one of their Priority Issues and Highways have been tasked with a feasibility study to look at potential traffic management measures.

Conclusions

Higher speeds are achievable between the Devizes Road junction and Croft Row (opposite to the school) and our study concentrated on this length of Pewsey Road.

We first considered a traffic calming layout by creating a series of pinch points, to narrow the carriageway but maintaining a two way flow, albeit at reduced speeds. This would remove the need to formally sign priorities, thus reducing the visual impact of the features. These features could be further softened by placing planters etc. and overall would be much more in keeping with the village environment. However, it would be difficult to achieve a build-out on both sides of the carriageway through much of the village due to existing accesses and in some locations the existing carriageway width is such that build-outs on both sides would be very minimal and lose effectiveness. We have therefore discounted this option.

We have also ruled out the provision of a series of humps or cushions due to fears over increase noise pollution and also the visual impact on the environment.

We have put together a very basic drawing to show locations where Priority Build-out features could be located, situated at approximately 100m intervals on alternate sides of the carriageway. These positions are suitable in terms of existing carriageway width and proximity of existing accesses and driveways. The features would be very similar to those recently installed at Woodborough. As part of any installation, the street lighting along Pewsey Road is likely to require upgrading and each feature will need to incorporate an illuminated bollard and associated illuminated priority signing. The introduction of such features is likely to have a substantial impact upon the 'feel' of the village environment.

To implement the priority build-outs and upgrade the street lighting to the required standard, costs are likely to be in the region of £50,000. A road closure would almost certainly be required to allow safe construction, which might take up to 4 working weeks to complete.

If the concerns of the Parish are more related to safety at school drop off / pick up times, it might be worth considering the introduction of a part time advisory 20 mph limit on the approaches to the school and village hall, rather than introducing a more intrusive traffic calming scheme. This would need to be considered as part of the School's Travel Plan but could be fully funded through the Taking Action on School Journeys initiative.

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