



To: West/Central Area Committee 23/08/2012

Report by: Andrew Preston,
Project Delivery and Environment Manager

Wards affected: Castle, Newnham and Market

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

1.0 Executive summary

- This report requests that the Committee decide whether to implement the Canterbury Street Traffic Calming Project, taking into account the result of the recent public consultation. Two options for the layout of a narrowing on Canterbury St, between Histon Road and North Street, were included in this consultation. The consultation received a mixed response, with no clear support for the measures proposed. In many cases residents also felt that there wasn't a problem with rat running or speeding vehicles.

2.0 Recommendations

The West/Central Area Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To request that Cambridgeshire County Council, as Highway Authority, carry out a traffic analysis of the wider area and implement any necessary highway measures in mitigation of any issues, in order to achieve a more strategic approach to traffic management.
- 2.2 To reassign the allocated EIP funding to new schemes.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 This is the second time a Canterbury Street traffic management scheme has been brought forward as an Environmental Improvement Project. Measures were consulted on back in 2008, which included the closure of Canterbury St between Histon Rd and North St and the introduction of a 20mph speed limit.
- 3.2 The majority supported the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, which was approved by West/Central Area Committee and subsequently implemented.

- 3.3 The issue was brought back to West/Central Area Committee and has been allocated a further £15,000 from its 2012/13 EIP Programme.
- 3.4 This new consultation was based on the potential construction of a narrowing on Canterbury Street, between Histon Rd and North St, in order to deter 'rat running' vehicles and reduce traffic speeds.
- 3.5 The consultation document in Appendix A of this report provides more details on the proposed measures and includes layout plans for the two options.
- 3.6 Approximately 500 leaflets were distributed to the area shown in Appendix B of this report and the questionnaire was available to complete online through the City Council website.
- 3.7 The three local residents associations were also consulted directly.
- 3.8 A total of 40 responses were received, of which 21 disagreed with the proposals, 14 agreed and 5 were undecided.
- 3.9 The negative comments are summarised as follows:
- Some thought it a waste of money, and the Council was trying to address a problem that isn't severe enough to justify the expense of implementing traffic calming.
 - Some felt that the proposals would have little to no affect as a deterrent.
 - Some thought that the traffic calming feature would displace the 'rat running' onto other roads in the area, a similar traffic calming feature on Windsor Road only serves to push the 'rat-running' to Oxford and Richmond Road.
 - Some raised the point that there hasn't been sufficient evidence presented in support of the measure, nor further evidence proving the effectiveness of the measure once implemented.
 - The Windsor Road Residents' Association, Richmond Road Residents' Association and Oxford Road Residents' Association, expressed the added concern that the proposals could have an impact on their areas, and reflected on the above comment of evidence and effectiveness.
 - The proposed site is already very constricted and this feature would only serve to restrict large emergency vehicles from being able to attend an incident.
 - One resident felt that the underlying problem was not being addressed, which is the timing of the traffic lights at the junction of Huntingdon / Victoria / Histon Road and Castle Street, which in turn promotes 'rat-running'.
 - One questioned whether the proposal was to the benefit of the neighbourhood or just to spite motorists trying to save time.

- 3.10 Positive comments welcomed the scheme and supported any attempt to regulate traffic flow and vehicular speed, the positive comments are summarised below:
- Some felt that they would prefer the road to be fully closed at the junction of Histon Road and Canterbury Street as originally proposed in 2008.
 - Most were glad that the problem was being addressed.
- 3.11 Due to the overall lack of support for the measures proposed, it is recommended that any proposals for further traffic calming measures be abandoned at this stage.
- 3.12 It is suggested that a more strategic review of traffic management across a wider area be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 3.13 This would establish whether any significant issues currently exist and how any proposed mitigation measures would impact on the surrounding area.

4.0 Background papers

None

5.0 Appendices

APPENDIX A

Canterbury Street Consultation Leaflet

APPENDIX B

Canterbury Street Consultation Distribution Area.

APPENDIX C

EIP Eligibility Criteria.

6.0 Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Andrew Preston
Author's Phone Number: 01223 457271
Author's Email: andrew.preston@cambridge.gov.uk