

**WIRRAL COUNCIL**

**HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATIONS PANEL**

**7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PETITION: REQUEST FOR FURTHER ROAD SAFETY MEASURES TO SLOW TRAFFIC SPEED IN PARK ROAD, WALLASEY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>SEACOMBE WARD</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES COUNCILLOR LESLEY RENNIE</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report considers a 521 signature petition submitted via Councillor Knowles in October 2009 requesting further road safety measures to slow the speed of traffic in Park Road, Wallasey and the surrounding area.
- 1.2 The report concludes that no additional traffic management measures are justified at the present time and recommends that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be advised that no further action should be taken in respect of this petition, but that the situation will continue to be monitored.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 2.1 The Panel is requested to:
- (1) Note the petitioners' request for further road safety measures to slow the speed of traffic in Park Road, Wallasey and the surrounding area.
  - (2) Recommend to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee that no further action should be taken in respect of the petition requesting further road safety measures to slow the speed of traffic in Park Road, Wallasey and the surrounding area but that the situation will continue to be monitored.
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### **3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 3.1 An analysis by my Accident Investigation Unit revealed that there had been one recorded personal injury accident in Park Road during the latest three year study period. This involved an unsupervised 7 year old child being struck by a vehicle, travelling between 15 and 20 mph, whilst playing on the road. There is no evidence to suggest that inappropriate speed was a factor in this accident. In the surrounding area there has been 3 accidents, none of which related to inappropriate speeding. One accident involved an unsupervised 5 year old child being struck by a vehicle travelling at slow speed, whilst playing on the carriageway. Of the remaining two accidents, one occurred on the footway and the other was a two vehicle parking issue.
- 3.2 Traffic speed surveys were undertaken at four locations within the area in November 2009 following receipt of this petition. These revealed relatively low speeds in general with an average speed of 21 mph.
- 3.3 The lead petitioner has been advised of the findings of the survey and was invited to withdraw the petition. She declined to do so and therefore, in accordance with Standing Order 34 of the Council's Constitution, it is necessary to report this matter to your Panel.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 A 521 signature petition from residents in Park Road and the surrounding area was submitted in October 2009 by Councillor Knowles requesting further road safety measures to reduce the speed of traffic "due to recent accidents".
  - 4.2 In 2001, following a detailed investigation into the then comparatively poor casualty record, a local safety scheme was introduced in Park Road and wider surrounding area.
  - 4.3 The scheme, shown on drawing number TS0100b0 included a 20 mph zone and a series of road humps. These were designed in accordance with national Department for Transport guidance to ensure the scheme's 20 mph speed limit was self-enforcing.
  - 4.4 An officer from my Traffic Management Division has contacted the lead petitioner to discuss their concerns in more detail and inform them of the safety works already undertaken in this area.
  - 4.5 Despite the presence of the existing measures, the petitioner feels that additional measures could be taken to improve road safety.
  - 4.6 I can confirm that my Road Safety team actively engage with local schools, including Somerville Primary School, which is sited immediately within this area.
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4.7 Programmes of road safety education are regularly undertaken including interactive child pedestrian training and assessments with feedback to parents.

4.8 I consider that no additional traffic management measures are warranted at this present time, however, my Road Safety officers will continue to offer education to children and parents about the highway environment.

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

5.1 None identified

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 Road Safety Officers continue to provide programmes of Road Safety Education to local schools and children and parents within the area.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Consultation between the lead petitioner and an engineer from the Accident Investigation Unit was undertaken to discuss the concerns raised.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

8.1 There are no specific implications under this heading arising from this report.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

9.1 There are no implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no implications under this heading.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The existing traffic calming scheme in the area meets the aspirations of Equality Impact Assessments, which have been completed for Road Safety, Accessibility, Dropped Crossings and Public Transport.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report.

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### **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report.

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### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

A petition and survey documents have been used in the preparation of this report.

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>