

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

16th APRIL 2003

DILTON MARSH: OBJECTION TO TRAFFIC CALMING

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an objection following the advertisement of traffic calming proposals in Dilton Marsh

Background

2. On the 19th July 2000, the Environmental Services Sub-Committee considered a report, the purpose of which was to inform the Committee of the local Member's and the Parish Council's concerns about the implications of new development at Dilton Marsh and Westbury Leigh, and recommend action.
3. The concerns in Dilton Marsh related to a proposed residential development of land off the B3099 High Street, which at that time was proposed to be served via a new roundabout. Although officers recommended that the proposed roundabout arrangement was acceptable, Members took the view that it would be inappropriate and resolved, inter alia:

To request West Wiltshire District Council to negotiate with the developer, in consultation with the Highway Authority, an alternative arrangement to a roundabout for site access. Any alternative access should be via a standard T-junction, and supported with a system of traffic calming in the vicinity of the site frontage and enhanced local footway facilities.

4. Negotiations took place as requested, and the developer amended his planning application in line with Members' wishes ie substituting the roundabout with a 'T' junction and associated traffic calming. The amended plans lodged as part of the planning application contained sufficient detail to illustrate the main components of the scheme, but the eventual planning permission was conditioned thus:

In the interests of highway safety, no development shall commence until a scheme of traffic calming on the High Street has been agreed with the Local Planning Authority, and no dwelling shall be occupied until the agreed scheme of traffic calming and all associated off-site works have been fully implemented.

5. In acknowledgement of their obligation to discharge the above condition, the developer of the land (Newland Homes) has prepared a detailed plan of the proposed works. Prior to formal submission, a meeting was hosted by the County Council on 11th November 2002, attended by the developer,

nominated representatives of the Parish Council and the Fairfield Opportunities Farm. The meeting reached a clear consensus on what the detailed proposals should comprise, and the developer has prepared detailed plans accordingly.

The scheme is shown on the documents attached as **Appendix 1**

6. The proposals were advertised during January and February 2003, and one letter of objection has been received. A full copy of the letter is available in the **Members' Room** and from the Environmental Services Department prior to the meeting. The letter and the reasons for objection are summarised in **Appendix 2**

Main Considerations for the Council

7. It will be for Members to decide whether the objection carries sufficient weight to vary the scheme as advertised in accordance with their previous resolution.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

8. The scheme has been discussed with the Planning Officer at West Wiltshire District Council who considers the impact acceptable. There is not otherwise considered to be a significant environmental impact.

Risk Assessment

9. The primary purpose of the scheme is to mitigate the present risk associated with the relatively high speed of traffic entering and leaving the village. The scheme will be designed, signed and constructed in accordance with contemporary policy and current best practice, and the consequent reduction in traffic speed should achieve a net improvement in safety for all road users.

Financial Implications

10. There is no financial risk to the Council. The developer is carrying the cost of the design and construction of the works, and is also indemnifying the Council against any possible claims for injury or compensation.

Options Considered

11. As referred to in 3 above, an earlier scheme for a roundabout was considered but abandoned in the light of Members' wishes.

Reasons for Proposals

12. The objector raises a number of points based largely on his personal experience as summarised in **Appendix 2**. Despite the objector's fears and concerns, the scheme comprises a number of tried and tested components that

operate safely and effectively in many other similar situations around the County. Furthermore, the scheme has been designed to reflect not only Members' express wishes, but has been designed in close consultation with community representatives.

Proposals

13. That:-

- (i) The Committee agrees the proposed traffic calming scheme in High Street be implemented as advertised;
- (ii) The objector be informed accordingly.

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

Letter of objection.