

**DILTON MARSH: TOWER HILL -
MODIFICATIONS TO TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a revised traffic calming scheme for Tower Hill, Dilton Marsh.

Background

2. Members considered previous proposals at the meeting on 5th May 2004 and resolved to defer a decision pending the provision of additional and updated information, and a site meeting for residents to raise their concerns with the Local Member, representatives of the Parish Council and Officers.
3. A site meeting was held on the 2nd June 2004.
4. The approved road layout drawings for the Leigh Park development included a requirement for traffic calming on Tower Hill, in recognition of the likely increase in vehicular traffic, and the need to re-align the A3098 in the vicinity.
5. This layout met with objections from residents due to conflicts with vehicular accesses, and the speed of traffic using this section of new road.
6. The developer's consultants undertook, at the County Council's request, a consultation exercise which set out revised proposals that relocated the existing feature to the south of the bridge further south, and reintroduced the original feature north of the bridge to a point which would not adversely affect vehicular accesses.
7. In the responses to the consultation exercise, one third considered that the current traffic calming measure helped in reducing vehicle speeds, and just under half of the respondents support the proposed modifications to the existing traffic calming arrangements.
8. Speed tests were carried out in July 2003 and March 2004 in the vicinity of the traffic calming on Tower Hill. The recorded speeds were found to be 33mph and 33mph for traffic travelling south-west (uphill) and 35mph and 31mph for traffic travelling north-east (downhill) respectively.
9. The number of reported injury accidents in the vicinity of this section of Tower Hill over the period between 1st January 1993 to 31st December 2003 indicates that there were five incidents resulting in 20 slight and two serious injuries. All incidents occurred between 1994 and 1998, which is prior to the alterations to the road alignment.

10. However, there have been some more recent traffic accidents at Tower Hill which give some immediacy to the need to take further action. Details of these incidents are not currently available on the County Council accident database.
11. There is no traffic count data available specifically for the section of Tower Hill in question, but recent data for the section of A3098 to the south-west, in the general vicinity of Row Farm Nursery, indicates a total two-way 24-hour count of 25,334 vehicles over a period from 10th to 17th March 2004 inclusive. This equates to an average daily total of 3,619 vehicles.
12. The following table indicates the traffic count data from 1990 to 2002:-

YEAR	AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC
1990	3,362
1991	3,391
1992	3,669
1993	3,377
1994	3,401
1995	3,409
1996	3,381
1997	3,422
1998	3,416
1999	3,470
2000	3,523
2001	3,470
2002	3,465

13. At the site visit, residents expressed their concerns that the suggested scheme would not adequately address the speed of traffic, and would also make no provision for the safety of pedestrians over this length of road.
14. The residents were invited, through the Parish Council, to submit ideas of suitable measures that they would support, which would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 17th June 2004.
15. At the Parish Council meeting, it was explained that one Parish Council Member, Mr Howells, had sought the views of all affected residents and was confident that he had unanimous agreement on an appropriate scheme which incorporates two narrowing features, together with limited road narrowing, to provide some pedestrian refuge. Suggestions were also put forward for speed cushions incorporated within the narrowing features and a pedestrian crossing, which were discussed at the site visit but discounted as inappropriate for the classification of road, and in respect of the cushions, as a potential noise nuisance to residents. This view was supported by the Parish Council.

16. The suggestions have been considered by the Traffic Services Team and the principle of a scheme for the relocating of the feature south of the bridge to a point further south, and introducing a further narrowing feature to the north of the point where the new road bisects the old road of Mill Lane, together with some limited road narrowing and kerbing is acceptable.
17. The suggestions for speed cushions and the zebra crossing are considered inappropriate on this length of road, having regard to the class of road, the volume of vehicles and the composition of vehicles. The introduction of vertical measures and a formal pedestrian crossing would also require appropriate advertising and Traffic Orders which would further delay the resolution of this matter.

Main Considerations for the Council

18. It will be for Members to decide whether the traffic calming works, as suggested, be carried out in order to reduce traffic speeds using Tower Hill.
19. A plan is attached at **Appendix 1** showing the proposed arrangement, based on the residents' suggestions. It will be necessary to maintain ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of the works and review the need for further changes.
20. A copy of the previous Committee Report, the Consultation Report and details of the accidents and traffic counts will be available in the **Members' Room** prior to the meeting.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

21. There is not considered to be a significant environmental impact.

Risk Assessment

22. The measured speeds on the road and the known road traffic accidents in the area demonstrate the need to address the risk of further problems.
23. The proposed modification of the traffic calming arrangement is intended to offset that risk.

Financial Implications

24. The traffic calming works proposed are anticipated to be funded wholly by the developers of Leigh Park.
25. Should further, more extensive remedial action be necessary, works will need to be funded from a reallocation of existing budgets.

Reasons for Proposals

26. To address the ongoing concern by residents of the speed of traffic using Tower Hill.

Proposals

27. That:-

- (i) The proposed traffic calming be constructed as indicated at **Appendix 1**.
- (ii) Residents who took part in the consultation exercise be advised accordingly.

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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

Consultation Report by PFA Consulting dated 9th January 2004
Speed Test Surveys