

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2018

TAYLOR STREET, FORFAR - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING REMOVAL: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

REPORT BY IAN COCHRANE, HEAD OF TECHNICAL & PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of the public consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming removal on Taylor Street, Forfar.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) note the comments received during the consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming removal on Taylor Street, Forfar;
- (ii) note the range of opinions expressed by those who have responded to the consultation;
- (iii) determine if the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street, Forfar should be removed or retained.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Report No. 265/17 considered by the Communities Committee on 15 August 2017, agreed to public consultation regarding the proposal to remove the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street, Forfar. The location of the existing traffic calming measures is presented on the plan appended to this report (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.2 Report No. 265/17 noted a survey carried out in May 2017 which recorded that 220 pupils accessed the new Forfar campus via Taylor Street between 08:00 and 09:00 and 252 pupils left the premises onto Taylor Street between 15:00 and 16:00. Between 08:00 and 09:00, 42 vehicles dropped off pupils who then accessed the school from Taylor Street and between 15:00 and 16:00, 31 vehicles picked up pupils from Taylor Street.
- 3.3 The current speed limit in Taylor Street is 20 mph with the associated traffic calming. The speed limit would remain if the traffic calming was removed and enforcement would fall to Police Scotland as for other law enforcement across the road network.
- 3.4 The consultation documents (**Appendix 2**) associated with these proposals were issued on Tuesday 7 November 2017 to approximately 331 residential addresses within the surrounding area of the proposed removal (**Appendix 3**). Consultation documents were also sent to all affected groups listed in the proposed list of consultees (**Appendix 4**) and were made available at Forfar Access Office for the general public who may wish to comment on the proposals.
- 3.5 The consultation questionnaire was also available for completion online via the council's website.

- 3.6 The number of responses to the consultation was relatively modest as set out below.
- 3.7 124 completed responses were received from households within the consultation catchment area by the closing date of 19 November 2017 (37% return). Of these responses 72 (58%) agreed, 50 (40%) disagreed and 2 (2%) neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposed removal of the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street. The comments which were provided through the returned questionnaires have been lodged in the Member's Information Hub for the reference of the members of the committee. A selection of the comments received is shown in **Appendix 5**.
- 3.8 Separating the responses for addresses in Taylor Street, there were 36 responses received from the 60 consultation letters issued (60% return), Of these 56% of households (20) indicated that they were not in favour of the removal of the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street.
- 3.9 5 completed responses were received from members of the general public who reside out with the consultation catchment area, 3 (60%) of whom were not in favour of the proposal to remove the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street.
- 3.10 Of the consultation documents issued to the affected groups listed in the proposed list of consultees (**Appendix 4**) one response was received. Schools & Learning stated that they were not in favour of the proposal to remove the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street.
- 3.11 The design of the traffic calming in Taylor Street complies with the Road Humps (Scotland) Regulations 1998. It also complies with the Department for Transport's Traffic Advisory Leaflet 3/91: "Speed Control Humps – Scotland, England and Wales", which sets out distances between humps, spacing from junctions etc. Removal of only some of the humps would not comply with the regulations.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Overall 58% of the responses received from the households within the public consultation catchment area agreed with the proposal to remove the existing traffic calming measures on Taylor Street;
- 4.2 56% of the households on Taylor Street who responded to the public consultation were not in favour of removal of the existing traffic calming which was a view shared by School & Learning Services.
- 4.3 It is also noted that in preparation for the implementation of the expansion of Early Learning and Child Care entitlement by 2020, a number of sites are being explored for potential use as site for a new build nursery. The land surplus to the new school complex at Taylor Street has been identified as a possible early learning and child care site, although this is at the early stages of design and subject to Scottish Government consideration and funding.
- 4.4 Members are therefore asked to note the full range of opinions expressed and determine if the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street should be removed.
- 4.5 Should the committee determine to proceed with the removal of the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street it is proposed that the removal will be undertaken within the next financial year 2018/19.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The removal of the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street, Forfar is estimated to cost approximately £15,000 which can be funded from the Road Safety/Traffic Calming provision within the 2018/19 Roads (Traffic) Capital Budget, although this will reduce funding available for other road safety proposals.

6. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Strategic Director Place, Head of Corporate Finance, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Scottish Fire & Rescue Services Area Manager and the local Police Commander for Tayside Division have been consulted in the preparation of this report, with the statutory consultees noted in **Appendix 4**.

