

Higher Road at Barnstaple Cross, near Crediton

Report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the location should be referred to the Speed Compliance Action Review Forum process, and the outcome discussed with the local County Member.

1. Background

The local County Member has requested a report addressing the concerns of Sandford Parish Council in relation to Higher Road at Barnstaple Cross be brought to this Committee. The concerns relate to the safety for both pedestrians and motorists at this location, and particularly the inappropriate speed of vehicles.

The approach to funding transport infrastructure has changed substantially over recent years, with the aim of enabling greater decision making as part of the Local Enterprise Partnership governance. These changes, along with substantially reducing budgets and the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy, have significant implications for the future delivery of transport schemes. Given these changes to the government funding, it will be increasingly difficult for local authorities to secure or make a strong case for smaller scale schemes, such as the construction of new footways and the introduction of traffic calming schemes as suggested at this location. As such there is a need to prioritise potential schemes using such information as collision data.

Devon County Council and Devon and Cornwall Constabulary regularly receive concerns regarding the speed of vehicles outside of homes and other locations. To minimise duplication and to provide a better and more consistent response, the County Council and the Police have developed a joint procedure to allow the concerns to be assessed in a consistent manner called Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF). The team is normally made up of Police representatives, a Devon County Council Road Safety Officer and local Highways Officers.

When a site has been accepted for SCARF, the collision history of the site is considered and covert speed data for the site is obtained. There are a number of potential outcomes from the meeting and prior consideration of the data. The team may decide that no further action is required or, if the data does indicate that a speeding issue exists, the team will decide what action is necessary. This ranges from education and enforcement through to engineering.

3. Collision Data

Collision data for the period between 01/01/2010 and 31/12/2014 does not show any recorded collisions involving pedestrians on Higher Road between the junction with the A377 and Forches Cross. 1 slight injury collision not involving a pedestrian is recorded.

4 slight and 1 serious injury collisions, none involving pedestrians, have been recorded over the same period on the A377 at the junction with Higher Road.

5. Financial Considerations

There would be no financial impact resulting from this recommendation.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

There are no known environmental impact considerations for the Highway Authority associated with the recommendation.

7. Equality Considerations

There are not considered to be any equality issues in regards to this recommendation.

8. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations with regard to this report. Where relevant these are considered in reports on individual schemes.

9. Risk Management Considerations

This proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action has been taken to safeguard the Council's position.

10. Public Health Impact

The proposals are expected to be carbon neutral.

11. Reasons for Recommendation

In isolation, the casualty data does not demonstrate a pattern of pedestrian related incidents. Taking the location through the SCARF process will provide an outcome considered by the County Council and the Police using a wider range of data.

David Whitton
Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Crediton Rural and Newton St Cyres & Sandford

[Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers](#)

Contact for enquiries: Tom Vaughan

Tel No: 01404 821540 (option 0) ext 3718

Nil

tv030316mdh
sc/cr/Barnstaple cross
02 030316