

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO. 25.....

TO: Planning & Environment Committee	Subject: Request For the Introduction of Traffic Calming – Aitkenhead Primary School, Lincoln Avenue, Tannochside.
From: Director of Planning and Environment	
Date: 20 th March 2002	

1. Purpose of Report

This report makes recommendations to Committee in respect of a petition first reported by the Director of Administration on 12th December, 2001.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 30th October 2001, a 48 signature petition was received from Mrs Julie Morrison, 46 Lincoln Avenue, Tannochside requesting traffic calming measures on the roads leading to Aitkenhead Primary School. The petitioners' concerns relate to the congestion and perceived dangers associated with parents taking their children to and from school by car.
- 2.2 Lincoln Avenue is approximately 360m long from its junction with A752 Aitkenhead Road to its termination at Aitkenhead Primary School and forms the only vehicular access route to the school. The road is 5.5m wide and has 2m wide footways on both sides. There are four junctions along Lincoln Avenue, these being Mungo Place, Monroe Drive, Newlands Road and Laidlaw Gardens. In addition there are 2 junctions which access short culs-de-sac. With the exception of Newlands Road, all of the above roads are culs-de-sac, which can only be accessed via Lincoln Avenue.
- 2.3 Strathclyde Police, on NLC's behalf, conducted a speed survey on Lincoln Avenue near to Newlands Road. The study began on 6th February 2002 at 1200hrs for a period of 24-hours. The results indicated the average speed of all vehicles was 24mph with an 85thile speed of 28mph. Some 6.58% of drivers exceeded the posted speed limit of 30mph. Note that this survey extended over more than the school day.
- 2.4 Further manual speed surveys were conducted at two locations during the AM and PM peak hours (0815 to 0915 and 1430 to 1530hrs) on Thursday 24th January 2002. The first of these was taken between Newlands Road and Monroe Drive and the second between Monroe Drive and Mungo Place. These surveys did not include any turning vehicles and only the front cars were counted where a platoon formed along the road. The survey revealed that at the first location, the 85thile speed of vehicles travelling to the school (westwards) was 26mph and from the school (eastwards) was between 21 and 25mph. The second location exhibited similar speeds.
- 2.5 A parked vehicle survey was also conducted at the location revealing that the majority of the vehicles parked during the above times were at the location for less than 10 minutes.
- 2.6 A search of the Strathclyde Police Accident Database for the 3-year period from October 1998 to September 2001 (being the most recent data available) revealed one injury accident, which was not speed related.
- 2.7 It was also noted that a large number of the dwellings on Lincoln Avenue do not have residential off-street parking and therefore require to park on street.

Comment/

Comment

- 2.8 As with most schools throughout the country, the school run causes short-term traffic problems on the roads around the schools at the beginning and end of each school day. Where access to a school is taken from a cul-de-sac, as is the case at Aitkenhead Primary, these problems are exacerbated by the necessary turning manoeuvres which must also be undertaken by every vehicle .
- 2.9 The problems at Aitkenhead Primary, as can be seen from the above survey information, can not be considered sufficiently poor, compared to other schools, to merit priority treatment in the council's Safer Routes to Schools programme. Nor would the location comply with the Council's policy for the introduction of Traffic Calming measures (both programmes are injury accident related). It should also be noted that since the surveys were carried out, the Council has introduced the advisory 20's Plenty initiative in the Tannochside area and this should help to raise driver awareness of inappropriate vehicular speeds.
- 2.10 The congestion highlighted by the petitioners, however, is not in dispute and the problems have been the subject of several site meetings attended by Councillor Saunders, Strathclyde Police (Traffic Management), the Head Teacher and Roads officials. No measures were identified within the public road which could realistically be expected to improve matters while parents are minded to take their children to school by car. For this reason exploratory discussions have taken place with officers from the Department of Education to determine if a setting-down / pick-up facility could be established within the school grounds where ample space exists. Such a facility would reduce on-street congestion and remove much of the turning and reversing manoeuvres made by parents' vehicles. To date these discussions have been very positive although no formal commitment has yet been given by the Department of Education.

3 Recommendations

3.1 Committee is asked to :-

- a) note the contents of this report but take no further action in respect of traffic calming at Lincoln Avenue.
- b) authorise continued dialogue between the Department of Planning & Environment and the Department of Education towards the provision of a setting-down / pick-up facility within the school grounds of Aitkenhead Primary.

Catharine Lawson

Dr

David M Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Date:- 6th March, 2002

For further information please contact: Craig Herriott on 01698 302082