7. CONCLUSION

This report details the result of the responses received to the public consultation regarding the proposed removal of the existing traffic calming measures on Taylor Street, Forfar.

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

The committee is asked to determine if the traffic calming measures on Taylor Street, Forfar should be removed.

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:

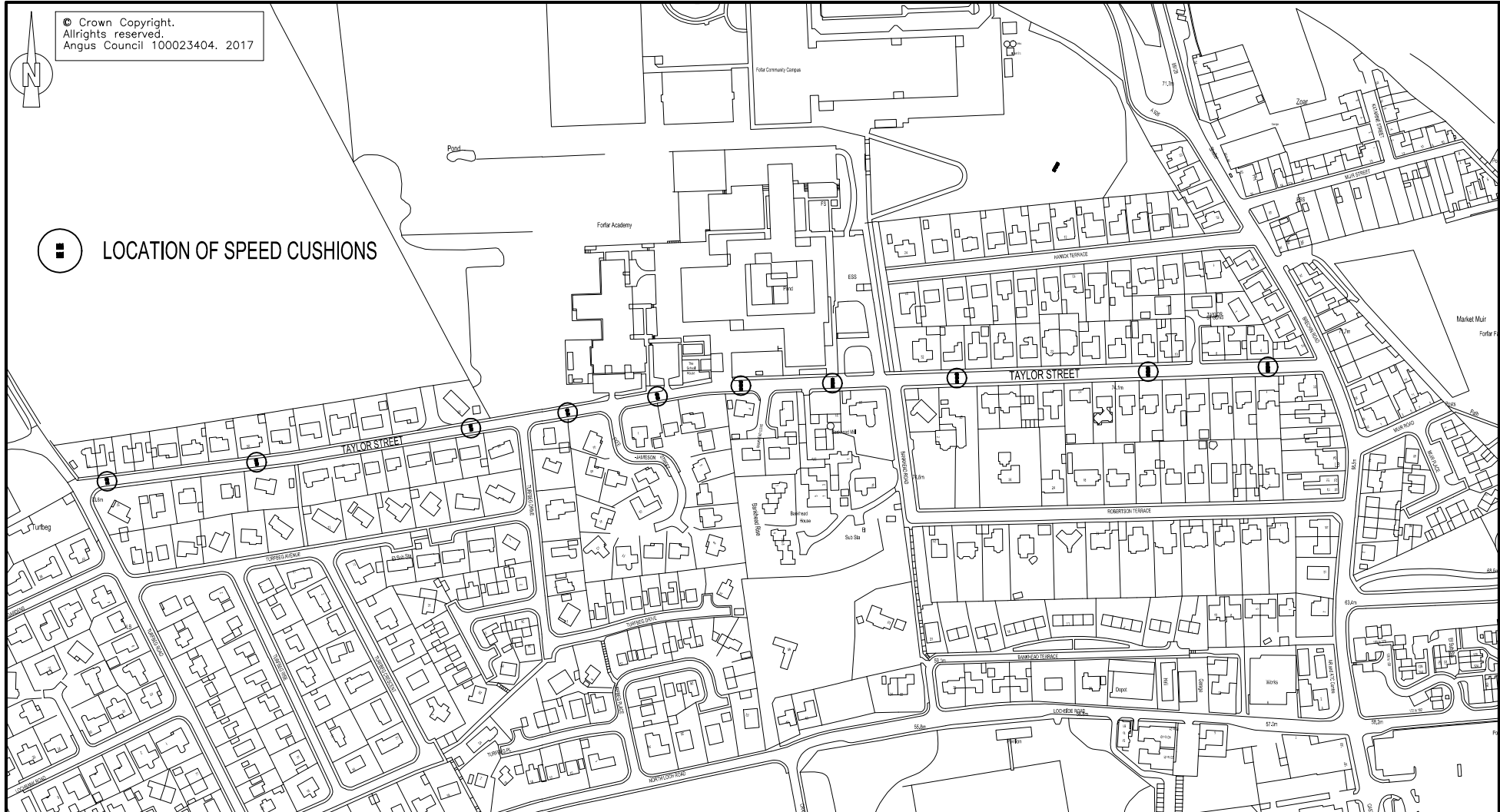
- Report No. 265/17: Taylor Street, Forfar – Removal of Traffic Calming Measures


