



Media Release

Lynne Mee

Direct line 01423 556022

Communications and Media Manager Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs

24 hour fax “ 556010
Mobile 07884 226409

Email lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk

www.harrogate.gov.uk

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TRIAL OF NEW TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

RESIDENTS on Pannal Ash Road, Harrogate have welcomed the news that the council is taking further steps to reduce traffic speed on this busy main road into Harrogate by trialling a new system of speed reactive signs.

Three local schools – Rossett Primary and High Schools and Ashville College – use Pannal Ash Road and the council is keen to curb speeding traffic. Although improved safety measures, including new signage and improved pedestrian crossings have been implemented, this has not sufficiently reduced speeding traffic and the council is now to trial using speed reactive signs and to implement a 20mph speed limit.

Councillor Julian Sturdy, Cabinet Member for Public Works, who yesterday approved the purchase of these computerised signs, said: “These are a new speed reduction tool and could reduce vehicle speeds where other methods have failed and where speed platforms cannot be used, or where they don’t find favour with local residents.

“Whilst serious accidents are relatively low, a major incident last year did cause concern. Although only 15% of vehicles using the road exceed 36 mph, we do believe there is potential for serious injury, which is why we are taking this further action. These new signs will flash the speed limit of 20mph at vehicles exceeding it. We have heard that they are effective in other areas of the country. If the trial is not successful on Pannal Ash Road, then we would be prepared to move the signs to other areas where similar problems occur.”

The 20mph speed limit will be imposed at the entry to Pannal Ash Road from Green Lane and as far as Rossett Holt Drive. There will be two speed activated warning signs. Orders have been placed for the purchase of the signs and it is expected they will be in place in about eight weeks time. ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Julian Sturdy is available for comment on 07836 692010. Further technical information is available from Mr Chris McGonigle, Group Engineer on 01423 556607.