

To: Audit, Scrutiny & Petitions Board

On: 28 November 2016

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Petition: Speed Bumps at the Wickets, Paisley

1. Summary

- 1.1 A petition has been received from Joseph Jackson, Chairperson, on behalf of the Wickets Residents Association, in the undernoted terms:

“The Wickets Residents Association

Speeding by some drivers through the Wickets estate is persistent. The Association committee over the last 4 years has striven to address the issues, but to little effect.

The committee wish Renfrewshire Council to approve 3 sets of speed bumps within the estate.”

- 1.2 The petitioner has provided some further information as detailed in the appendix to the report.
- 1.3 The Head of Amenity Services advises that he can confirm that there are no injury accidents recorded on this length of road over the last three-year period. However Renfrewshire Council is aware that there have been reports of speeding in this area but there has not been any evidence to support this. He will raise this with Police Scotland who may wish to carry out some speed monitoring.
- 1.4 The petition is valid in terms of the Council’s procedures for dealing with petitions and the principal petitioner, together with one supporter, has been invited to attend the meeting and they will be asked to make a statement, lasting no more than 10 minutes, in support of the petition.
- 1.5 The role of the Board is to consider the petition, hear and ask questions of the petitioner and take the appropriate action in respect of the petition which will be one of the following:

(a) that no action is taken, in which case the reasons will be specified and intimated to the petitioner;

(b) that the petition be referred to the relevant director/and or policy board for further investigation, with or without any specific recommendation; or

(c) refer the petition to another organisation if the petition relates to that organisation.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Board hears from the principal petitioner.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications** – none

2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications** – none

3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications** – none

4. **Legal Implications** – none

5. **Property/Assets Implications** – none

6. **Information Technology Implications** – none

7. **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health and Safety Implications** – none

9. **Procurement Implications** – none

10. **Risk Implications** – none

11. **Privacy Impact** – none

List of Background Papers – petition

Author: Lilian Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager, 0141 618 7112

WICKETS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PETITION TO THE AUDIT, SCRUTINY & PETITIONS BOARD
SPEED BUMPS AT THE WICKETS PETITION
REPORT TO THE BOARD

History of the Association:

The Wickets Residents Association was formed in 1990. It was primarily set up to deal with three issues.

1. Pitz (now called Power League) planned to build two new football courts between their existing pitches and The Wickets Estate. As the new pitches would be nearer our Estate this would increase the noise which was already being experienced.
2. To hold discussions with Scotrail, who were planning to re-open the Canal Street rail-line. There was the fear of noise from passing diesel trains, the need for robust fencing to prevent people taking short cuts across the line, as this was already an issue, and the need to preserve the 100 year old trees. Eventually we managed to negotiate a tree preservation order with the Council.
3. To request Renfrewshire Council to change the Estate from being part of Blackhall street, as confusion often occurred with delivery vans not realising the Estate as an extension to the street. The Wickets is separated geographically from Blackhall Street by Power League. Hence we became "The Wickets".

The Request to the Board:

To have speed bumps placed at the Wickets Estate. There have been several attempts, over the last 4 years by the Wickets Residents Committee, to encourage the residents to adhere to the 20mph signs, at Blackhall street and at entry to the Estate.

Work undertaken to limit the speeding:

Minutes of the last 4 AGMs and circulars have gone to residents, and are attached in sequence with this report for the Board's attention.

Since February 2013 the residents (30 households) have been notified regarding speeding through the Estate. At the 2013 AGM both Councillors J. & M. Sharkey attended. From that meeting there was a request to the Councillors to have the white lines and hatching repainted at the bend in the road at Power League, and have the 20mph signs re-painted on the tarmac. We thought this may improve driving and consequently speeding as drivers approached the Estate. However, it made no difference. The Councillors also informed us that the Council has a policy of no 20mph digital road signs placed in cul-de-sacs. This also reduced our options in resolving the problem.

Again from the 2014, 2015, and 2016 AGMs the respective minutes was circulated to all houses with reference regarding speeding. Again each year it made no difference.

However, at the 2016 AGM in February it was agreed to send a circular to all households regarding speeding, and to ask everyone to abide by the 20mph limit. Again this made no difference, so at the Committee meeting in July it was agreed to send a further circular (attached) with the proposal to impose speed bumps at strategic points in the Estate, pending Council approval. This time there was a response, but with only three households objecting in the form of one email, but not wholly against speed bumps (attached) and two personal approaches to the Secretary.

The Committee then held a special meeting on the 29th September (minute attached) to discuss the next step. It was agreed, as it was only 3 out of 30 households against the speed bumps, the Committee would go ahead with its plan to contact the Council. There were some changes as to the number and positioning of the speed bumps, but a letter (attached) was sent by the Secretary to Ms. Belshaw at the Petitions Board asking her to process our request for speed bumps. On the 11th October Ms. Belshaw replied outlining the process and enclosing a proforma to be completed and returned prior to the Petition Board meeting on the 28th November.

The Committee then met on 20th October to finalise arrangements (minute attached), and agreed the Chairman and Treasurer would attend the Board meeting as the Secretary would be on holiday at that time.

Conclusion:

As you will have read from the above, speeding vehicles, both private cars and commercial vans etc, has been an issue for over 4 years. We have tried several times so that drivers will abide by the 20mph limit, but to no avail. Children play on the street, owners walk their dogs, there is wild life (ie. foxes) running across the road. Finally, at Power League, where the road chicanery is supposed to slow vehicles down to allow the footballers to cross over to the pitches, some drivers use this Z shaped single lane as a race track and continue speeding along the next 100 yards and into the Estate.

The Committee therefore, is anxious for 3 speed bumps to be placed, one at entry and two where the road in Phase 2 has bends, before there is a serious accident.

Thankyou for allowing this to go forward to the Petitions Board

Joseph Jackson

Chairperson of the Wickets Residents Association