

20. MORRISON AVENUE/PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING

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The purpose of this report is to request the Board approve for consultation the proposed traffic safety work in Morrison Avenue.

BACKGROUND

In the past the Council received complaints from residents in the area requesting that something be done about the speed and number of vehicles using Morrison Avenue (a local road). A Local Area Traffic Management Scheme has been developed for the area that recommends a moderate traffic restraint at the Sawyers Arms Road intersection and three moderate speed restraints between Sawyers Arms Road and the shops at Langdons Road. These restraints were prioritised as a Neighbourhood Improvement Work and placed in the Capital Works Programme for the 2004/2005 financial year.

The present statistics for Morrison Avenue measured outside the proposed park are: -

Traffic volume: 1,700 vehicles per day, which suggests there are some vehicles, short cutting.

Vehicle speeds: The mean vehicle speed is 48 kph.
85% of vehicles travel at a speed of less than 55 kph.

Road width: The existing carriageway is approximately 12.5 metres wide.

Accident record: The Land Transport Safety Authority records show five minor accidents have been reported in the last five years from 1998 to 2003.

PROPOSAL

The objectives of the project are to: -

- Slow through traffic in Morrison Avenue.
- Discourage vehicles from shortcutting through Morrison Avenue.
- Enhance the frontage of the proposed reserve in liaison with the Greenspace Unit.

A community barbeque was held with the help of the Greenspace Unit on the proposed reserve on Saturday 7 August 2004, which some members of the Board attended. The purpose of the barbeque was for the Transport and City Streets Unit to work with the Greenspace Unit in advising the Morrison Avenue community of roading and reserve works proposed for their street. For the Transport and City Streets Unit three possible traffic-calming options were shown to barbeque attendees and feedback invited. This feedback indicated that the option shown on plan T.P 168701 appended was preferred. This option would achieve the above objectives using platforms and narrowing's along Morrison Avenue with a threshold at Sawyers Arms Road intersection as shown on the plan.

All residents, property owners and businesses, in Morrison Avenue with interested parties (e.g. local clubs) will receive a copy of the concept plan as part of a publicity pamphlet showing how it is proposed to address the residents' concerns regarding speed and short cutting. The attendees of the barbeque are looking forward to seeing the publicity plan as the next stage in the consultation plan.

It is proposed to start construction in February 2005.

Staff

Recommendation: That the concept plan be approved for consultation.

Chairperson's

Recommendation:

1. That the staff recommendation be adopted.
2. That the Police be asked to patrol Morrison Avenue on Thursday and Friday to ensure the enforcement of the speed limit and a report to be submitted to the Board.
3. That the Transport and City Streets Unit monitor traffic movements on Morrison Avenue before and after the implementation of the project and a report to be submitted to the Board.