

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING, POPLAR DRIVE, BALLUMBIE CASTLE ESTATE: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

REPORT BY HEAD OF TECHNICAL & PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of the public consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming installation on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the comments received during the consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming installation on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate;
- (ii) notes the range of opinions expressed by those who have responded to the consultation;
- (iii) approves the provision of traffic calming measures on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate;
- (iv) instructs the Head of Technical & Property Services to proceed with the provision of traffic calming measures on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit;
- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant.

3. BACKGROUND

Report 159/15 agreed by the Communities Committee on 14 April 2015, set out the concerns from Murroes and Wellbank Community Council, a local member and the chair of the residents association. The committee agreed the format and timescale for public consultation regarding the proposal to install traffic calming measures on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate. The proposals are re-presented on the plan appended to this report (**Appendix 1**).

The consultation documents associated with these proposals were issued on 22 June 2015 to approximately 8 residential addresses within the surrounding area of the proposed installation (as shown in Appendix C of Report 159/15). Consultation documents were also sent to all affected groups listed in the proposed list of consultees (Appendix B of Report 159/15), were made available at Monifieth Access Office for the general public who might wish to comment on the proposals.

The consultation questionnaire was also available for completion online via the council's website.

The number of responses to the consultation was relatively modest as set out below, however a small majority of returned questionnaires expressed a desire for the proposals to proceed.

11 completed responses were received from individuals by the closing date of 10 July 2015. Of these responses 7 (64%) agreed and 4 (36%) disagreed with the proposed traffic calming measures. The comments which were provided through the returned questionnaires have been lodged in the Members' Lounge for the reference of the members of the committee. A selection of the comments received is shown in **Appendix 2**.

On balance and recognising that views received have been quite mixed both in favour and against the proposals, it is recommended that the Committee agrees to the installation of the traffic calming measures on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate as proposed.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The installation of the traffic calming measures on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate is estimated to cost approximately £15,000 which can be funded from the Road Safety/Traffic Calming provision within the 2015/16 Roads (Traffic) Capital Budget.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Strategic Director of Resources, Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Area Manager and the local Divisional Police Commander for Tayside have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

This report details the result of the responses received to the public consultation regarding the proposed traffic calming installation on Poplar Drive, Ballumbie Castle Estate.

The committee is asked to note the mixture of views received in response to the consultation on the proposed traffic calming installation.

On balance it is recommended that the committee agrees to the installation of traffic calming measures at this location, funded from the Roads (Traffic) Capital Road Safety/Traffic Calming Budget for 2015/16.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No. 159/15: Ballumbie Castle Estate – Traffic Calming

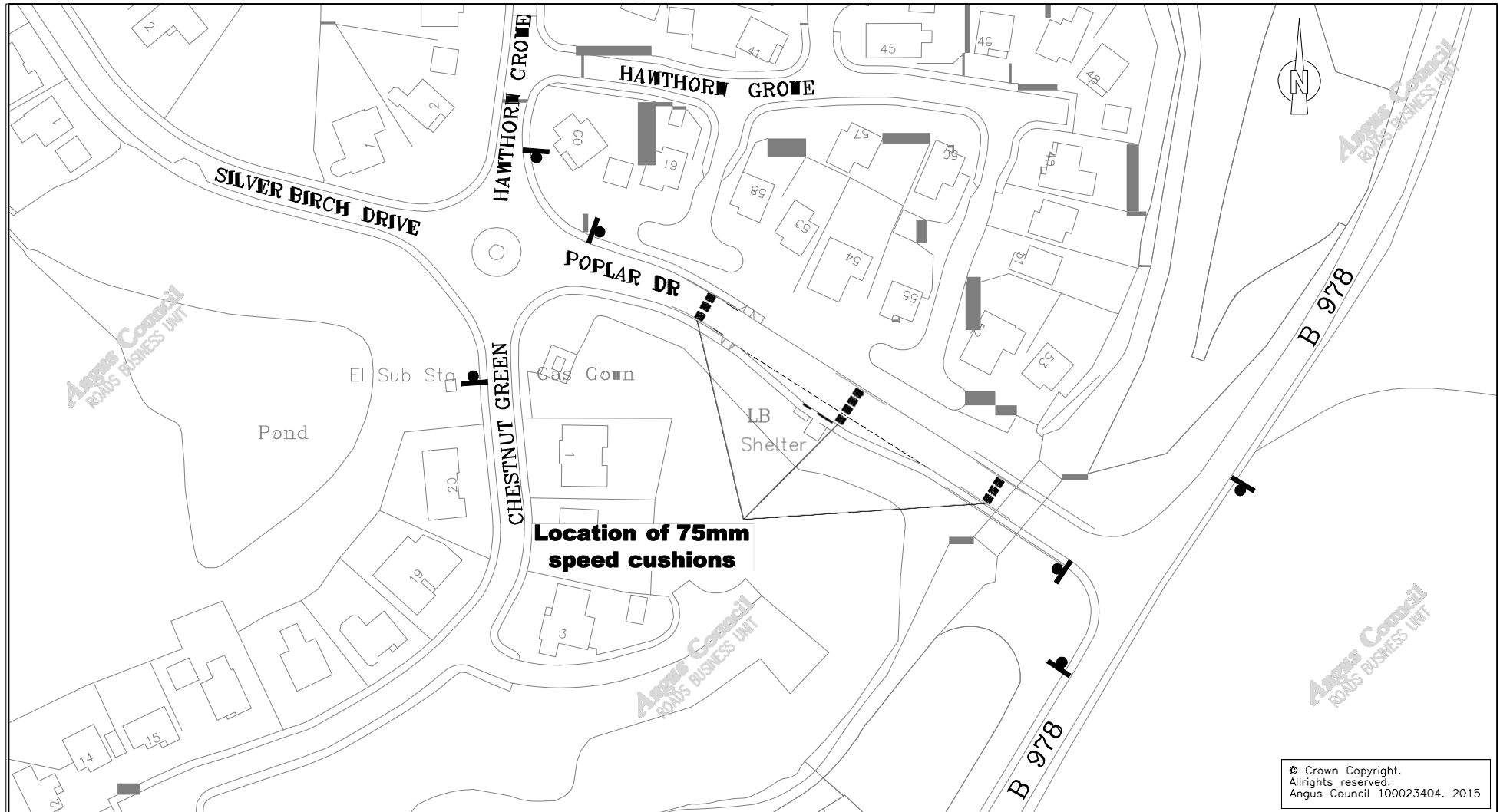
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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Traffic Calming General Layout Plan

