

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 14/3/06

ITEM 7: REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN SUPPORT OF TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT MEASURES AT WOODLANDS PARK DRIVE, GREAT
DUNMOW

A petition signed by about 320 Woodlands Park residents has been received requesting some form of speed control for Woodlands Park Drive for the safety of children, residents and the school entrance.

In addition, 25 individual letters supporting speed control have been received. The main points raised in the letters are:

- Failure to observe existing 30 and 20mph limits. Confusing speed limit signs. Cars overtake others that are adhering to the 20mph limit. Dangerous when pulling out of driveways.
- Crossing attendants would currently be at risk.
- Increasing use of Woodlands Park Drive by both cars and pedestrians as more houses are occupied and since the Junior School was opened, with the addition of 2 entrances from it to the Drive. The length and width of the Drive encourages speeding, especially the straight stretch near the entrance. Prior to the parking restrictions, drivers had to slow for oncoming vehicles.
- Drivers travel the wrong way over the roundabout, mounting kerbs and swerving to overtake parked cars.
- No school entrance warning signs, crossing points or road markings. No warning of children playing. Traffic congestion at school drop off and collection times.
- Essex Speed Management Policy identifies many measures that should have been undertaken by now. Many of the recommended measures are incorporated into the various side roads where speeds are much lower.
- Temporary Variable Message Signs in both directions may help to increase speed awareness.
- Drivers turn using the bus stop layby.
- Heavy vehicles park on Woodlands Park Drive, using it as a cut through to Tesco. Mini bikes use the Drive.
- Motorcyclists abuse pavements.
- Speed ramps, chicanes and a "Give Way" system adjacent to the school footpaths could be considered.