

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure DATE: 27 October 2009

CORPORATE DIRECTOR : Director of Corporate Governance

TITLE OF REPORT : The Aberdeen City Council (Cattofield Terrace/
Cattofield Gardens/Picktillum Avenue and
Picktillum Place) (20mph Speed Limits) Order
2009 (with associated speed cushions on
Cattofield Terrace and Cattofield Gardens)

REPORT NO : CG10077

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report deals with objections received after the statutory advertisement of 20mph speed limits on Cattofield Terrace, Cattofield Gardens, Picktillum Avenue and Picktillum Place, with associated speed cushions on the first two of these streets. The cushions in Cattofield Gardens have been the problem here, attracting twenty-two representations (all in standard form). This narrative is reproduced in Section 6 below. The public notice is attached as an appendix, from which members will be able to see the exact content of the proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the objections be overruled and the order and associated speed cushions introduced as originally envisaged.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All these measures are being funded within existing budgets.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

These are standard traffic management arrangements to protect road safety in general and pedestrian safety in particular.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. REPORT

The main appendix hereto is a commentary in the authorship of the roads officials, in which the issues raised in the statutory objections are discussed.

Also, copies of the original communications are available for inspection on the day of the meeting, or by contacting Mr. David Wemyss, Senior Committee Services Officer (Roads Legislation) at (01224) 522523.

There are no legal or procedural issues of note. As indicated above, the twenty-two objections in this case came in by means of a standard form. Under those circumstances, that narrative is reproduced below:-

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to lodge my objections to the proposed Speed Cushions on Cattofield Gardens as per your notice in The Press and Journal date 24th August 2009.

There are several reasons why I feel the need to object to this proposal which I will outline below.

- *There is no need to install the Speed Cushions, I have lived in Cattofield Gardens for quite some time and during that period I am not aware of there having been any incidents involving excessive speed or pedestrians being hit by vehicles. Also Cattofield Gardens is not a 'Rat Run' commuter traffic does not use the street as a cut through, however the council may feel this will become the case if Speed Cushions are installed in the neighbouring street (Cattofield Terrace) I would suggest if the council feel this will be the case then make Cattofield Gardens a dead end by blocking one end of the street, thus preventing through traffic.*
- *The installation of Speed Cushions will increase traffic noise as traffic will be required to slow down and engines will be revved to traverse the speed humps, the street is currently very quiet despite its close proximity to a main thoroughfare.*
- *If the Speed Cushions are installed there will be an increased likelihood of vehicles being damaged, damage to sumps, exhausts and premature wear on suspension parts, please advise where in the council the bill should be sent for the replacement of these parts when the time comes.*
- *Currently there has been 20 MPH speed limits imposed for some time which have been very effective without the need for any additional disruption.*

Please also find a summary of facts relating to Speed Cushions, it seems that they create more problems than they prevent.

- *Speed cushions make roads MORE dangerous. Most accidents happen at junctions, NOT in the middle of a residential street.*
- *Police presence is THE best way to slow traffic on residential streets.*
- *Speed cushions damage your vehicle.*
- *Speed cushions SLOW DOWN emergency response time for police cars, fire appliances and ambulances (where every minute counts).*
- *Speed cushions don't save lives – they contribute to accidents and deaths.*

There is NO WAY to prevent all accidents. Making it HARDER to drive and control a vehicle is NOT the solution. Lowering property values by damaging the roads with speed cushions is NOT the solution.

I trust you will take these objections on board and seriously reconsider the proposal to install speed cushions; I am sure the funds for this project could be re-allocated to other projects, for example carrying out repairs to damaged roads and pavements throughout the city.

Yours Sincerely,

There is no apparent scepticism about the virtue of traffic calming on Cattofield Terrace. Also, the objection identifies (correctly) that the reason for having traffic calming on Cattofield Gardens is to anticipate displacement from Cattofield Terrace. The suggestion of closing Cattofield Gardens at one end is problematic (see appendix), so then there arises the question of whether people in Cattofield Gardens might prefer to take their chances on displacement. All in all, however, one might be wary of this approach, since the Council has learnt in the past (admittedly, from the context of controlled parking zones) that things excised in the face of public scepticism quickly become the subject of requests for reinstatement.

7. AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used as a point of departure for writing this report (other than the statutory objections themselves).

COMMITTEES/enterprise planning & infrastructure/2009/271009/Cattofield Terrace-Cattofield Gardens-Picktillum Avenue and Picktillum Place (20mph Speed Limits) Order 2009 (with associated speed cushions)

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 and ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

20 MPH SPEED LIMITS ON CATTOFIELD TERRACE/CATTOFIELD GARDENS/ PICKTILLUM AVENUE AND PICKTILLUM PLACE (WITH ASSOCIATED SPEED CUSHIONS ON THE FIRST TWO OF THESE STREETS)

Aberdeen City Council proposes to make The Aberdeen City Council (Cattofield Terrace/Cattofield Gardens/Picktillum Avenue and Picktillum Place) (20mph Speed Limits) Order 2009, which would provide for regulatory 20mph speed limits on the four roads named in the title.

The Council is also proposing to introduce associated speed cushions on Cattofield Terrace and Cattofield Gardens. Each cushion would be established under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and would be 0.075 metres in height and 1.9 metres in length. Tolerances for the construction height of a speed cushion are plus or minus 10 millimetres transversely and plus or minus 15 millimetres longitudinally. The exact positioning of each cushion can be clarified by telephoning Mr. Graham McKenzie at Aberdeen (01224) 523471, or by calling at St. Nicholas House (details of this see below). All parties in the affected streets will receive the exact specifications by letterbox drop.

Full details of all the proposals are to be found in the draft order and in the schedules of speed cushion positionings which, together with maps showing the intended measures and an accompanying statement of the Council's reasons for promoting them, may be examined during normal office hours on weekdays between Monday, 24 August, 2009 and Monday, 21 September, 2009, inclusively, in the offices of the Traffic Operations Team on the 2nd floor of St. Nicholas House, Broad Street, Aberdeen.

It is recommended that anyone visiting St. Nicholas House to view the documents should use the above number to make an appointment to do so, in order that a member of staff can be present to offer an explanation if necessary. Anyone unable to visit St. Nicholas House can telephone the above number to speak to one of the roads officials.

Anyone wishing to object to the proposed order, or to the intended establishment of speed cushions, or both, should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the undersigned during the statutory objection period which also runs from 24 August until 21 September, 2009, inclusively. Any objection should state (1) the name and address of the objector, (2) the matters to which it relates, and (3) the grounds on which it is being made. The signatories of petitions or standard forms will not ordinarily be treated as objectors (in the sense in which statutory objectors are contacted by the Council about the possibility of informal negotiations, etc.) but petitions and standard forms are always brought to the attention of the relevant Committee.

Any person who submits an objection should note that, as a rule, the correspondence will end up in the public domain. Generally, this is because the Committee agendas are public documents, available in libraries and also distributed to the press. Also, when objectors are sent papers later in the procedure, these papers may refer to the complete set of objectors' names and addresses, along with summaries of their observations. If any member of the public is concerned about his or her objection entering the public domain in this way, this should be stated clearly in the objection submitted. Otherwise it will be assumed that an objector has no such concern. It may also be appropriate to indicate that, in fact, objections are very rarely publicised beyond their being read by Councillors, and so, unless any member of the public has a strongly-held or distinctive concern about confidentiality, it is probably in the public interest to observe that there is an element of technicality about this part of the statutory notice. Guidance on these issues can be obtained from Democratic Services at 522523.

Roderick MacBeath
Head of Democratic Services
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Aberdeen