

RE: Traffic Issues in Hirwaun

[REDACTED]@tcbc.gov.uk>

Thu 08/03/2018 16:13

To: Emma Nelmes. Clerk Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council. <hpcc01@btconnect.com>;

Dear Emma,

As advised an officer has reviewed the issues raised in your email below and has provided the following update.

1. In respect to concerns at Rhigos Road and Maescynon, works have been undertaken to install slow/araf carriageway markings to advise drivers of an approaching hazard. Rhigos Road has also been added to our list of ongoing sites at which a SID will be installed periodically throughout the year as and when a unit becomes available.
2. Harris Street - A traffic officer has visited the area and established that where vehicles park in Harris Street (approximately 110 metres in length) in a staggered fashion vehicles are unable to exceed the speed limit before reaching its junctions with Heol Uchel and Brecon Road. Although not ideal, parked vehicles do provide a calming influence upon moving traffic. It would likely be counterproductive to introduce a one-way system or long sections of yellow lines as such measures often lead to an increase in traffic speed as vehicles would not have to negotiate parked cars or face opposing vehicles.
3. The junction of Harris Street and Brecon Road (by Prince of Wales PH) has been observed and no obvious points of concern were noted. The carriageway markings at this location are as would be expected for this type of junction and therefore drivers should be aware of when and where they have priority over other vehicles. Current design standards would not permit the existing zebra crossing to be replaced by a pelican/puffin arrangement due to its proximity to the two junctions. As discussed previously, signal controlled crossings should ideally be located a minimum of 20 metres from the nearest junction. There are occasions where this requirement has been relaxed at locations where it has been assessed as being safe to do so, however in this instance, unless the crossing was to be relocated the crossing would be within a metre of the junctions, which simply would not be acceptable.
4. Station Road junction (by post office) - Whilst egressing Station Road at its junction with High Street by the post office, there are waiting restrictions to the left and right of the junction which should ensure adequate visibility. Unfortunately vehicles do stop to use the post office facilities and other shops on this parade, and therefore the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers will be notified to enforce against vehicles waiting at this location when they are in the area.
5. General query about provision of traffic calming - The Council receives many requests for the introduction of traffic management measures from across Rhondda Cynon Taf each year and unfortunately the Council's own Traffic Management budget is not able to support large scale high cost schemes such as traffic calming or pedestrian crossings etc. However, where there is evidence that supports the need for Road Safety measures the council is able to bid for Welsh Government Road Safety Grant Funding that is made available on an annual basis.

The total sum available for all 22 Welsh Councils to bid for each year is typically of the order of £5M and the number of bids tends to far exceed the funding available. As the criteria for funding is predominantly focused on casualty reduction, consequently only schemes that are effectively targeted toward locations where there is potential to reduce existing casualty figures are likely to be prioritised for Road Safety Grant Funding.

Officers are continually reviewing all issues regarding safety on the highway and in respect to your general concerns relating to need for traffic calming in Hirwaun, Officers have reviewed all recorded personal injury collisions that have occurred in Hirwaun within the last three years. There have been a total of 8 personal injury collisions recorded across Hirwaun in that time, all slight in severity and spread across the area. There have been no discernable trends identified in respect to the collisions and therefore it would be difficult to target any meaningful mitigation measures towards preventing future collisions. For example bids for traffic calming schemes are generally only supported and funded where they are targeted towards locations where there is an ongoing history of speed related personal injury collisions.

Therefore based on the information I have available to me, officers would not be in a position to develop and submit a bid for road safety grant funding for traffic calming measures as it would be unlikely that such a bid would be supported..

Whilst I trust the above is of assistance, should you wish to discuss any of the information provided or any further points of concern within the community please do not hesitate to contact me. Likewise should you consider there to be a need, I can arrange for an officer to meet with you on site to discuss any specific concerns you may have in person.

Kind regards

Tim

[Redacted]

Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Traffig | Materion Rheoli Traffig
Traffic Services Manager | Traffic Management

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From: Emma Nelmes. Clerk Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council.

Sent: 24 August 2017 09:47:02

[REDACTED]

Subject: Traffic Issues in Hirwaun

Dear Tim,

I'd like to start by thanking you for attending our July Community Council meeting. As agreed, I confirm the following areas which you promised to look into:

Main traffic issues discussed included -

- There are issues in Hirwaun with traffic speed though the village, with traffic not slowing down. This is resulting in a lot of near misses. At the meeting we discussed measures to slow the traffic down or the possibility of a one way system, additional double yellow lines.
- Harris Street is a problem area with speeding and traffic congestion
- The junction at the bottom of Station Road by the Post Office is also a problem where the view of the junction is often blocked by parked cars. Are improvements able to be made at this point to improve the junction and slow the flow of traffic?
- There are speeding problems at Rhigos Road and Brecon Road
- Are you able to narrow the junction at the crossing by the Prince of Wales junction and put arrows there saying who's priority the traffic flow is or install a pelican crossing. It was discussed that one had been installed close to the junction by the new school in Aberdare.
- Slow signs were requested on the brow of the hill by Maescynon

You agreed to look into the historical issues as to why traffic calming measures could not be carried out previously and if they can be put in place now under current legislation. We also discussed a site visit to look at the problem areas.

Thanks for looking into this and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards

Emma Nelmes
Executive Officer to Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council

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(Please note that my office hours are Monday and Tuesday)