

Agenda Item	<b>7.</b>
Report No	<b>CC/10/22</b>

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Caithness Committee

**Date:** 22 August 2022

**Report Title:** Noss traffic calming and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing points

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

### 1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks Members to discharge the authority's duty to consider the objection which was submitted properly and not withdrawn before deciding whether to construct the traffic calming.

This report also invites Members to consider the representations received which were in favour of the proposed traffic calming.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i) consider the objection made in accordance with the regulations and not withdrawn; and
- ii) subject to i), **approve** the construction of the traffic calming on Henrietta Street and Willowbank, Wick.

### 3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – This proposal is being funded through the Transport Scotland 'Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes' external grant funding.
- 3.2 **Legal** – The construction of traffic calming requires statutory consultation under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. The Authority has a duty to consider unresolved objections before deciding whether to proceed with construction of traffic calming.

- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** – Lower vehicle speeds and reduced road width aim to reduce the risks for vulnerable road users and increase active travel choices.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – Reduced vehicle speeds have the aim of increasing active travel choices and thus reducing the number of vehicles, on the roads.
- 3.5 **Risk** – There are no risks identified.
- 3.6 **Gaelic** – There are no Gaelic implications.

## **4 Background**

- 4.1 As part of the ongoing Safer Routes to School programme the Council's Road Safety Team has been working with Noss Primary School to reduce the barriers to active travel. The aim of this work is to increase the number of pupils using sustainable transport for their school journey. The school has highlighted traffic speed and crossings as an area of concern for parents/carers and thus it is a barrier to the use of sustainable transport for this school journey.
- 4.2 As a result of concerns raised by Noss Primary School regarding the speed vehicles travel at in the area, speed surveys were carried out, and results showed vehicles speeds slightly higher than desirable **Appendix 1**.

## **5 Proposed Traffic Calming**

- 5.1 As the main issue identified was vehicle speeds, traffic calming in the form of speed cushions and raised tables with some junction realignments have been proposed. The proposals have concentrated on Henrietta Street and Willowbank as the two main routes pupils need to cross on the school journey and both being very wide streets. Drawings have been provided in **Appendix 2**.
- 5.2 Raised tables have been proposed at the school crossing patroller locations to focus crossing and provide some additional warning to motorists that these are key pedestrian crossing locations. All three proposed raised tables are at school crossing patroller locations so provide additional calming if the patroller happened to be absent meaning there will still be some provision in place.
- 5.3 Speed cushions have been spaced evenly throughout the proposed scheme in an effort to maintain an even vehicle speed, cushions were chosen to help reduce vehicle noise and ensure passenger comfort on the bus route.
- 5.4 Junction realignments have been proposed to create carriageway narrowing to help reduce vehicle speeds by narrowing the road in these locations. These will also aid visibility for motorists where there is currently on street parking.

## 6 Consultation

- 6.1 Statutory consultation with the Emergency Services, Community Council, Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association, Highland Cycle Campaign and Bus Companies took place in September
- 6.2 Due to the extent of the proposed traffic calming letters were sent to 180 residents in the area at the same time as the statutory consultees.
- 6.3 As required the proposals were then advertised in the local press for the period 26 November 2021 – 30 December 2021 and again 14 January 2022 – 14 February 2022. Notices were also placed on lamp columns around the traffic calming locations between the period 14 January 2022 – 14 February 2022.

## 7 Representations

- 7.1 During consultation 2 notes of support were received which includes Police Scotland with 1 objection. A summary of all the correspondence can be found in **Appendix 3**, with copies of the notes of support in **Appendix 4** and a copy of the valid objection can be found in **Appendix 5** with officer's reply.