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List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Taylor Street, Forfar - existing speed cushion layout
- Appendix 2 – Residents Consultation Letter
- Appendix 3 – Public Consultation Catchment Area Plan
- Appendix 4 – List of Consultees
- Appendix 5 – Public Consultation Comments



Rev.	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Approved	Drawing Size: A4	Plotting Scale: 1=1.	Status: Final	 Angus Council TECHNICAL & PROPERTY SERVICES Engineer-Head of Tech & Property Services TRAFFIC Section County Buildings Market Street Forfar DD8 3WR Tel: 01307 461460 Fax: 01307 473388	Drawing Title: APPENDIX 1
						Drawn by:	Checked By:	Approved By:		Project Title: TAYLOR STREET, FORFAR
						Date:	Date:	Date:		EXISTING SPEED CUSHION LAYOUT
						Issue:	INFORMATION			Path & Filename: S:\Roads\Traffic\Traffic Management\Projects 2017-18\Capital\AS - Taylor Street Forfar\Committee Report\Consultation_Response\Appendix 1.dwg

RESIDENTS CONSULTATION

The Occupier: **Taylor Street, Taylor Street Gardens, Robertson Terrace, Bankhead Road, Turfbeg Avenue, Turfbeg Crescent, Turfbeg Rise, Turfbeg Road, Turfbeg Drive, Fyfe Jamieson Street, Lochbank Gardens, Lochbank Road, Inchgarth Avenue and Inchgarth Street.**

In November 2006, Angus Council's Infrastructure Services Committee agreed to the installation of physical traffic calming measures in Taylor Street in Forfar. The speed cushions currently in place were installed under a Scottish Executive initiative to provide 20mph speed limits and associated measures around schools.

The new Forfar Academy Campus opened in February 2017 with the new school layout including significant changes to access and traffic management arrangements that were in place for the old school. The new Campus has its main vehicular access off Kirriemuir Road and school bus transport drops off and picks up from this access, as opposed to previously from Bankhead Terrace. A purpose-built pedestrian and cycle access remains for the Academy on Taylor Street.

Although the main access to the new Forfar Academy is taken off Kirriemuir Road, a recent survey has confirmed that approximately 600 pupils access the Academy from Taylor Street twice a day. On average, 19 cars drop off children in the morning, with 331 children crossing over Taylor Street to use the access whilst 260 children use the north side footway, without crossing Taylor Street to gain access. Figures are similar for pupil movements at the end of the day when leaving the school.

The existing layout of the traffic calming measures in Taylor Street is in accordance with current legislation for Road Humps; removal of some of the speed cushions with a view to having less along the street is not a viable option, as positioning of traffic calming measures is subject to strict design guidance.

Taylor Street is subject to a mandatory 20mph speed limit. If the speed cushions were removed, this speed limit would remain; however it should be noted that the presence of physical traffic calming measures within a 20mph speed limit are intended to make the speed limit self-enforcing.

Following a request from a Local Member from the Forfar area to consider removal of the existing traffic calming measures in Taylor Street, Forfar; Angus Council's Communities Committee agreed to undertake consultation on the proposal to remove the traffic calming measures.

Under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 local authorities must consult with interested parties, including Police, Ambulance and Fire Services along with you as the occupiers of house frontages on affected streets. Therefore your opinion is being sought on whether or not you are in agreement with the removal of the speed cushions from Taylor Street.

Angus Council would be obliged if you would take the time to respond to the question below and return it to the Council by **Friday 19 November 2017** so that your views can be taken into consideration.

We will accept one questionnaire per household and the results of the consultation will be reported, in due course, to Angus Council's Communities Committee.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it to:

The Traffic Manager	or	Forfar ACCESS Office	or	www.angus.gov.uk/hys
Angus House		Municipal Buildings		
Sylvie Way		Castle Street		
Orchardbank Business Park		FORFAR		
FORFAR		DD8 3AF		
DD8 1AN				

Question: Should the existing physical traffic calming measures in Taylor Street be removed?

