



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of an **INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION** will be held in LGF2 - Civic Offices on **FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2019 AT 10.40 AM**

Heather Thwaites

Heather Thwaites
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 14 March 2019

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

For consideration by

Pauline Jorgensen, Executive Member for Highways and Transport

Officers Present

Sara Allman, Senior Traffic Management Engineer

Callum Wernham, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist

IMD NO.	WARD	SUBJECT
IMD 2019/12	Wescott	RANCES LANE TRAFFIC CALMING REVIEW. 5 - 8

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Agenda Item IMD12

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: 2019/12

TITLE	Rances Lane Traffic Calming Review.
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Member for Highways and Transport - Pauline Jorgensen
DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME	22 March 2019 LGF2 at 10.40
WARD	Wescott;
DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER	Director of Locality and Customer Services - Sarah Hollamby

PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)

Requests have been made by residents of Rances Lane to consider removal of the existing traffic calming along the Lane. It is reported that the current measures of narrowing's and chicanes do not calm the traffic and vehicles continue to speed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Highways and Transport:

- 1) Notes the contents of this report;
- 2) Agrees that the traffic calming at Rances Lane remains and that the area will be monitored for consideration, should funding become available.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report outlines the responses following consultation on existing traffic calming in Rances Lane. Following a residents request for removal, WBC have been asked to consult with local residents as to their ideas on traffic calming within the Lane. This report identifies there are many different views, but the principal of traffic calming is required.

Background

Rances Lane has previously had traffic calming installed in the form of speed humps/cushions, however due to residents' complaints regarding noise and vibration issues, these were replaced a number of years ago with road narrowing's and priority give way chicanes, which in the main have been accepted.

Following a request to Ward Councillors (Oliver Whittle & Julian Sumner- McGhee) a resident has requested that the traffic calming on Rances Lane is removed. Ward Councillors requested WBC carry out consultation with residents regarding these changes, or need for changes from nearby residents.

Consultation question 1: Are you happy with the current arrangements of Traffic Calming on Rances Lane?

Yes: 38

No: 40

Question 2 requested comments. These are reproduced in Appendix 1, however, the majority of comments from those not happy with the current traffic calming stated that they agreed traffic calming was required, but some requested more narrowing's and less give way points, others requested humps and/or cushions, others stated they did not want any humps/cushions.

Many of the comments were in relation to the use of the route by large vehicles, and vehicles racing to get from one pinch point to the next to beat the queue of traffic approaching. Several other requested speed camera's with or without traffic calming and 20mph speed limit in the area.

Those who were happy with the current arrangements also raised comments the majority similar to the above regarding large vehicles, amount of traffic, 20 mph speed limit and speed cameras.

Safety Record

Whilst it is clear from the residents' comments that they perceive there is a concern for safety due to the volume, speed and type of traffic using the route, there have been no personal injury accidents occurring along Rances Lane over the previous 3 years. This shows that the existing traffic calming is creating a safer environment for all users of the Lane.

Recent traffic survey data shows that the average speed of traffic using the lane in a southbound direction is 28.1mph and the average for northbound traffic is 27 mph. This is clearly below the speed limit for the lane and would not be suitable for speed enforcement from Thames Valley Police.

Conclusions

There is no general consensus within the results and the comments and the small difference in the Yes/No votes shows that many residents are happy with the current arrangement and those that are not would, in the majority prefer extra measures such as speed cameras or Vehicle Activated Signs as a speed limit reminder. A 20mph speed limit would not be appropriate as these are for routes where existing traffic travels at or below 24mph, or for areas with traffic calming that itself contains speeds to below 24pmh.

With the opening of the distributor roads throughout Wokingham, it is envisaged that less vehicles will want to use residential roads to get to their destination, thus reducing volume along Rances Lane.

As there are no specific speeding issues along Rances Lane, Thames Valley Police would not agree to install a fixed safety camera.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the existing traffic calming remains as it is currently in Rances Lane and that further investigation could be carried out after the opening and settling in period of the distributor roads around Wokingham.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	0	Yes	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications
None

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES	
Director – Corporate Services	No Comment
Monitoring Officer	No Comment
Leader of the Council	No Comment

For Highways use only	
Town and Parish Councils	
Wokingham Town Council	No comment received
Local Ward Members	
Julian McGhee-Sumner	No comment received
Oliver Whittle	No comment received
Reasons for considering the report in Part 2	
N/A	
List of Background Papers	
None	
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