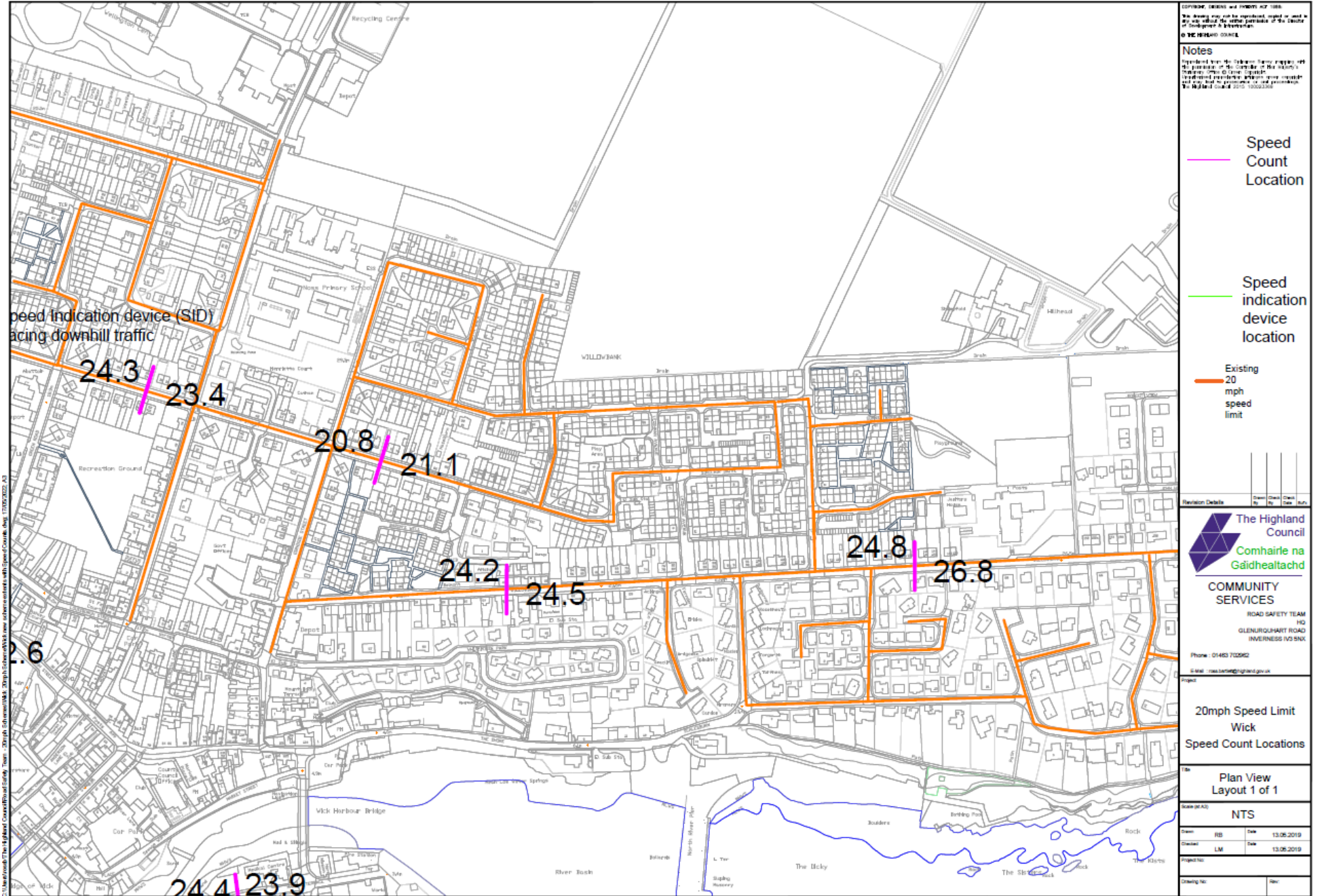
Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