Appendix 2 - Selected comments received regarding the installation of the proposed traffic calming measures



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			Drawing Size: A4 Drawn by: Date: Issue:			Plotting Scale: 1=1. Checked By: Date: INFORMATION			Status: Final Approved By: Date:			 Angus Council INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT Engineer-Head of Roads, Angus Council TRAFFIC Section County Buildings Market Street Forfar DD8 3WR Tel: 01307 461460 Fax: 01307 473388			Drawing Title: APPENDIX 1 TRAFFIC CALMING GENERAL LAYOUT		
									Project Title: BALLUMBIE CASTLE ESTATE TRAFFIC CALMING								
Rev.	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Approved				Project No:	Drawing No:	Revision:						

Selected comments received regarding the installation of the proposed traffic calming measures:

“We witness drivers at excessive speed on a daily basis from our house”

“The proposal is a step forward in reducing speed within the estate and we appreciate this move by Angus Council. However there are still concerns with the traffic calming measures at the junction of Silver Birch Drive needing further attention to slow traffic approaching the roundabout on Poplar Drive”

“The speed of traffic around the estate is excessive – particularly when there are so many children. The speed of traffic coming down Silver Birch Drive towards the roundabout is also horrendous. I’ve lost count of the amount of near misses trying to exit from Hawthorne Grove as cars do not slow down in fact many accelerate”

“We would have liked an additional or alternative cushion in Silver Birch Drive before the Poplar Drive roundabout as that is where the speed is acquired and is an additional hazard to traffic exiting Hawthorn Grove. It is a pity that the roundabout could not be made to force cars around it”

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS
TRAFFIC CALMING INSTALLATION - POPLAR DRIVE, BALLUMBIE CASTLE ESTATE

