

Environment Scrutiny Committee 23 November 2009

Agenda Item 5 - Response to questions submitted by Mrs K Johnston

Has there been a scrutiny review of the implementation of traffic calming measures?

There has not been a scrutiny review of the implementation of traffic calming measures.

A review of the Council's traffic calming policy/procedures seem a suitable task and finish project for scrutiny. I comment that traffic calming is a quality of life issue as well as a road safety issue.

A review of the Council's traffic calming policy/procedures will be undertaken in the review of the Local Transport Plan and in particular the Road Safety Strategy which forms part of the LTP. A workshop is being organised for members (aiming for March 2010) to help with that review. It will consider a wider range of road safety measures than just traffic calming. I agree that many road safety measures also provide quality of life benefits as well as road safety improvements.

On speed limits my questions are: What is the policy on the enforcement of speed limits? When was the policy adopted and by whom? Has it ever been reviewed?

Speed limits are enforced by West Mercia Constabulary and the West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership. The Safer Roads Partnership will be attending the meeting today to explain its policies and recent review. It might be useful for the Environment Scrutiny Committee to invite a representative of the West Mercia Constabulary to present its policies on the speed enforcement in the County to a future meeting.

I think it should be the subject of a review as clearly there is widespread concern about the speed of traffic in local villages and the lack of effective control of this. Scrutiny could usefully examine the range of measures which can be used (Leicestershire uses a wide range, for example) and make recommendations as to the approach in Herefordshire. Indeed, I am not clear that there is a formally adopted policy or procedure and this is something I would appreciate clarification about. Is the approach to traffic calming an ad hoc one?

There is a procedure for considering the need to revise speed limits and also for considering the introduction of traffic calming. Both of these procedures will be reviewed as part of the Road Safety Strategy review. In recent years the number of traffic calming schemes being implemented has reduced as those under consideration have not met the criteria set out in the procedure. Both of these processes are managed and resultant schemes implemented by Amey. The Traffic Calming assessment is carried out every 3 years and the most recent assessment (2008/9) has only identified one scheme – Westfaling Street junction with Ryeland Street in Hereford.

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