

**BRIEFING PAPER FOR SADDLEWORTH AND LEES DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE**

Petition: Church Road, Uppermill

3 October 2013

Unity Partnership

Officer Contact : Andrew Cowell
Ext. 1963

Purpose of Paper

The purpose of the paper is to consider a petition submitted by a resident of Church Road, Uppermill, for the Council to investigate speed reduction measures on Church Road due to concerns over the speed of vehicles and the danger posed to pedestrians. This petition was presented to the District Executive on 25 July 2013.

Recommendation

It is recommended that no changes be introduced on Church Road except for minor improvements to the road marking layout.

Petition: Church Road, Uppermill**1 Purpose of Paper**

- 1.1 The purpose of the paper is to consider a petition submitted by a resident of Church Road, Uppermill, for the Council to investigate the implementation of speed reduction measures on Church Road due to residents concerns over the speed of vehicles and the danger posed to pedestrians.

2 Background

- 2.1 The petition is signed by 50 residents of Church Road and the surrounding area. The petition requests that the Council address speeding issues and the danger posed to pedestrians crossing Church Road, in the vicinity of Heathfields and Spring Meadow. The request is for the Council to address the problems by putting up lights warning of speed restrictions, or road humps to slow traffic, or introducing a 20mph zone. The petitioner states that the road is a thoroughfare for pedestrians of all ages to access the village and two schools. The petitioner goes on to state that mothers pushing prams and with primary age children have to cross from Heathfields and Spring Meadow and are in double danger because of parked cars and speeding vehicles.

3 Observations

- 3.1 The speed limit on Church Road is 30mph and forms part of the built-up area in Uppermill. It is an unclassified road and leads from High Street to the rural road network located to the east of Uppermill. It links the village centre with the residential road network located to the north and south of Church Road.
- 3.2 A survey was undertaken in November 2006 to record the speed of vehicles on Church Road in both directions in the vicinity of Springmeadow Lane. The average speed recorded was 25.8mph. A second speed survey was carried out on 3 July 2013 in a similar location and the average speed recorded was 26.6mph.
- 3.3 The Police Injury Accident Database shows only one recorded injury accident in this location. This occurred in 2001 and involved a 15 year old pedestrian who stepped into the path of a moving vehicle resulting in a slight foot injury. The pedestrian was crossing from north to south.
- 3.4 There is a footway on the north side of Church Road but no footway on the south side, from the west side of Springmeadow Lane towards the Village.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 It must be borne in mind that there is a limited amount of funding available for traffic calming measures. Schemes must therefore be prioritised based on accident saving potential. Funding is targeted towards areas with a proven injury accident record, with the aim of reducing the incidence and severity of accidents in accordance with accident reduction targets set by Central Government. Without this funding to introduce physical traffic calming measures, it is difficult to achieve a reduction in the speed of vehicles. It should also be noted that the Police are the only authority responsible for speed enforcement and the Council have no powers to deal with the issue of speed alone.
- 4.2 The average speed of vehicles travelling along Church Road is around 26mph. The analysis of speed data suggests that on average around 17.5% of motorists are travelling above the speed limit, but this is fairly typical. There will always be a minority of motorists who are intent on driving above the speed limit, but the behaviour of these drivers is difficult to change, even with the introduction of physical traffic calming measures or conventional signing. Further to this, there is a history of anti-social driving behaviour on this route, which again is difficult to address.
- 4.3 In situations where there are a high number of motorists in contravention of the speed limit, the Police can designate areas for mobile speed enforcement. However, there must be a percentage of motorists travelling above the enforcement threshold for a site to qualify. It should be noted that this threshold is higher than the speed limit itself.
- 4.4 With regards to 20mph limits, at the present time the Police do not support the introduction of 20mph limits without physical traffic calming measures. These are referred to as 20mph Zones and are only considered effective as they are self enforcing. However, recently in the UK there has been a move towards introducing area wide 20mph limits on residential roads and therefore in future Church Road may be treated in this way. However, trials are ongoing.
- 4.5 Vehicle Activated Signs are a tool available to Highway Authorities but their use is limited to use in areas where there is a proven injury accident record and where conventional signing has proven to be ineffective. Further to this, such signs are triggered by speeds above a certain threshold so it is unlikely that a sign would be appropriate on Church Road.
- 4.6 With regards to pedestrian safety, Officers have visited the site and assessed the reported problems. At Springmeadow Lane, pedestrians are aided by the presence of footways located on both sides of Church Road. Parked vehicles on the north side do affect visibility, but it is the view of Officers that the introduction of parking restrictions would be over restrictive given the level of on-street parking demand for local residents and the current accident and speed records. At Heathfields there is no footway on the south side of Church Road. Pedestrian safety is therefore compromised when crossing in a south to north direction and compounded further by the boundary walls of the two

adjacent properties, which reduce visibility further. At this location it is proposed to introduce an edge of carriageway marking to help highlight the junction to passing motorists and provide a clear boundary between where pedestrians may be situated, and the carriageway. Unfortunately, there is a legacy of substandard or discontinuous footways in Saddleworth and in this respect the danger to pedestrians at this location is not exceptional. It should also be borne in mind that when pedestrians have to position themselves close to the carriageway, the perceived speed of vehicles is often higher than the actual speed. This is further compounded by the gradient on Church Road.

