



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 3  
21 MARCH 2007

Report of the Cabinet Member, Planning and Transportation

## Traffic Management Petition St Albans Road

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 A petition was received by Area Panel in September of last year from residents of St Albans Road. The petition asked the Council to consider taking the following actions: install chicanes on St Albans Road to slow down traffic; install a pedestrian crossing on Manor Road near to its junction with St Albans Road; reduce commuter traffic coming through St Albans Road; improve the junction for traffic exiting St Albans Road and close the central reservation at Manor Road. Those signing the petition have seemingly indicated which actions they would support
- 1.2 In order to have the best information available to allow us to assess the requests made within the petition we have commissioned various surveys and I can now report the results of those surveys to you.

#### Speed Measurements

We collected vehicle speed measurements over a period of time between 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February. This extended period gave us confidence that we had selected a significantly long period to ensure that the measurements were representative. The measurements indicate 85<sup>th</sup>ile speeds, the speed at which 85% of all traffic travels at or below, of 31mph for vehicles travelling away from Manor Road and 32.7mph for vehicles travelling towards Manor Road. The average speed of vehicles was recorded at 26mph and 27 mph respectively.

#### Vehicle flows

We also recorded vehicle flows throughout the same period of time that we had measured vehicle speeds. Typically a 12 hour period between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. saw approximately 1450 vehicles travelling along St Albans Road. The busiest period was between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. We undertook a more detailed assessment of vehicle movements at the junction of Manor Road and St Albans Road on Wednesday 7 February again between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. This survey revealed the following:

14640 vehicles travelled along Manor Road in a southerly direction, towards Burton Road. 570 (3.9%) vehicles turned right into Constable Drive and 640 (4.4%) turned left into St Albans Road. 92% of vehicles continued on Manor Road.

14300 vehicles travelled along Manor Road in a northerly direction towards Uttoxeter Road. 150(1%) vehicles turned left into Constable Drive and 640(4.5%) turned right into St Albans Road. 94% of vehicles continued on Manor Road.

950 vehicles emerged from St Albans Road, 280 vehicles turned right towards Uttoxeter Road, 130 vehicles proceeded across the junction into Constable Drive and 540 vehicles turned left towards Burton Road.

- 1.3 We have also examined Derbyshire Constabulary's personal injury accident data. This reveals that in the 3 years before November 2006, 9 accidents occurred at the crossroads between Manor Road / St Albans Road / Constable Drive. Regrettably two of these accidents were classed as serious and both involved manoeuvres out of St Albans Road. Of the other 7 accidents classed as slight, 4 involved a vehicle either leaving or entering St Albans Road.
- 1.4 These statistics, combined with the information contained within the petition, raise questions that we need to answer before determining what course of action we should follow. The vehicle speed measurements tell us that some forms of traffic calming, such as chicanes, will have little impact on vehicle speeds. Typically even the most uncomfortable forms of traffic calming, such as frequently spaced road humps or speed cushions, will only reduce average vehicle speeds to around 20 mph. If residents are concerned that vehicle speeds are too high, and the majority of those signing the petition appear to agree with this, then we need to ensure that the solution, perhaps aggressive traffic calming, is acceptable.
- 1.5 The surveys that show the volume of vehicles turning into and out of St Albans Road at the Manor Road junction indicate the extent to which some people rely on this as their route into and out of the residential area. For those who have concerns about the safety of the junction alternative routes already exist so we could assume that people continue to use the junction because it suits their convenience. The petition asks for the junction to be improved but also asks for the central reserve on Manor Road to be closed. These two requests could be compatible for some people but not for others. It has been suggested that the junction could be closed to traffic either entering or exiting St Albans Road. This approach may assist in reducing through traffic and help reduce vehicle speeds but it may not suit the convenience of some people and may give rise to problems associated with bus routes.
- 1.6 We have allocated resources and funding within our work programme to take this issue further and develop proposals. We now propose to develop a series of options for action that we hope will attempt to address the majority of people's concerns. We will identify the pro's and con's of each of the options so that everyone can be clear about how any actions could affect them. We would welcome support from community groups and community leaders in ensuring that we engage with those who are likely to be affected. Making sure that everyone is heard will help us to ensure that any actions that we do deliver will be widely supported.
- 1.7 It is expected that we will be able to commence widespread consultation within the next few months. Any actions that we take forward, with community support, will be delivered within the 2007/08 financial year subject to current funding allocations being adequate.

## PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 That Area Panel support the approach to develop options for action through engagement with the wider community.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	None