



SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS REQUEST POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to guide Councillors in assessing requests for support from the public for Highways improvements related to parking, speeding and the anti-social use of vehicles.

Swanage Town Council is not the provider of these improvements, but Dorset Council will only consider improvements that meet a number of criteria and are supported by the Town Council. Dorset Council determines which projects can move forward within the available budgets, taking into account the evidence available. A list of matters that will be taken into consideration is set out in Appendix 1.

If the Town Council resolves to support a particular request, this is no guarantee that Dorset Council will be able to take action after assessing the relative need and budget available. There are many competing demands across Dorset for such interventions and Dorset Council officers will determine priorities.

The following information can be found on Dorset Council's website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/traffic-management/request-new-traffic-management-measures>

In order for a request to be added to a Town Council Traffic Management Advisory Committee agenda for consideration the following points will need to be met:

Submitting a request

1. The request must be made via the Community Highways Request Form (email permitted) and include the relevant information along with a map clearly showing the area and the exact location of requested interventions.
2. Written requests must also be accompanied by the name of at least one of the local ward Town Councillors who already supports the proposal.
3. Requests without the required level of support will be returned to the requester detailing the additional information needed.

Community Support

4. The scheme must be requested by a named resident of the age of 16 or over, and supported by up to 5 other residents, who are directly affected by the request, plus a local Town Councillor.

Speed related request

5. For requests regarding speed related interventions, local residents are requested to operate a community speed watch in the specific area and that this must show clear evidence of excessive speeds and to have operated for a period of time sufficient to enable an assessment to be made on the success of the speed watch to change driver behaviour. Community speed watch is a proven way for the

Adopted: 11/12/2023



community to address local speeding issues and can bring about tangible changes in driver behaviour.

<https://www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk/enforcement-operations/community-speed-watch/>

6. Members should bear in mind that if the Committee resolves to support a speed related scheme and speed data is not available for that site, STC may be requested to fund the speed survey at a minimum cost of £250.00 per site. Dorset Council has a limited budget for surveys that it allocates to its priority sites. It is unlikely that community requests will become a priority.



Appendix 1

Things to consider when requesting new traffic management measures

- Suitability
- is the introduction of a restriction suitable for the area?
 - consider the advantages and disadvantages
 - does the road already have traffic calming features; such as signs, speed bumps and on-street parking? All these can contribute to road safety in one way or another
 - if the proposal does not meet our various criteria, they are unlikely to be implemented.
- Cost
- would the proposals be achievable financially? It is not a case of just of introducing a restriction, so consider the costs of advertisement, consultation and materials required, which can run into thousands of pounds
 - Dorset Council's funding for traffic management has reduced substantially in recent years.
- Opinion
- do other residents agree that there is an issue in the area?
 - would the proposal actually inconvenience you, your neighbours, the community and others?
 - if your concerns are related to traffic offences, have you contacted [Dorset Police](#) to see if they are able to carry out enforcement? It may negate the need for any changes in the first place.
- Impact
- if implemented, would the restriction have the desired effect or will it actually introduce more problems?
 - will the introduction of a restriction just move the problem to another area?