- 4.7 In conclusion, given the above reasoning, the Highway Authority do not propose any measures along Church Road except for the installation of road markings at Heathfields as described above. In terms of pedestrian safety, Officers would advise that pedestrians cross Church Road at Springmeadow Lane where there is enhanced visibility.

5 **Ward Councillors Views**

- 5.1 Ward Councillors views <>.

6 **Any Financial, Legal, Human Resources, Procurement, IT Implications**

- 6.1 The introduction of new road markings will be funded from the Highways Maintenance budget.

7 **Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that a new edge of carriageway marking be introduced at the junction of Church Road and Heathfields, Uppermill.

8. **Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Copy of Petition

APPENDIX A
COPY OF PETITION

Page 1 of 4.

June 2013.

We the undersigned are petitioning the OMBC to address the problem of speeding vehicles up and down Church Road, Uppermill, Saddleworth.

The road is a thoroughfare for pedestrians of all ages to access the village and two schools, the primary at the top and the comprehensive down the road in the village. Mothers pushing prams and with primary age children have to cross from Heathfields and Spring Meadow and are in double danger because of parked cars on Church Road as well as those speeding up and down without any care or observance of the speed limit.

We require the council to address this urgent problem by putting up lights warning of speed restrictions, or bumps to slow traffic, or even a 20 mph zone designation. The traffic on High Street through Uppermill is also speeding, but at least the two sets of pedestrian crossings are a help.

We urge you to act before Uppermill witnesses any more accidents or deaths.

Written and signed by: D.A. J. and I. E Flanagan







59 Church Road, Uppermill, Saddleworth. OL3 6DY

J. E. Flanagan (Mrs)
Mr. D. Flanagan M.Sc.

Church Road, Uppermill TRAFFIC Speed Control Petition

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Address.</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Margaret Dyson	59A Church Rd.	M. Dyson
L. DYSON	59A CHURCH RD.	L. Dyson
P. MADEN	29 Brook Ave	P. Maden
A. MADEN	29 Brook Ave	A. Maden
H. J. KNIGHT	61 CHURCH RD	H. J. Knight
L. Carter	63 Church Rd	L. Carter
B. CARTER	63 CHURCH ROAD	B. Carter
D. LEES	67 CHURCH RD	D. Lees
D. LEES	67 CHURCH RD	D. Lees
F. Goulay	65 Church Rd	F. Goulay
J. Garside	65 Church Rd	J. Garside
J. LORD	8 Church Rd	J. Lord
J. ANDREW	85 CHURCH RD	J. Andrew
L. ANDREW	85 CHURCH RD.	L. Andrew
J. HEATHCOTE	97 CHURCH RD	J. Heathcote
J. Cheelham	50 Church Rd.	J. Cheelham
E. Cheelham	" " "	J. Cheelham pp.
T. LORD	42	T. Lord
R. LORD	42 No Speed Bumps	R. Lord
B. Key	40 Church Road	B. Key
I. J. LOWE	39 CHURCH RD	I. J. Lowe
E. O'DALY	22 Church M	E. O'Daly
M. J. BROGDEN	18 CHURCH ROAD	M. J. Brogden
B. BROWN	18 CHURCH ROAD	B. Brown

Church Road, Uppermill TRAFFIC Speed Control Petition

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Address.</u>	<u>Signature</u>
JONATHAN LEWIS	16 CHURCH RD, UPPERMILL, OLDHAM	
STUART LEWIS	16 CHURCH RD, UPPERMILL, OLDHAM.	S.P. Lewis
LOUISE HOSKYN	THE LIMES, HEATHFIELDS, UPPERMILL, OLDHAM OL3 6EW	A L Hoskyn.
BRIAN POWELL	SHERBROOKE HALL FARM HIGH STILE LANE, OL3 6EW.	
JANINE HENTHORN	47 CHURCH ROAD UPPERMILL OL3 6DY.	J Henthorn.
 ANTHONY SMITH	49 CHURCH RD UPPERMILL OL3 6DY	
A Stock AMANDA STOCKS	1 Heathfields RD Uppermill OL3 6EW	A Stock.
CAROL COLE	3 Heathfields Uppermill.	
LESLEY WILD MAUREN BRANDON HARRY BRANDON	5 SPRING MEADOW LANE 6, HEATHFIELDS OL3 6EW " "	 M Brandon, P. P. H Brandon.

Church Road, Uppermill TRAFFIC Speed Control Petition

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Address.</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Catherine Woodford	9 Heathfields Road	C Woodford
Melodie Crossland	Heathfield Lodge.	Melodie Crossland
Phil Crossland		Phil Crossland
	Church Rd - Uppermill	J Singleton
JACK HOLDEN	71 CHURCH ROAD	J Holden
WGHES	3. WELLMeadow RD.	J. M. Hughes
HUGHES	3 WELLMeadow LANE	J. Hyles
Amanda S	3 WELLMeadow LANE	A. Smith
RICHARD H	" " "	R. Hyles
JUNE MOORHOUSE		J Moorhouse
MORAG THORPE	23, CHURCH ROAD	M. S. Thorpe
David Denison	4 Spring Bank, Uppermill	D Denison