

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION – 2 AUGUST 2005

REPORT BY: HEAD OF TRAFFIC

WRITTEN BY: RICHARD LUMLEY

SUBJECT: CENTRAL SOUTHSEA AREA WIDE TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

WARDS AFFECTED: CENTRAL SOUTHSEA

1. Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To provide the Executive Member with an update on the current situation regarding the proposed area wide traffic calming scheme within Central Southsea.

2. Recommendation:

- 2.1 For the Executive Member to note that the residents are willing to be proactive in working together to find a suitable solution to the current impasse between Haslemere Road and Frensham Road, in conjunction with the Central Southsea Steering Group.

3. Background:

- 3.1 This report follows on from the initial Progress Report, which was put to the Executive Member at the Traffic and Transportation Executive held on 24 March 2004, (appendix 1).
- 3.2 During March 2004, two Steering Group sessions were held, at which Council Officers attended. In addition the 3 elected Ward Members and the Executive member for Traffic and Transportation all attended the second Steering Group meeting.
- 3.3 At the Steering Group meetings an agreed way forward was decided upon, with the plan to use resident-based workshops to draw up ideas for a traffic-calming scheme. Following on from the workshops a second consultation leaflet (appendix 2) would be produced, showing the possible scheme, and sent to all residents and schools in the northern area of Central Southsea.
- 3.4 In April 2004 Officers from Portsmouth City Council's Directorate of Environment and Transport attended the Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum. The aim of the Forum was to inform residents of the progress made so far, including results of the November consultation. In addition to providing a scheme update to the residents of Central Southsea, the Forum was also used

to put together a list of representatives who would attend the subsequent workshops.

4. Consultation:

- 4.1 In early September 2004, following on from the workshops, consultation leaflets (approximately 2500) were delivered to properties in the northern part of the study area. The leaflet included a plan detailing the proposed scheme and a reply slip asking people for their views.
- 4.2 249 replies were received (approximately 10%), with 174 in favour of the scheme and 75 against the scheme. It must be pointed out that although the majority were in favour of the scheme, nearly all had amendments they would like made.
- 4.3 Frensham Road provided the greatest response with 48 returns, followed by Haslemere Road with 26 replies. In addition to the reply slips we also received 5 letters (4 from Frensham Rd and 1 from Telephone Rd) and 1 email from Talbot Road. The letters from Frensham all objected to the scheme, whilst the letter from Telephone Road is putting forward some positive suggestions.
- 4.4 The most contentious issue, as expected is the proposed re-opening of Frensham Road. 41 replies stated that they do not wish the road to be re-opened (35 from Frensham Road itself) and 8 replies stating they do want it open (1 from Frensham Road and 2 from Haslemere Road). In addition there were also 5 requests to re-open Fernhurst Road.
- 4.5 In late September 2004, the Central Southsea Neighbourhood Forum was informed of the consultation results. The proposed re-opening of Frensham Road was discussed and it was agreed that further consultation would take place for the eastern half of the study area. As far as the western side of the study area is concerned, bar a few minor amendments the residents are happy with the proposals.

5. Social Research Associates:

- 5.1 Due to the impasse reached with the issues surrounding Frensham Road and Haslemere Road it was decided that the services of an outside consultant (Social Research Associates), that specialise in consultation, would be employed.
- 5.2 In early November 2004, City Council Officers attended a Central Southsea Steering Group Meeting, along with two employees from Social Research Associates (SRA). It was agreed that SRA would work closely with the Council and build on the work that had been done so far.
- 5.3 The cost put forward by SRA, in order for them to undertake the work was deemed to high. In addition it was hoped that some funding would be made available through a study being carried out by the County Surveyors Society.

Unfortunately, the study was concerned with completed schemes, which involved contentious issues and Central Southsea was not sufficiently advanced to be considered for inclusion.

6. Current Situation:

- 6.1 It was decided by residents, in association with the Central Southsea Steering Group that the issues around Haslemere and Frensham Roads be better resolved by themselves. They are therefore holding their own meetings in order to find an acceptable solution to the Frensham Road and Haslemere Road issue. These meetings are being organised by the Steering Group and are being held during summer 2005.
- 6.2 The recent re-surfacing works being undertaken by Colas, in Francis Avenue, have provided the opportunity to implement some of the small-scale road safety measures. These measures are being done as part of the relining works following the resurfacing programme carried out by Colas and at a minimal cost to the Council.

7. Financing:

- 7.1 For the financial year 2005/06, due to budgetary constraints, no funds have been allocated to implement any part of the proposed traffic calming scheme.

8. Conclusions:

- 8.1 Although no immediate funding is available, there is still a high level of support from the residents that a solution to the Frensham Road/Haslemere Road impasse be sought. The resident's intention is that a solution will be in place and ready to be implemented once funding becomes available.
- 8.2 The Traffic Safety Team remain in conversation with the Steering Group and although are not initially, directly involved with the latest meetings, are being kept updated with progress on proceedings.
- 8.3 It is envisaged that dependent on the programme of works for Colas, that other road safety improvements can be made in the Central Southsea area.

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Head of Traffic

Background List of Documents

Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:-

<i>Title of Document</i>	<i>Location</i>
• Committee Report from March 2004 (Appendix 1)	Traffic Management
• Consultation Leaflet from September 2004 (Appendix 2)	Traffic Management
• Returned Consultation Forms	Traffic Management

Approval to the recommendations

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/approved as amended/deferred/rejected by the Executive Member on

Signed.....
(Executive Member of the Traffic and Transportation)