

## REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

### PETITION – 20'S PLENTY – REDUCE TRAFFIC SPEEDS – SOUTH STREET, MINTLAW

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report is to advise the Buchan Area Committee of a petition which has been received, requesting that the Council reduce traffic speeds on South Street, Mintlaw.

#### 1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

**1.2.1 consider the petition, as received by the Director of Business Services and as described in paragraph 3.1 of this report, and**

**1.2.2 consider whether to instruct a report from the Head of Roads and Infrastructure on the subject matter of the petition in terms of Standing Order 6.4**

#### 2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 In terms of Standing Order 6.2.1, members of the public may submit a petition for an item not on a Meeting Agenda to a Committee. The petition shall be received by the Director of Business Services no later than fourteen days prior to the relevant Committee Meeting.

2.2 The Director of Business Services has received a petition with 112 signatures and has agreed that the petition complies with the criteria under Standing Order 6.2.2 and the Council's Petitions Guidance under Part 4H of the Scheme of Governance.

2.3 The Chair of this Committee has determined that the subject matter of the petition is competent and relevant in terms of the Committee's remit and it shall therefore be put before this meeting.

2.4 The Committee is therefore asked to consider the subject matter of the petition. In terms of Standing Order 6.4, the Committee can determine one of two courses of action:-

- (i) Whether to simply note the terms of the petition; or
- (ii) Whether to instruct the relevant officer to provide a report for a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

It would not be competent for the Committee to take a substantive decision on the subject matter of the petition without receiving a report back from Roads and Infrastructure.

### 3 Discussion

#### 3.1 The subject matter of the petition is a request to reduce traffic speeds on South Street, Mintlaw. The petition states –

“We observe each day how dangerous most of the roads are in our village, especially South Street, Mintlaw. As residents, we deserve better road safety. We want to walk and cycle on our streets without fearing speeding cars. To reduce the risk of collisions, to make the road feel safer to improve the attractiveness of walking and cycling to and from shops/schools etc. We encourage safe walking and cycling to school, as this is better for the health of children and public, this will also reduce congestion and pollution. The two things come hand in hand. South Street is fortunate to have a traffic light controlled crossing, however, cars are often travelling extremely fast approaching the crossing, that people are scared to cross as they do not feel the traffic will stop in time, and on occasions a car has gone through the red light, even when the crossing lady has been in the middle of the road, assisting school children across the road.

We desperately need a 20mph speed limit for South Street and other main roads within Mintlaw. Please can our local Councillors act and set reduced road speeds, we believe this is one of the most important and life changing powers you have as our elected representatives.

We have concerns with traffic parking on pavements and blocking private drives on South Street. The volume of traffic on South Street has risen considerably over the years, this is partially due to the volume of new housing developments, and the need for people to travel to work in Aberdeen. The road is not built for the volume of traffic using it, especially when vehicles are parked on the road, causing an obstruction. This causes an increased risk to people walking, and trying to cross the road. The number of lorries parking just past the entrance to the garage is an accident waiting to happen. The view cars have trying to exit the garage is severely impeded and many near misses have been witnessed by residents of South Street. Any parking so close to the roundabout should be reconsidered with the request for double yellow lines to be extended.

To be absolutely clear, with this petition we are NOT asking for humps, bumps or other expensive traffic calming measures, but ONLY for speed signs and road markings.

South Street residents feel that most of the village’s residential main streets are not safe enough to walk and cycle. If you are hit by a car travelling at 30mph, you are up to five times more likely to be killed than if you were hit at 20mph.

With very small resources and time available, we have collected the names of almost 100 Mintlaw area and South Street neighbours – most of these are concerned parents, like me – people genuinely fearing for their children’s or grandchildren’s safety. Please listen to them. Do not wait for a fatality to occur to improve road safety.

With this petition we ask the Council to carry out a public consultation to evaluate which streets may benefit from the new, reduced speed limit, and the method of implementation.

I hope I have provided you with all the information necessary to seriously consider my petition. I welcome any questions.

Many thanks in advance for your time and attention.”

- 3.2 The petition presented here is considered by the Council’s Legal Services to be competent.

#### 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report relates to the following Council Priorities:

Our Environment	Infrastructure
Our Environment	Resilient Communities

- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing			x
Health and Wellbeing			x
Town Centre First			x
Sustainability			x

- 4.3 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken at this stage as the Committee is not being asked to take a substantive decision at this time. Any implications of the actions proposed by the petition will be included in a future report from the relevant Head of Service on the subject matter of the petition, if so instructed by the Committee.

4.4 There are no identified risks at this time.

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments received have been incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item under Standing Order 6.2.3 as the subject matter of the petition is deemed to be competent and relevant in terms of the Committee's remit and under Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers as it relates to a matter which impacts the Committee's area

**Ritchie Johnson**

**Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by Theresa Wood, Buchan Area Committee Officer

18<sup>th</sup> October 2022