Date: 17 May 2022

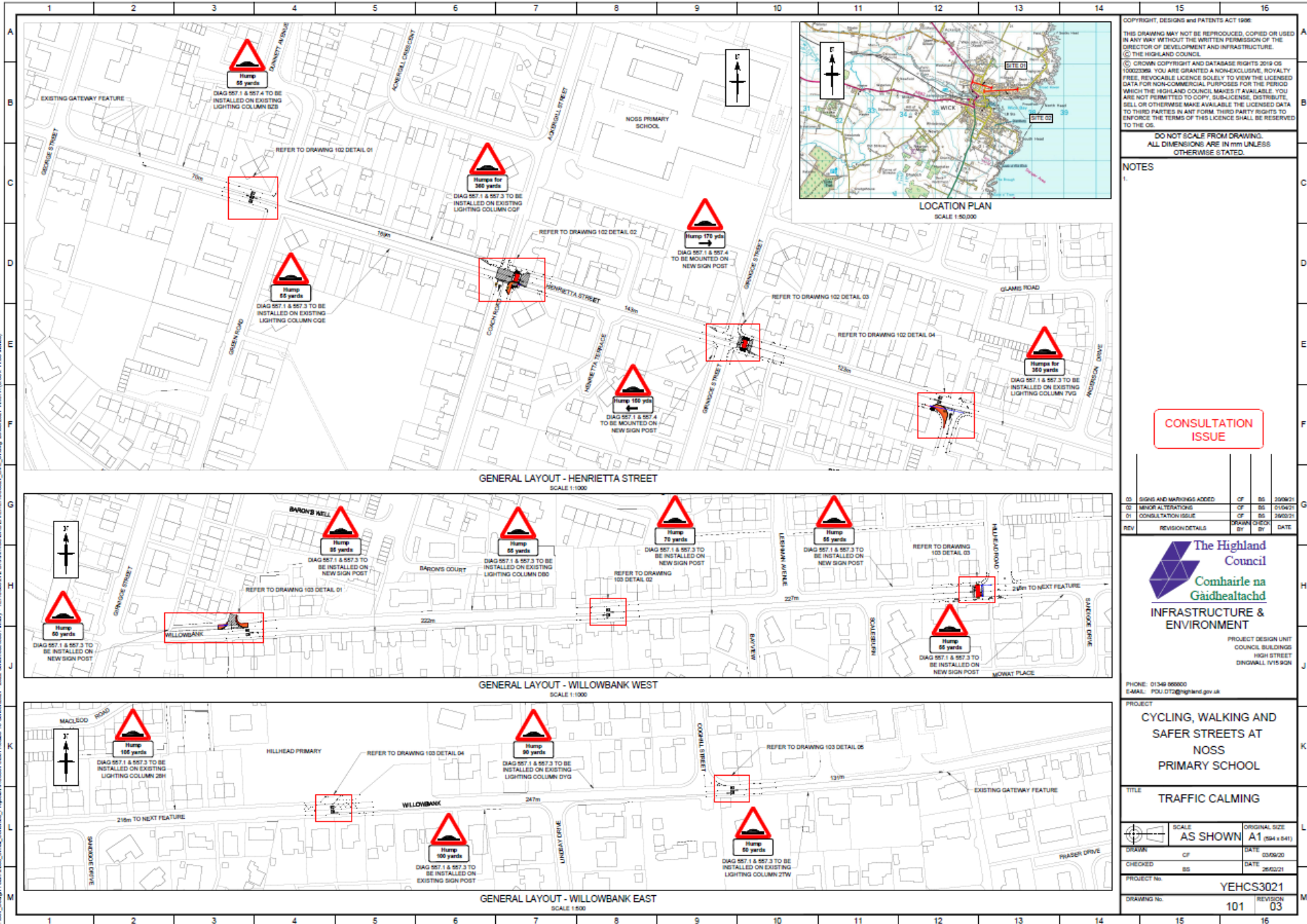
Authors: Ross Bartlett, Road Safety Technician

Background Papers: Appendix 1 - Speed Survey Results  
Appendix 2 - Proposal drawings  
Appendix 3 - Summary of correspondence  
Appendix 4 – Notes of Support  
Appendix 5 – Objection with Officer's reply

# Appendix 1 – Speed Survey Results



# Appendix 2 – Proposal drawings



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**NOTES**

1.

**CONSULTATION ISSUE**

REV	REVISION DETAILS	ISSUED BY	DATE
03	SIGNS AND WARNINGS ADDED	CF	05/09/20
02	MINOR ALTERATIONS	CF	01/04/21
01	CONSULTATION ISSUE	CF	28/02/21


  
**The Highland Council**  
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
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**PROJECT**  
CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS AT NOSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

