

5. **STUDHOLME STREET KERBS AND CHANNELS – BARRINGTON TO SOMERFIELD STREET**

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the planned work along Studholme Street between Barrington Street and Somerfield Street be supported.

BACKGROUND

The Council has a commitment to renew all of the older style kerb and deep dished channels within the City over the next 25 years. It is proposed to replace the dished channel with flat in Studholme Street between Barrington and Somerfield Streets. The works will also include the construction of the footpaths and berms.

Over time numerous complaints have been received expressing concern at the higher than normal speed of traffic mainly past Somerfield School. The replacement of the kerbs and channel gives the Council the opportunity to address this issue. Parking at the school has always been of concern especially with the street trees position in the carriageway. This will be addressed within the reconstruction.

PROPOSAL

This project provides the opportunity to resolve these traffic and parking issues in the street by providing new parking bays, some angled and reducing speed of vehicles by introducing road platforms. The grass berms and street trees will be better protected by the placement of the kerbs and channels on the roadside of the trees.

The roadway will be narrowed to 6 metres, which will allow for 2 way traffic flow. All kerbside parking will occur in the new angle car parking bays or in recessed bays. The proposed angle parking bays are outside the Somerfield School and Community Centre. Each end of this zone is protected by raised platforms this to help reduce traffic speed and provide a crossing area for school children and park users.

CONSULTATION

The proposal has been distributed amongst the community for comment. The leaflet suggested residents visit Cholmondeley Avenue, which this recently been reconstructed along a similar design. This resulted in 7 returns from residents who showed a considerable interest in the proposals and although generally supporting the initiatives made worthwhile suggestions for improvement. Changes have been made to the original proposal as a result of the feedback from residents and Somerfield School.

The most important change is the deletion of the proposed angle parking at the school. Senior staff from the school visited Cholmondeley Avenue to see the impact of the angle parking. While the merits of increasing parking outside the school are noted it was thought the impact of extra congestion caused by vehicles parking this way are out weighted. It was therefore requested the parallel parking be retained but the existing street trees be removed from in front of the school. These trees are in poor condition due to being overshadowed by the much larger trees within the school grounds. Also the continual parking of vehicles either close to or on the roots has not helped their condition. The Parks and Waterways Units have agreed that these trees be removed.

Another request was to include an extra speed control platform between Somerfield Street and the park bend.

The plan attached shows the amended design.

CONCLUSION

In reconstructing the roadway we have been able to provide for pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles, reduce conflicts and manage traffic. The ability to narrow the carriageway and add platforms will help slow traffic. Of the large number of leaflets delivered to the community only minor changes have been needed to the original design with many replies simply saying a great design and looks great.

Recommendation: That the information be received.