



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Streetscene & Engineering Cabinet Board

28 January 2022

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport – D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Tonna and Aberdulais

B4434 Dulais Fach Road, Station Road, Brunel Close, Tai Bach and Riverside, Tonna – 20mph Speed Limits Order 2021 and Traffic Calming Measures at B4434 Dulais Fach Road

Purpose of the Report:

To consider the comments and objections received following the advertisement of the B4434 Dulais Fach Road, Station Road, Brunel Close, Tai Bach and Riverside, Tonna – 20mph Speed Limits Order 2021 and Traffic Calming Measures at B4434 Dulais Fach Road, as indicated in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Executive Summary:

The report outlines the proposed traffic regulation orders which were formally advertised resulting in objections being received.

Background:

The proposed traffic regulation orders are required to help reduce traffic speed in the locality with specific reference to the area adjacent to the Active Travel Route Nos INM NEA C015, C014 and P016.

Visibility for pedestrians and cyclists on route No. INM NEA C015 is poor at the junction with the B4434 which means that by helping to reduce traffic speed it will make the route connection safer.

The proposed speed cushions are required in the interest of highway safety.

The proposed scheme is indicated in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Financial Impacts:

The work will be funded by the Welsh Government.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix C, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below:-

A full impact assessment is not required as the proposed traffic regulation orders will help to provide a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists, school children, motorists and residents.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There are 'No implications' associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

The proposals were formally advertised for a 21-day period between 17th November 2021 and 8th December 2021.

Risk Management Impacts:

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

A consultation exercise was undertaken in November/December 2021 with approximately 92 letters and plans delivered to the adjacent properties detailing the proposals.

Following a three-week consultation exercise, 6 statements of support and 2 statements of objection were received.

A summary of the support/objections received are given below:-

Support:- *Any officer observations/ comments are illustrated in italics in response to the points raised.*

- a) South Wales Police are in support of the proposal.
- b) A local business is in full support of the proposal. The slowing down of vehicles on the main road will assist visibility constraints and access/egress issues of vehicles to their site.

- c) Residents are in full support of the proposal, however, they have suggested that traffic light control, a 'One Way' system and restricted turning manoeuvres also be implemented. *Traffic signal control at this location is likely to increase congestion through delays and possible increased traffic speed on the approach to the signals. A one way system would create a long diversion for residents fronting the proposals.*
- d) Residents are in full support of the proposal and believe it will assist in minimising the number of 'near misses' that occur along this route.
- e) Residents are in full support of the proposal, however, they have suggested that a footway be installed on the south side of Dulais Fach Road linking Taibanc and the Active Travel Route Nos INM NEA C015, C014 and P016 on the southern side of Dulais Fach Road. *This has been considered by local members though it should be noted that the Council do not own the adjacent land to the highway, therefore the Council would have to undertake a compulsory purchase order, the outcome of which would be determined by the Welsh Government. This could take several years to complete with no guaranteed outcome.*

Objection:- *Any officer observations/ comments are illustrated in italics in response to the points raised.*

- a) A resident has objected to the scheme on the grounds that the works to implement the scheme will cause massive disruption to the community. *The works will be implemented with due consideration to the needs of the Community and involve illuminated speed limit terminal signage located in the verge and footway and bolt down rubber cushions that can be quickly installed on the existing carriageway, thereby reducing the time needed for traffic signal control whilst the work is undertaken.*
- b) A resident has objected to the scheme on the grounds that the traffic calming measures will cause damage to cars

suspension. *The cushions are narrow soft rubber cushions 75 mm in height and these should not cause any issues if vehicles negotiate them at a low speed.*

- c) A resident has objected to the scheme on the grounds that the works will cost too much. *The scheme has been approved by the Welsh Government in order to promote Active Travel in the locality.*
- d) A resident has suggested that a speed camera would be more suitable. Any requests for fixed speed cameras would need to be supported by the Police/Go Safe and as such meet their criteria. A resident has suggested that speed bumps are ineffectual and will cause issues with parking. *The speed cushions are located in a specific area in order to assist with reducing traffic speed in the location of the Active Travel Route and they will slow the majority of vehicles which are cars and should not impact on any street parking.*
- e) A voluntary organisation has objected to the scheme and suggested that chicanes would be a safer and appropriate option. *Chicanes would not be appropriate at this location, if placed incorrectly they can increase traffic speed as traffic tries to negotiate the chicane avoiding the need to give way to opposing traffic which could lead to head on collisions.*

The local members have been consulted and support the scheme as advertised. The proposed scheme is indicated in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that the objections are over ruled to the B4434 Dulais Fach Road, Station Road, Brunel Close, Tai Bach and Riverside, Tonna – 20mph Speed Limits Order 2021 and Traffic Calming Measures at B4434 Dulais Fach Road (as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B to the circulated report) and the scheme implemented as advertised.

The objectors are to be informed of the decision accordingly.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To help reduce traffic speed in the interest of highway safety.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Plan – Active Travel – B4434 Dulais Fach Road, Tonna – Proposed 20mph Speed Limit.

Appendix B – Plan - Active Travel - B4434 Dulais Fach Road, Tonna - Proposed Speed cushions.

Appendix C – Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers:

None.

Officer Contact:

Mr Martin Brumby, Engineering & Transport

Tel. No. 01639 686013

Email m.brumby@npt.gov.uk