YES

NO

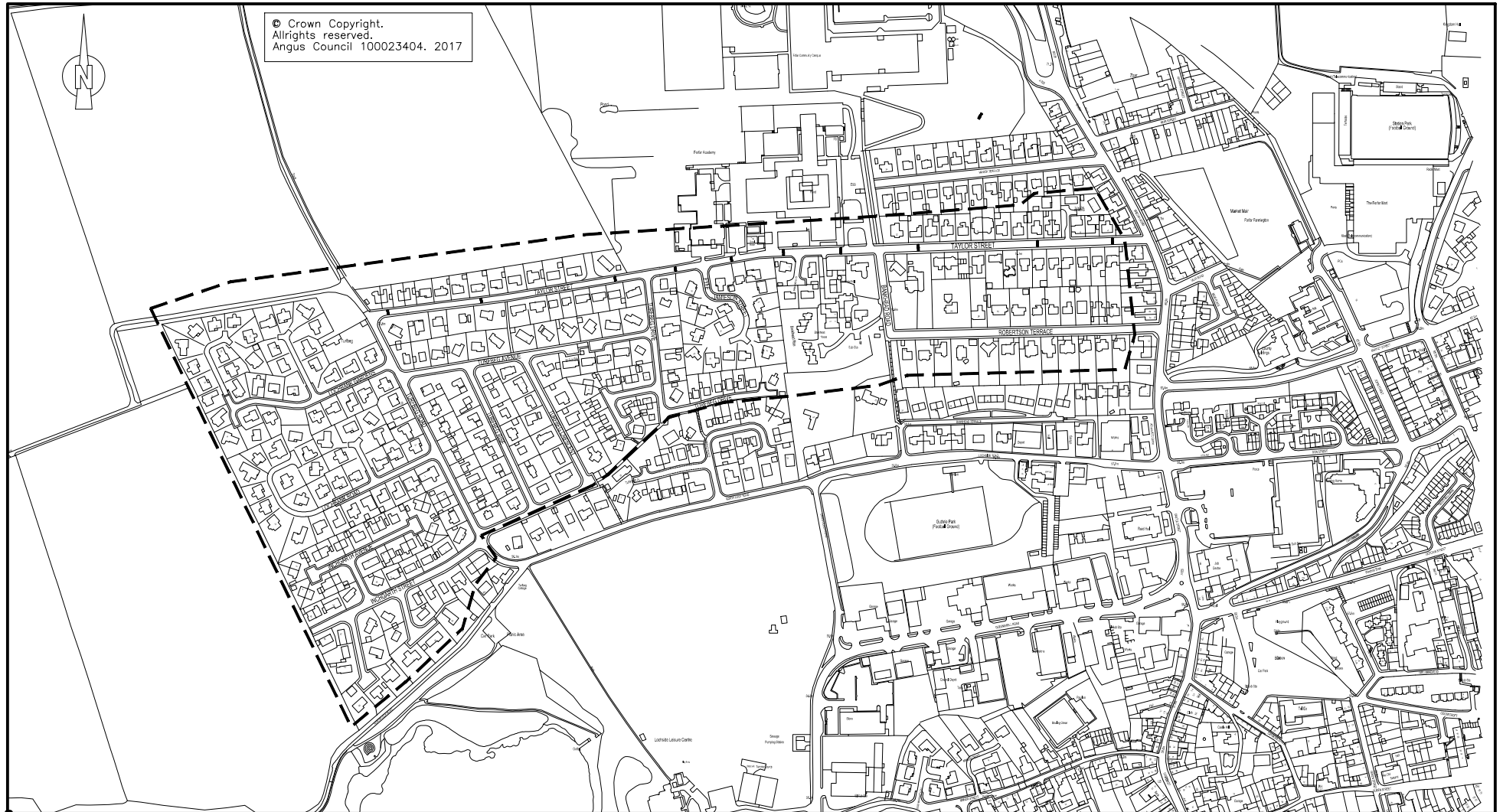
Comments:


Address:

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Thank You.



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1. Local Ward Members for the Forfar & District area.
2. Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council.
3. The local Divisional Police Commander for Tayside.
4. The Fire and Rescue Area Manager.
5. The Regional Officer for the Ambulance Service.
6. Head of Schools & Learning.
7. Service Manager – Regulatory, Protective & Prevention Services.
8. Angus Access Panel.
9. Forfarshire Society for the Blind.

Additionally, each resident within the area indicated on the attached plan (**see Appendix 3**) will be provided with an individual copy of the consultation pack.