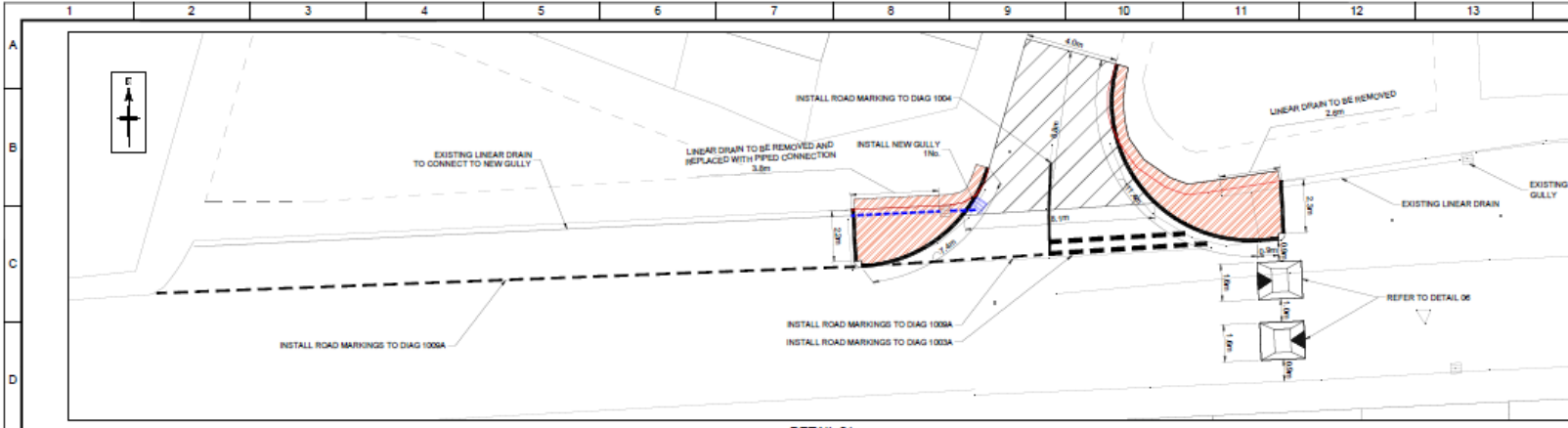
**TITLE**  
TRAFFIC CALMING

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DRAWN CF	DATE 05/09/20	
CHECKED BS	DATE 26/02/21	
PROJECT No: <b>YEHCS3021</b>		
DRAWING No: <b>101</b>	REVISION <b>03</b>	

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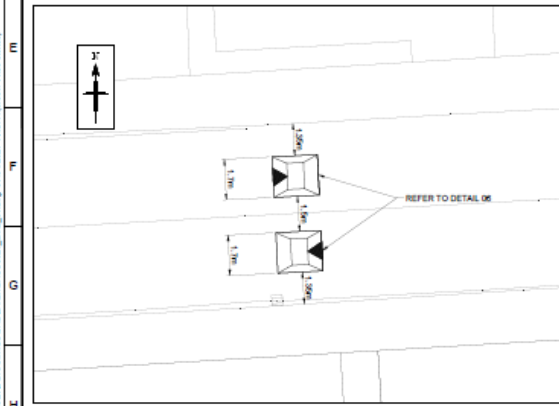
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SCALE 1:100

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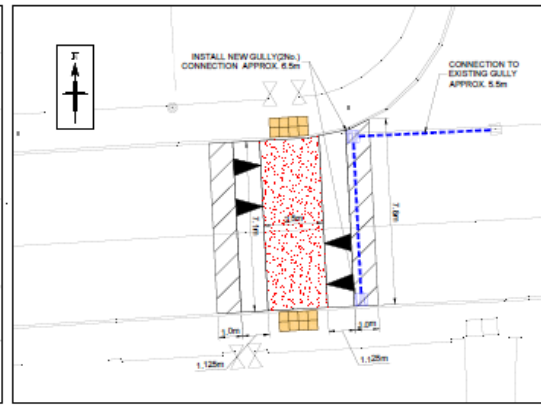
NOTES

1. LEGEND
- PROPOSED RAISED TABLE
  - PROPOSED BUILD OUT
  - AREA TO BE RESURFACED
  - PROPOSED TACTILE PAVING 400x400mm (BUFF)
  - EXISTING FRONT FACE OF KERB
  - HB2 - HALF BATTERED KERB

