

## 8. MERRINGTON CRESCENT - TRAFFIC SPEED

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Corporate Plan Output: Planning 9.5 text 5	

The purpose of this report is to have the Board reconsider the information contained in a report first considered by the Board at its meeting on 2 August 1999. The Board at its meeting on 4 October 1999 received a petition from residents of Merrington Crescent and other roads in the area. The petition sought further consideration by the Board of residents concerns about speeding traffic in Merrington Crescent.

### BACKGROUND

Area Engineer, Malcolm Taylor's report to the Board in August referred to an earlier request from Mr Hayes, a resident of Merrington Crescent, to have the Board consider the prospect of introducing road humps in the crescent to reduce the speed of traffic.

Mr Taylor's report was compiled after a study of traffic movements had been conducted and the speed of vehicles measured. Following consideration of the report the Board resolved:

*"That Mr Hayes be informed of the results of the Council's investigation into the problem of speeding traffic in Merrington Crescent and the matter of excess speed has been forwarded to the New Brighton Police".*

### DISCUSSION

It would appear that residents of Merrington Crescent have not accepted that the Police are in the best position to monitor the situation and take appropriate action against drivers who speed along Merrington Crescent. The petition also refers to the importance of motorists to drive carefully along Merrington Crescent *"because of a number of young children in the street, and because of the playcentre, Kohanga Reo, and playground"*.

The Board will be aware of the resourcing difficulties the Council faces when allocating funds for traffic calming on local roads. A "rating" is obtained for roads to be considered for treatment; Merrington Crescent does not rate high amongst priorities for the Council at this time. Although it is accepted that some motorists may drive along Merrington Crescent at excessive speed, the average speed of vehicles has been measured at 37 km/h with an 85th percentile speed of 47 km/h. Approximately 150 vehicles per day travel along Merrington Crescent indicating an absence of through traffic with the likelihood that almost all vehicles are associated with movement to and from properties in the crescent.

A copy of Mr Taylor's original report to the Board with a copy of an aerial photograph showing proposed traffic restraints is attached to this report (*see page 27*).

It is understood that residents have suggested that “children” hazard warning signs be erected on the approaches to the playcentre, Kohanga Reo and playground. The Council could erect signs. However, Merrington Crescent is not a through road and the number of children crossing the roadway unattended is quite low at times when people are arriving or departing from the playcentre and Kohanga Reo.

Under these circumstances “children” signs are not supported as a measure to slow motorists (usually residents or visitors to the area) driving along Merrington Crescent.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Even if traffic restraints were constructed in Merrington Crescent it is unlikely that the problem of speeding vehicles would be totally eliminated. Only a small number of vehicles travel at excessive speeds along Merrington Crescent the drivers of which are likely to be either living in houses in the crescent or visitors. Engineering solutions would not address behavioural problems of the very small number of motorists involved. Enforcement action on the other hand would.

There is no finite solution to the problem of discouraging a minority of drivers to slow down when travelling along Merrington Crescent. However, residents could be advised to collectively monitor the situation and exert some community pressure on those residents and/or regular visitors to the area to take more care and to moderate their speed. Residents should be encouraged to contact the Police when observing drivers speeding in the area.

- Recommendations:**
1. That Mr Hayes and the petitioners are thanked for their submissions.
  2. That the above information be circulated to residents, with a letter that would serve to remind residents of their collective responsibility to ensure that their crescent is safe from vehicles travelling at excessive speeds.

#### **Chairperson’s**

- Recommendation:**
1. That Mr Hayes and the petitioners be thanked for their submissions.
  2. That the above information be circulated to residents.
  3. That the Board request the installation of children’s signs in Merrington Street.