

## GENERAL REPORTS

### 2 **TIMBERSIDE DRIVE PETITION**

FILE REFERENCE INT1699602

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER Michael Ellis

AUTHOR Christopher Marshall

#### RECOMMENDATION

That:

- Victoria Police Highway Patrol be requested and supported to undertake enforcement activities in this area,
- the SAM trailer be utilised in this area to continue to educate motorists about appropriate speeds in Timberside Drive, and
- investigation be undertaken regarding the implementation of local traffic management devices as a long term solution to manage excessive vehicle speeds on local roads for future funding consideration.

#### Attachments

*Nil.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition was tabled at the November Council meeting requesting traffic control devices in the form of speed humps to be installed in Timberside Drive, Beaconsfield. The issue raised in this petition primarily relates to speeding along Timberside Drive.

As such, Council officers will request and work with Victoria Police Highway Patrol to undertake enforcement activities within this area. The SAM trailer was placed in Timberside Drive in November 2016 to educate motorists about their speed and will be considered for future placement at this location.

A traffic management device on Timberside Drive at Patrick Place has been identified in the Beaconsfield Development Contribution Plan. Further investigation will be required into traffic management devices along the remainder of this road. There is currently no program to fund the installation of these devices and funding for such a program will need to be considered during future budget considerations.

#### BACKGROUND

A petition was tabled at the November Council meeting requesting traffic control devices in the form of speed humps to be installed in Timberside Drive, Beaconsfield. The petition had 15 signatories from 8 properties on Timberside Drive located between Hillview Court and Wild Duck Way.

Timberside Drive is a typical 50 km/h minor collector road within the local network designed when the urban speed limit was 60 km/h with a number of crests and curves along the road. The road has approximately 1800 vehicles per day at the western end and 1000 towards the eastern end. Traffic volumes have shown a slight increase in the last two years however they are within normal

growth expectations for this road. A bus route runs along this road between O'Neil Road and Fieldstone Boulevard.

Council staff and a former ward Councillor previously met with the lead petitioner on site and investigated his concerns at this location in September 2015. These issues were addressed with the installation of a "Concealed Driveways" warning sign for westbound traffic located east of Hillview Court.

In accordance with road safety practices, this issue can be addressed using the three E's of road safety - Education, Engineering and Enforcement.

### **Education**

Council officers have placed the Speed Alert Mobile (SAM) trailer in Timberside Drive for a week in November 2016 in response to speeding concerns reported to Council. The SAM trailer is placed routinely in local roads to educate motorists on what speed they are doing. Timberside Drive will be considered for placement of the SAM trailer as part of future schedules.

Past observations with the SAM trailer show that most motorists do immediately slow down when they drive past the trailer - indicating they are "accidentally" exceeding the speed limit. Observations indicate that the proportion of motorists who deliberately speed (or are not paying attention) and do not react to the SAM trailer are relatively small. Whilst statistically the trailer shows little long term benefit, it provides an ongoing education presences and highlights to motorists what speed they are actually doing.

### **Engineering**

Council provided a 3 lane parking lane treatment in December 2014 to improve safety within Timberside Drive and reduce speeds. Follow up surveys showed a small reduction in speeds shortly after the parking lane treatment but a more recent count reveals that the speed appears to have returned to the pre-treatment speeds. The highest speeds recorded along Timberside Drive are near Crestview Dr with an 85th percentile speed of 59.5 km/h (28 November 2016). Observations by Council officers have shown an improvement in safety due to the channelising of traffic around curves and crests where previously motorists had been observed cutting corners and driving in the opposing traffic lane.

*Table 1 Timberside Drive traffic count results between Tranquillity Place and Wild Duck Way*

Traffic Count Date	Volume (veh/day)	85th Percentile Speed (km/h)
13 December 2012 (before parking lane treatment)	1728	56.7
11 February 2015	1731	55.7
28 November 2016	1834	56.9

Sections of Timberside Drive are unsuitable for traffic control devices (e.g. speed humps) due to the topography of the road. The curves and crests in these sections will not provide enough sight for motorists to these devices and as such the devices could potentially increase the probability of a crash occurring. The intersection of Patrick Place and Timberside Drive has been identified as a future location of a traffic control device within the Beaconsfield Development Contribution Plan.

Further investigation would be required into suitable traffic control devices along the remaining length of Timberside Drive if traffic control devices are to be considered within this road. As this road is a bus route any traffic management devices installed within the road must be suitable for buses.

These types of local area traffic management devices can come at significant costs. To implement such a program for identified sites across the shire, consideration will need to be given when considering future budgets as there is currently no program to fund these devices.

A preliminary priority list based on safety and other factors for roads across the shire to be considered for traffic management devices does not include Timberside Drive in the top 20 identified locations across the shire.

### **Enforcement**

Enforcement of speeding is the responsibility of the Victoria Police and specifically the Highway Patrol. As this issue relates primarily to speeding, enforcement by Victoria Police will be required to address this issue. They have been utilising the survey data supplied by Council to help target enforcement on roads where speeding is more prevalent within the municipality. Council will request Victoria Police to undertake enforcement of the speed limit within Timberside Drive and provide any additional assistance as required.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The following action items in the Road Safety Strategy 2016-25 are directly related to this issue:

- 5.2 - Liaise with Victoria Police regarding enforcement needs.
- 5.3 - Implement the Speed Advisory Trailer program in local streets throughout the municipality.
- 6.14 - Establish a program and advocate for funding to deliver traffic calming devices in identified residential areas.

### **RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN**

This issue is directly related to the following items in the Council Plan:

- 1.6 - Increased Awareness of Safety - Involves working with the community, including the Victorian Police, to improve safety and awareness of safety within local communities.
- 3.1.1 and 3.1.4 - Manage Council's assets in a way that they are adequately maintained over their life and in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004.
- 3.2.1 - Upgrade Council roads to improve safety while considering the traffic demand of the community.
- 3.4 - Plan and develop built environments that support improved health and wellbeing of our communities and raise awareness of the environments impact on health and wellbeing.

### **CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION**

Council officers and a former ward Councillor have previously met with the lead petitioner on site and investigated the concerns at this location in September 2015. These issues were addressed with the installation of a "Concealed Driveways" warning sign for westbound traffic located east of Hillview Court.

Council officers have again discussed this issue with the chief petitioner mid-2016 which resulted in the scheduling of the SAM trailer to be placed in Timberside Drive in November 2016 to educate motorists on the speed they are travelling.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

If Council wishes to establish a local traffic management devices program it would need to be considered in the future capital works program.

The capital works program currently has a Traffic Management Devices budget of \$100,000 per annum. This program provides minor road and road related infrastructure improvements including new line marking, signage improvements and school crossings. This budget is not able to cater for the significant works associated with local area traffic management devices.

## CONCLUSION

The issue raised in this petition primarily relates to speeding along Timberside Drive. Council officers will request and work with Victoria Police Highway Patrol to undertake enforcement activities within this area. The SAM trailer was placed in Timberside Drive in November 2016 to educate motorists about their speed and will be considered for future placement at this location.

A traffic management device on Timberside Drive at Patrick Place has been identified in the Beaconsfield Development Contribution Plan. Further investigation will be required into traffic management devices along the remainder of this road. There is currently no program to fund the installation of these devices and funding for such a program will need to be considered in future capital works programs.