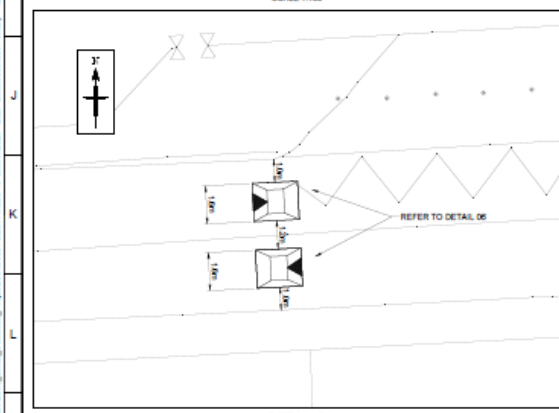
CONSULTATION ISSUE



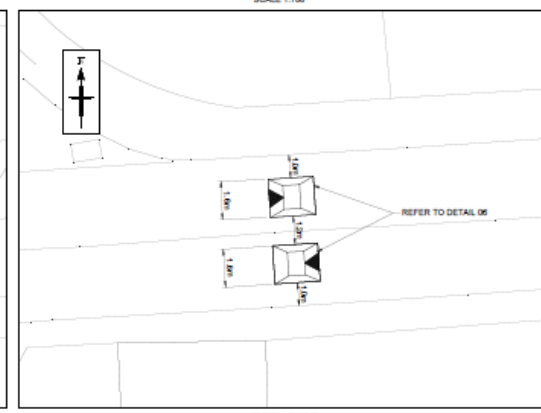
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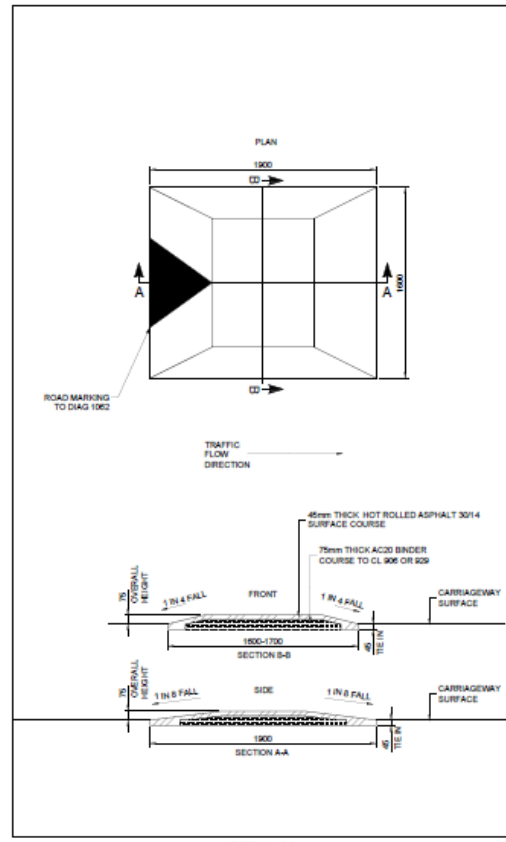
DETAIL 03  
SCALE 1:100



DETAIL 04  
SCALE 1:100



DETAIL 05  
SCALE 1:100



DETAIL 06  
SCALE 1:20

02	GULLY REPOSITIONED, MARKINGS ADDED AND HUMP REMOVED	CF	BS	01/04/21
01	CONSULTATION ISSUE	CF	BS	26/02/21
REV	REVISION DETAILS	DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE

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**PROJECT**  
 CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS AT NOSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

**TITLE**  
 TRAFFIC CALMING WILLOWBANK

	SCALE	ORIGINAL SIZE
	AS SHOWN	A1 (294 x 541)
DRAWN	CF	DATE 20/06/20
CHECKED	BS	DATE 26/02/21
PROJECT No.	YEHCS3021	
DRAWING No.	103	REVISION 02

### Appendix 3 – Summary of correspondence

Representor	Date Received	Summary	Officer Comment
Supporter 1 – Police Scotland	8 <sup>th</sup> February 22	Police support the traffic calming	Welcome support. No further action required.
Supporter 2	8 <sup>th</sup> February 22	Resident support for traffic calming	Welcome support. No further action required.
Objector 1	8 <sup>th</sup> February 22	Considers the proposals a waste of money and feels the traffic calming would reduce safety and not increase it.	Provided information that this was a locally requested set of measures and the benefits reducing vehicle speeds have on casualty reduction and injury severity. Objector was also informed that the funding for this project could not be used for roads maintenance.