It is envisaged that the consultation will be included on the Angus Council website and that consultation packs will be made available at Forfar Access Office for the general public who wish to comment on the proposal. Completed questionnaires

PUBLIC CONSULTATION COMMENTS
TAYLOR STREET, FORFAR – PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING REMOVAL

“Depending on building work at the Turfbeg end of Taylor Street there is likely to be an increase in traffic using the street in the future. The speed bumps are not large enough to damage vehicles but do currently encourage careful driving along Taylor Street. As the road is long and straight, the removal of the speed bumps would encourage an increase in drivers speed.”

“Since these traffic calming measures were introduced, the quality of living/driving in this area has been impacted by this action. Safety I accept is paramount, but over the years residents are fully aware of school pupils and the need to drive carefully. Sadly not all parents and some children push the boundaries re this subject, thus creating dangers. As you have indicated that there is no option to reduce the number of "speed bumps" I therefore would request full removal.”

“Recent surveys have shown that a considerable number of pupils still access via Taylor Street. Even more would be included if you surveyed at lunchtime. The last speed monitoring I am aware of showed that even with the existing traffic calming measures cars were travelling too fast and more speed humps were proposed. The removal will only result in more cars ignoring the speed limit, which is likely to result in calls for speed monitoring.”

“I do not feel that speed humps are now required for the full length of Taylor Street, particularly towards the Western end, and especially at the corner with Turfbeg Road. As well as arriving and leaving school, a number of pupils cross Taylor Street at lunch time going to the shops/town, many heading down Bankhead Road. I therefore feel some calming measures are still required, possibly 2 or 3 humps on either side of Bankhead Road. Alternatively, or additionally, flashing lights with 20mph speed signs at these times would be advantageous for this area. The 20mph limit could be restricted to this part of the road however as Taylor Street is a straight residential road it could be argued that the limit should remain as it is. I note that most of those crossing here go down towards Lochside Road, usually crossing it also. Lochside Road is also straight and tends to be busier with traffic, but to date has not appeared to require traffic calming measures.”

“I live on Taylor Street and witness cars, delivery vans and other vehicles driving faster than 20mph on an almost daily basis. The street is 1 mile long and without speed bumps I feel the speed of vehicles would reach its optimum mid-way at the point where you recognise children (331 on average) are continuing to cross from Robertson Terrace - an accident waiting to happen if the bumps are removed. A suggestion that the bumps were causing damage to cars is ridiculous in my opinion, I drive over them many times in a day - anyone causing damage to their vehicle is doing so due to driving too fast/breaking the 20mph limit. Traffic is likely to increase in the area following the proposed Turfbeg Housing Development and I feel any call to remove the bumps is premature and irresponsible. If the resident calling for the removal of the bumps doesn't reside in the area, I would question their reasoning for this suggestion. Whilst you state the 20mph speed limit would be self-enforcing, speed limits are not being adhered to currently and without speed bumps the speed of vehicles will increase. Given that the bumps were replaced within the last 6 months the removal of them is not cost effective.”

“Please note that prior to the installation of speed cushions traffic on Taylor Street usually travelled well in excess of recognised speed limits for built up areas causing great danger particularly for old and young residents in the area. Perhaps this is not surprising given that Taylor Street is a long flat straight stretch of road. I understand that more houses are soon to be built on Taylor Street following demolition of the old school and the farm track at the west end of Taylor Street is to be upgraded to allow access between Taylor Street and Kirriemuir Road. This will lead to an increase in traffic on Taylor Street and increased danger for residents in the area. Please also note that access to the new school on Kirriemuir Road is still available from Taylor Street for the many pupils who

choose to walk and cycle and for those who are dropped off (and picked up) by parents on Taylor Street. Further the area is extremely busy at lunchtime given the very high volume of pupils who choose to travel to and from the centre of town traversing Taylor Street in the process. In view of the above I am not in favour of the removal of existing speed cushions and indeed would suggest it may be more appropriate for additional speed cushions to be put in place within Taylor Street and other streets in the surrounding area.”

“The traffic calming measures are an important safety measure for the school children and others in the area. Removal would create a very long, straight, fast and dangerous route. Additional humps are needed at the west end of the street as the distance between the humps allows vehicles to speed up. The minimum size of preformed hump should not be used as larger vehicles, including cars, can straddle them. The spacing between the humps across the road is also important as a wide space does not force vehicles to slow down. If vehicles proceed at the correct speed there should be no issue of vehicular damage. The buses mostly used Taylor Street and the bus boxes and signs require removal. The School Keep Clear markings could also be reduced. Children also cross North Loch Road which is a fast, straight road.”