

Feasibility study into possible traffic calming measures on Sleepers Hill

May 2024

At the last Sleepers Hill AGM, the Committee was asked to investigate possible traffic calming measures on the Hill. This report provides some background information on the topic, details the three proposals received to undertake a feasibility study into possible traffic calming measures, provides an outline of some of the issues relating to traffic calming and finally requests members to vote to either commission a study or not.

Background information:

The last in-depth study into traffic calming measures took place in 1999/2000. The proposed scheme involved the creation of 4 speed tables along the upper stretch of the road. No consensus was reached and hence the scheme did not proceed. Further details around the discussions which took place at that time together with drawings of the structure and proposed location of the speed tables can be found on our website (www.sleepershill.org.uk) under “Historical Documents”.

Since that time, two changes have occurred – the official speed limit on the road has been reduced from 30mph to 20mph and two VASs (Vehicle Activated Signs) have been installed. From the VASs, the following data has been obtained:

	Uphill traffic	Downhill traffic
No. of cars per day	300	???
Average speed	22-25mph	23mph
85%	26.5-28mph	28mph

Notes:

1. Uphill data is for May 23 and Jan 24.
2. Downhill data is for Nov 17 (no data available after 2017)
3. 85% is a measure of the “problem drivers” (average of the top 30%)

Traffic calming feasibility study proposals:

As mentioned in the introduction, we have received 3 proposals to undertake a feasibility study into traffic calming measures on the Hill. The full proposals are on our website under “News and Events”. In summary, the proposals are as follows:

1. RPF Associates

RPF Associates have been our road consultants for many years and as such are familiar with the road layout and construction.

Number of options to be outlined – 1 (optimum scheme to achieve traffic calming)

Include a works cost estimate? – yes

Fee for study - £2,300

2. Paul Basham Associates

Paul Basham are well known consultants based in Fareham. They know the area well (were used by Shorewood Homes for their development on the Hill) and seem enthusiastic and responsive.

Number of options to be outlined – 3 to 4

Include a works cost estimate? - ????

Fee for study - £2,280

3. Odyssey Consult LLP

Odyssey are consultants based in Basingstoke.

Number of options to be outlined – 3

Include a works cost estimate – yes, for each option.

Fee for study - £3,500

In addition to these professional fees, there may be additional costs (eg OS digital maps, Automatic Traffic Counter, post study meeting etc) but these should not exceed £1,000.

Outline of issues relating to traffic calming:

Three issues are likely to arise in relation to any potential scheme – cost, permission from frontagers, and general support among residents.

Cost – From initial discussions with consultants, it is likely that the most effective scheme for a road like ours will involve vertical changes in height ie speed bumps or speed tables. Whilst all consultants were very reluctant to provide indications of costs at this stage, a very rough estimate is £10k per speed bump and £20-30k per speed table. This would give a total cost £40k and £100k for a set of 4 (these figures could be out be 50% or more – the feasibility study would provide more accurate estimates). A cheaper option (but much less effective) would be additional signage and a white line painted down each side of the road (to give the impression of a narrower road).

Permission – For any structural works (eg a speed bump or table), the permission of adjacent frontagers would be required.

General support – Strong support from the majority of members would be required given the likely cost and impact on the character and use of the road.