Supporter 1 – Police Scotland

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 October 2021 16:22  
**To:** Road Safety  
**Subject:** Consultation, Traffic calming, Henrietta Street and Willowbank Wick [OFFICIAL]

**CAUTION:** This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

**OFFICIAL**

Good evening Ross

I am not aware if [REDACTED] or anyone else has responded, but as Area Inspector I don't have any comment or observation to make other than supportive of your efforts.

Kindest regards.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Inspector - Sgrùdaire  
North Highland Area Command  
Highlands and Islands Division  
Police Scotland  
Caithness  
KW1 5LB

Supporter 2

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 October 2021 16:37  
**To:** Road Safety  
**Subject:** Willowbank (Wick) traffic calming measures

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Dear Sir / Madam,

My husband and I have just had a chance to view online the planned measures to calm the traffic in Willowbank, Wick. We think the proposed measures look very good and are in favour.

However, it stated in the Courier newspaper that residents would receive a letter about the proposed measures and so far no letter has arrived. We live at number [REDACTED] Willowbank. Maybe this is an oversight, but if others not able to look online have not been sent these letters, then they are missing out on important information.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Objector 1

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 January 2022 19:13  
**To:** Road Safety  
**Subject:** Speed bumps & raised tables  
**Categories:** Ross

**CAUTION:** This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening Mr Bartlett,

Having finished reading the local press Public notices, I see that Highland council are planning to build these, "speed cushions" & "raised beds."

Considering the amount of potholes & vehicles parked on street either side of these area's, I'd suggest to you these would constitute more of a safety hazard rather than improving road safety.

I'd think the cost of these things are going to be extremely expensive and a waste of public money. The roads in Caithness are in the worst condition of anywhere in the country and are unnavigable in lots of places with holes, erosion and defects in general.

The cost of constructing these things would be better spent actually repairing the roads before thinking about this nonsensical idea.

Could I suggest since you are a "road safety" technician you visit the area to see first hand the state of things in the Town and area in general.

You can also see Facebook Caithness roads recovery group for an idea of how bad things are here. I look forward to your reply.

Best regards  
[REDACTED]

## Officer reply

**From:** Road Safety  
**Sent:** 05 May 2022 09:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Speed bumps & raised tables

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to reply to the consultation for Noss Primary School Traffic Calming, please accept my apologies that it has taken so long to provide a response to your objection to the scheme.

To reply to your comments we have visited the area and the designs were produced in response to the concerns raised by those in the local area regarding vehicle speeds along Henrietta Street and Willowbank. As I am sure you are aware this residential area forms a significant portion of the route to school for a large primary school. The school, pupils, parents and members of the community have all highlighted the same concern so a Safer Routes to School scheme was designed to reduce vehicle speeds. The Highland Council is adopting a Safe System approach to road design and reducing vehicle speeds can help to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions if they occur. For every 1 mph the mean average vehicle speed of vehicles is reduced the chance of a collision occurring is reduced by 5%. We have no evidence to suggest that installing traffic calming of this nature will have a detrimental effect on the chance of collisions and can evidence the positive impact reducing vehicle speeds can have on communities and collision reduction.

With regards to using the funding being allocated to this project for road maintenance this isn't possible. The funding for this scheme is coming from the Cycling Walking and Safer Routes Grant from the Scottish Government, this is a funding stream to encourage more active travel choices and cannot be used for road maintenance.

I confirm that the closing date for comments and objections for this scheme was 14<sup>th</sup> February 22 and that your email below is the only objection the council has received for this project. I hope the rationale I have outlined above as to how the scheme came about has alleviated the concerns you have raised and you would now be willing to withdraw your objection and allow us to deliver this much sought after Road Safety Scheme for the School and Community around Noss Primary. To ensure you are fully aware of the process if I have not alleviated your concerns and your objection is not withdrawn the next stage of this formal process is for your objection to be heard by the Elected Members at the Caithness Area Committee Meeting, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. If this date changes you will be notified of the change in advance. Copies of all correspondence pertaining to your objection will be anonymised and contained within the papers that go to this Committee.

Regards,