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING INSTALLATION	SHOP, BUSINESS, ORGANISATION	CATEGORY OF USER	COMMENTS	RESULTS RECEIVED BY HARDCOPY OR ELECTRONICALLY
Yes	N/A	Pedestrian, Cyclist, Driver	The measures are inadequate in that the biggest issue is due to the speed of drivers exiting Silver Birch Drive onto the roundabout.	Hardcopy
Yes	N/A	Pedestrian, Cyclist, Driver	We witness drivers at excessive speed on a daily basis from our house.	Hardcopy
Yes	Murroes & Wellbank Community Council	Pedestrian, Cyclist, Driver	The proposal is a step forward in reducing speed within the estate and we appreciate this move by Angus Council. However there are still concerns with the traffic calming measures at the junction of Silver Birch Drive needing further attention to slow traffic approaching the roundabout on Poplar Road.	Electronically
Yes	N/A	Pedestrian, Driver	I think the installation of speed cushions is a very good idea and they would help to ensure the safety of pedestrians crossing Poplar Drive especially the children at school bus times.	Hardcopy
No	N/A	?	Both my wife and I disagree with plans: 1. We feel the humps would be more effective further up (bottom of Silver Birch) as the cars build up speed before circle, going out of estate - no problem with cars entering estate. 2. As there is no pavement opposite bus stop, cars cause danger parking here. It's not the parents picking up children from school bus, but adults parking cars in order to use buses into town. We live opposite and will not be surprised if a child has an accident (yellow lines please).	Hardcopy
No	N/A	Pedestrian, Driver	Whereas the traffic calming measures proposed between the Kellas road junction and the roundabout are most definitely worthwhile for the sake of the safety of those using the area at peak times, the speed issues are not restricted to that area. The traffic calming islands on Silver Birch Drive heading towards Oak Loan are completely ineffective and act as more of a speed slalom for those commuting to and from the top end of the estate. There are lots of children and animals in this area and the drivers do not take this into consideration. The large traffic calming bumps further up the road appear to be very effective and consideration should be given to installing these right up the main thoroughfare. I also feel that reducing the speed limit to 20mph would be worthwhile. I have had two cats hit by drivers and am a parent of a young child living on this stretch of road and am acutely aware of the excessive speed used by drivers in this estate. I would invite the relevant bodies to come and observe the speed issue from my front door in order to make a more informed decision.	Electronically
Yes	N/A	Pedestrian, Driver	The speed of the traffic around the estate is excessive - particularly when there are so many children. The speed of traffic coming down Silver Birch Drive towards the roundabout is also horrendous. I've lost count of the amount of near misses trying to exit from Hawthorn Grove as cars do not slow down in fact many accelerate.	Electronically
Yes	Ballumbie Castle Residents' Association	Pedestrian, Driver	We would have liked an additional or alternative cushion in Silver Birch Drive before the Poplar Drive roundabout as that is where the speed is acquired and is an additional hazard to traffic exiting Hawthorn Grove. It is a pity that the roundabout could not be made to force cars around it.	Electronically
No	N/A	Pedestrian, Driver	Living in Lime Grove I already have to negotiate the speed bumps at Elm Rise and Copper Beech Row junctions with Silver Birch. I have had to have work done twice on my suspension and I blame this on the speed bumps. I have to go "up" and then "down" at least 4 times a day in going to and from work. No matter how slow I approach the ups and downs, the car always jars and you can tell it's not good for vehicles. I don't dispute something needs to be done, but the peak pedestrian time is over in a couple of half hours, whereas new bumps will be endured all day. Has an old-fashioned Belisha Beacon been considered - these are always a signal to go slow, a right of way for pedestrians, and no more bumps! 8 or more everyday is enough!	Electronically
Yes	N/A	Pedestrian, Cyclist, Driver	I once witnessed a child running out in between parked cars on to the path of an on coming motorcyclist. It was a heart stopping moment I don't want to see again. Whilst I was reading the council notice on the lamppost a car approached the exit to the estate at an alarming speed.	Electronically
DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING INSTALLATION	SHOP, BUSINESS, ORGANISATION	CATEGORY OF USER	COMMENTS	RESULTS RECEIVED BY HARDCOPY OR ELECTRONICALLY

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS
TRAFFIC CALMING INSTALLATION - POPLAR DRIVE, BALLUMBIE CASTLE ESTATE

No	N/A	?	<p>Summary of response:</p> <p>I do not agree with nor support the Council's proposals for the three speed bumps to be installed. I do not believe the Council's proposals for the installation of three speed cushions will reduce the risk of an accident/injury only perhaps the speed, and may increase the risk at some times of the year including for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The speed cushions do not stop those cars driving straight across the roundabout 2. Poplar Drive is not a priority road for salting/snow clearance and in icy/wintery conditions cars may unavoidably skid in trying to stop and slow down for the speed cushions 3. The proposals do not tackle or address the problem of children running/crossing the road at various points from/to parked cars not target the few drivers whose speed is higher than your officers deem appropriate at school bus times. <p>Please take a holistic approach to address the main issues identified in your report and re-dress the previous part measures, and implement the following focused at protecting children at school bus drop-off/pick-up times, having equal consideration and balancing the rights of residents and drivers who do drive appropriately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build up the roundabout perimeter to prevent vehicles from driving across it. 2. Extend the pavement along the road side opposite the bus stop (possibly a service strip) where it is currently grassed so that children can exit onto a pavement. 3. Put a covered shelter - similar to the bus shelter - over the existing children's "holding pen" area next to the bus stop. 4. Employ a lollipop person on a permanent _ or at least temporary period - to assist children crossing the road - at the two bus pick up and drop off times. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Paint a proper crossing area across the road at Poplar Drive that children/pedestrians can use so that drivers can be alerted to a crossing point. Paint a crossing point on the south side of the mini roundabout (on Chestnut Green) for same reasons. 6. Install a "Twenty's Plenty" sign at either end of Poplar Drive and/or speed measuring indication to alert cars to their speed (similar to that installed on the Coupar Angus Road at Muirhead village in lieu of Council's proposed speed bumps at Muirhead). 7. Organise some further education and issue safety information leaflets in connection with the two schools for children and parents regards to road safety, road crossing, exiting vehicles on the pavement side etc including re-assuring children the bus will not leave without them especially if the driver sees them waiting to cross the road etc. 8. Inform all residents on the estate of the problems and risks at that location and ask that the speed be reduced in this area particularly at school crossing times. 9. Inform commercial organisations whose vehicles/drivers are regularly on the estate. 10. Paint double yellow lines on the existing speed bumps particularly the speed tables on Silver Birch Drive at the junctions with Copper Beech Row and also Elm Rise to discourage parking on the speed tables. 	Hardcopy
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