
PETITION FOR A REVIEW SPYLAW ROAD, KELSO

Briefing Note by the Depute Chief Executive, PLACE PETITIONS COMMITTEE

31 May 2016

1 SUMMARY

1.1 **This briefing note advises the Petitions Committee of the review of vehicles speeds as well as vehicle volumes and pedestrians associated with the private nursery on Spylaw Road, Kelso.**

1.2 Scottish Borders Council received, on 30 March 2016, a petition containing 126 signatures entitled **Road Safety on Spylaw Road**. The statement read:

I own a children's nursery and out-of-school club on Spylaw Road in Kelso, and have ongoing concerns about the speed of traffic driving past our premises which are approximately halfway along the road. It is a wide non-through road, with a combination of commercial and private traffic passing by e.g. to Council depots, Border Concrete, an exercise gym and J. Hislop's haulage yard.

Parents absolute best intention is always to keep their child/children with them at all times, but they have huge concerns that if their child got away from them the possibility of a resulting accident is greatly increased by the speed and sometimes poor driving of those passing. Many have more than one child plus bags to manage when they are arriving/leaving. Lorries regularly thunder past – even if they are sticking to the 30 limit it seems far too fast. Cars have also been seen to overtake cars that are edging out of the car park, possibly going too fast to slow down.

We have previously asked for road signage to be considered, but on review by the Council and Police Scotland this was turned down. Schools have signage and 20 limits at peak times, and it seems arbitrary that we would not be considered for similar measures. We understand that we are a private business, but we provide for approximately 130 families on a weekly basis and their safety while they are with us is paramount. We are asking for support to extend this safety to Spylaw Road.

1.3 Land use in the area includes builder's merchants, agricultural suppliers, electricians, HGV and SBC depots, a gym and a nursery to name a few. The road runs west to east and is wide and straight with vehicles parked on both sides of the carriageway. There is a footway for the entire length on the north side which is wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users or pushchairs.

1.4 Since 2006 there have been no recorded pedestrian personal injury accidents on Spylaw Road. One accident has been recorded in this time which occurred on the south side of Spylaw Road at the east end when a car reversed on to the live carriageway and struck another moving vehicle.

1.5 Council Officers from the Network Section of Assets and Infrastructure visited the site on the afternoon of 18 April, the morning of 19 April and the morning of

Tuesday 10 May 2016. Conditions were dry and sunny on all days. Results from a speed and traffic volume survey showed that the average speed of vehicles using Spylaw Road were found to be 18.5mph and 21.3mph, which is well below the 30mph speed limit, and speeds the Council would welcome elsewhere. Pedestrians volumes were low and all children were accompanied. Further details on the survey are listed below in Appendix A. Of most concern to the Council Officer was the number of vehicles associated with the nursery that reversed on to the live carriageway.

- 1.6 In view of these vehicles volumes and speeds we would not propose to make any physical changes to the road or signs. As previously explained to the nursery owner, none of the signs regulated by the Traffic Signs Manual are appropriate for use outside a nursery. Where the Council has installed part time 20mph schemes outside schools, as agreed by local Police Scotland representatives, these only operate at main school run times and not at nursery times as we expect all nursery children to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Any speed reducing measures that are introduced need to be justifiable, proportional and balanced, and in this instance we do not believe any speed reducing measures are required. Should the occasional vehicle be travelling at excessive speed, we would recommend the nursery contact Police Scotland.

2 CONCLUSION

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Committee recommends no further action on Spylaw Road, Kelso.**

Approved by

Director of

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Philippa Gilhooly	Engineering Team Leader, Traffic and Road Safety, PLACE

Background Papers: Petitions Procedure

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Environment and Infrastructure, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835 825071, email eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk.

Appendix A

Monday 18th April 2016 15:30-17:30,
Spylaw Road, Kelso (outside Castlegate Nursery)

Total no of vehicles: 188
Average speed of all vehicles: 18.5mph
Total no of pedestrians: 5

No of vehicles associated with nursery: 91 (48%)
Average speed of these vehicles: 20mph
No of pedestrians associated with nursery: 1

No of HGVs: 7
Average speed of HGVs: 17mph

No of vans: 12
Average speed of vans: 22mph

Tuesday 19th April 2016 07:45-09:45
Spylaw Road, Kelso (outside Castlegate Nursery)

(Speed monitoring equipment malfunction, hence no recorded speeds.)

Total no of vehicles: 256
Total no of pedestrians: 12

No of vehicles associated with nursery: 109 (42.5%)
No of pedestrians associated with nursery: 6

No of HGVs: 11

No of vans: 40

Tuesday 10th May 2016 07:45 – 09:45
Spylaw Road, Kelso (outside Castlegate Nursery)

Total no of vehicles: 117
Total no of pedestrians: 12
Average speed of all vehicles: 21.3mph

No of vehicles associated with nursery: 62 (53%)
No of pedestrians associated with nursery: 9
Average speed of nursery associated vehicles: 21.2mph

No of HGVs: 4
Average speed of HGVs: 20.75mph

No of vans: 11
Average speed of vans: 27mph