

Committee : **Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

Date : **28 July 2008**

Report By : **Director of Transport and Environment**

Title of Report : **Petition for Traffic Management Measures in Barons Down Road, Lewes**

Purpose of Report: **To consider a petition requesting action to prevent rat running traffic using Barons Down Road, Lewes**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To advise the petitioners that

- (1) This location does not, at present, qualify for assessment as a potential site for traffic calming; and**
 - (2) A review of parking restrictions will be undertaken and residents' comments on this issue will be considered as part of that work.**
-
-

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no financial implications at the present time, in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 20 May 2008 Councillor O'Keeffe presented a petition to the Chairman calling on the County Council to take action concerning the use of Barons Down Road as a rat run because of the difficulties and dangers this use presents to local residents.

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

3. Comments / Appraisal

3.1 The County Council's Traffic Calming Priority List includes 25 sites that have a record of traffic accidents involving personal injury. With a limited budget, the County Council prioritises each site according to the results of a detailed road safety assessment to ensure that funding is focussed on addressing the most serious problems. The County Council receives between 20 to 30 requests for traffic calming each year. Only those sites that meet the County Council's prequalification criteria are added to the Traffic Calming Priority List. This criteria applies in circumstances where there has been at least one crash involving a vulnerable road user, or a personal injury accident score of four or more, based on the most recent three calendar years' crash record. Points are allocated on the basis of severity, with a fatal accident being allocated 3 points, serious 2 and slight 1.

3.2 With no accidents in Barons Down Road reported to Sussex Police in the three year period up to 31 December 2007, Barons Down Road does not meet the County Council's criteria for a detailed road safety assessment or for inclusion in the Traffic Calming Priority List.

3.3 Included within the detailed comments, a number of residents raised issues with regard to inconsiderate parking along Barons Down Road. A thorough review of parking restrictions in Barons Down Road was undertaken in 2006 as part of the review of the Lewes Controlled Parking Zone and the current controls were agreed with local residents at that time. However, bearing in mind the comments now received, it would seem appropriate for a further review of parking restrictions to be undertaken in the near future. Residents' comments will be considered in detail, as part of that review, to ensure that appropriate restrictions are investigated.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 Based on its excellent safety record, with no casualties recorded in the last 3 calendar years, Barons Down Road should not be considered further, at the present time, for the provision of traffic calming measures.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Transport and Environment
17 July 2008

Contact Officer: Helen Pace Tel. No. 01273 482235
Local Member: Councillor O'Keeffe

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
None