

AGENDA ITEM NO.

WARDS: HALESOWEN SOUTH

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE – 3RD DECEMBER 2003

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN
ENVIRONMENT**

**MANOR ABBEY ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME –
IMPACT ON PRIORY ROAD**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide an interim report on the on-going monitoring exercise currently being carried out following the introduction of traffic calming measures along Manor Abbey Road, Halesowen.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on the 10th July 2001, this Area Committee endorsed proposals for the introduction of a traffic calming scheme along Manor Abbey Road, Halesowen, which was subsequently implemented in July 2002.

2.2 These works, which are shown on the attached Drawing No. TM1497/5, were undertaken with funding from the Area Committee's Delegated Capital Budget but, in line with all similar schemes of this nature, a monitoring exercise to assess the effectiveness of the measures

was also put into place in order to compare the ‘before’ and ‘after’ position in relation to the volume and speed of traffic travelling along both Manor Abbey Road and the nearby Priory Road. This latter road being identified as a potential alternative rat-run for drivers who may wish to avoid the traffic calming measures along Manor Abbey Road.

2.3 The issue of Priory Road being used as a rat run has also been raised more recently during the ‘Open Forum’ section of this Committee’s last meeting on the 22nd.October 2003, by Mr. Paul Figures, a representative of the Lapal Primary School. A meeting on site was, therefore, duly arranged with Mr. Figures on the 10th November 2003 in order to discuss the concerns being raised and explain the current traffic position, which is now outlined in this report.

2.4 Whilst it is normal practice for monitoring exercises associated with traffic calming schemes to be carried out for a 3 year period following the implementation of the measures, it is sometimes helpful to review the situation at periodic intervals and Appendices A and B attached to this report, therefore, summarize the findings of the data currently available.

2.5 However, in summary, the data currently available from the monitoring exercise indicates that whilst the traffic calming measures introduced along Manor Abbey Road have already achieved a degree of success in reducing both the speed and volume of traffic using that road, this has not led to any significant increases in the level of rat-running traffic along the nearby Priory Road.

2.6 Indeed, from an objective position, the speed of traffic along Priory Road still remains within the range that is generally deemed acceptable for a 30mph speed limit and the increase in traffic flows, which effectively

represents approximately one third of the decrease along Manor Abbey Road, still reflects a relatively low overall volume of traffic using Priory Road.

3.0 PROPOSALS

3.1 That the Area Committee notes both the encouraging results of the monitoring data currently available and also that no further complementary traffic calming measures are considered necessary.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LAW

5.1 The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.

5.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the proposals set out in Section 3.0 of this report be endorsed.

Director of the Urban Environment – John B.Millar

**Contact Officers: G.E.Isherwood Ext. 5459
I.P.Withey Ext. 4414**

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:

Report of Head of Highways to Halesowen Area Committee Meeting on 10th. July 2001.

Decision Sheet HOH/ET/009/02 dated 14th.March 2002

RE: Implementation of Traffic Calming Measures along Manor Abbey Road, Halesowen

Traffic speed and volume surveys.

APPENDIX A – TRAFFIC VOLUMES

MANOR ABBEY ROAD

	Before		After		Change	
	E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound
08.00 to 09.00	184	156	115	83	- 69	- 73
17.00 to 18.00	121	177	49	110	- 72	- 67
07.00 to 19.00	1405	1439	886	849	- 519	- 59

PRIORY ROAD

	Before		After		Change	
	E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound
08.00 to 09.00	36	49	51	68	+ 15	+ 19
17.00 to 18.00	22	27	36	60	+ 9	+ 33
07.00 to 19.00	235	327	412	522	+ 177	+ 195

APPENDIX B – TRAFFIC SPEEDS IN MPH

MANOR ABBEY ROAD

Before		After		Change	
E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound
39	39	31	31	- 8	- 8

PRIORY ROAD

Before		After		Change	
E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound	E/bound	W/bound
28	28	32	30	+4	+2

Note:

The traffic speeds listed above represent the 85 percentile speed for traffic travelling along the respective roads. This being the speed that is not exceeded by 85 % of the traffic and is the accepted standard for being representative of normal traffic behaviour.