

Annexe B – Russell Road Comments

The comments below have been reproduced verbatim. Some have been edited to maintain the anonymity of the respondent.

<p>Respondents who would prefer to keep the traffic calming commented as follows:</p>
<p>I am concerned to see the council is even considering removing the speed cushions. Living on Russell Road I can confirm that vehicles still travel at high speed and by removing these measures the situation will further deteriorate and encourage dangerous driving.</p> <p>Having young children this is of great concern and should you elect to remove the speed cushions I will hold the council liable if any of my family is injured in an accident on Russell Road that could have been avoided by keeping these traffic calming measures in place.</p> <p>The unpleased vibrations are in fact caused by overly large trucks using the road, not normal vehicles, and can thus be avoided by placing weight / height restrictions on the road.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to keep the traffic calming measures in place to ensure a safe environment for us and our children.</p>
<p>This road is lethal. People drive way too fast already as the speed humps are too narrow. Proper bumps required across full width.</p>
<p>But ban heavy lorries as road not suitable for them. Too dangerous.</p>
<p>Indeed, increase in traffic calming is warranted as many vehicles still drive too quickly over existing speed cushions and can 'ride' over them without being affected as they are not wide enough.</p>
<p>[We] are extremely concerned about not only the speed o the traffic (so YES the speed humps should be reinstated), but also the weight of the large lorries going past our [house].</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes the house shakes when heavy traffic flies past 2) There are no speed bumps on Russell Road where Halliford Green is. Can we suggest a speed camera to slow traffic down please? 3) [Difficulties for residents emerging from driveways] Nightmare with speeding traffic 4) Cyclists fly [along the road and are unsighted from driveways due to its alignment] 5) Many young children, including our own live on or around Halliford Green. The speed of the traffic makes it unsafe. 6) We don't agree with Walton Lane becoming a no entry road from Walton Bridge, as this will simply drive more traffic onto Russell Road.
<p>Speed restrictive signs, each end of Russell Road would help.</p>
<p>There should be a weight restriction on this road too! The lorries 'bounce' over the humps causing vibration and noise.</p>
<p>Vehicle speeds in Russell Road are excessive and often dangerous.</p>
<p>Keep please – slows traffic and our dog got run over there.</p>
<p>Respondents who would prefer to remove the traffic calming commented as follows:</p>
<p>But introduce and enforce a 20mph speed limit using speed camera at the half way point for the safety of school children and elderly residents.</p>
<p>This form is not concise enough. It does not give residents a true option of what is available. An ultimatum of "keep or remove" is not the way to resolve such an emotive issue. I see no point in incurring the cost of alternative feasibility after the event. Why not use this funding towards speed camera installation now?</p>
<p>Many vehicles straddle the cushions at high speeds, better to install cameras and cheaper to maintain and more effective at reducing speeds.</p>
<p>Lorries straddle them, cars do not slow down. Houses damaged by vibrations.</p>
<p>Or made higher. If vehicles were going the right speed there would be no vibrations. When they go too fast you feel it through the walls.</p>

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There are 3 speed bumps directly outside my home within about a hundred yards of each other, which have a detrimental effect on the environment here. The need for measures to encourage motorists to stick to the speed limits is understood as it is a busy and narrow road. However I feel that the installation of the speed bumps in the 1990s was misguided, since they are not compatible with a road which is used so frequently by fully laden 38ton aggregate trucks shuttling from the nearby extraction sites. The impact of these trucks when they hit the 8in high speed bumps causes shock waves which literally shake our homes to their foundations. This lasts all day from approximately 6:30am. In fact the walls and ceilings in my home had to be covered with lining paper simply because the plaster had cracked throughout – in my opinion mainly due to prolonged exposure to vibrations originating at the speed bumps.

To compound this problem is the noise caused by the empty aggregate trucks returning to base together with other similar commercial vehicle traffic. This noise is extremely invasive and due to the close proximity of the 3 speed bumps, it results in multiple loud crashes, similar to gun fire. Again this occurs throughout the day and really spoils this otherwise calm and attractive riverside village.

I would encourage your team, and the Police Officers who have in the past supported the use of speed bumps, to visit the site and witness the disturbance for themselves, and to consider how they would feel if these were placed outside their own homes.

In desperation, I wrote to our MP about this problem, appealing for something to be done. I noted that at the western end of Russell Road, the residents' campaign had been successful and the bumps alongside the Mulberry Trees development had been removed. It is significant that this has not apparently had a detrimental effect on road safety.

As our previous requests were denied, I am delighted that the authority is again considering removing the speed bumps. We hope that a more 'resident friendly' and up-to-date alternative can be found to encourage speed compliance.

I do very much hope that they are removed, and am sure that the quality of life at this end of Russell Road for all users: motorists, pedestrians and residents alike, will be improved as a result.

Many thanks for consulting us.

I can in all honesty say that if the mini roundabout was made flat most of the noise and vibrations would ease. Traffic still goes fast regardless of speed humps.

(Flat) mini roundabout at Walton Lane most noise from tippers going over this roundabout, not so much noise from humps along the road.

In response to your letter regarding speed cushions we have lived[here] 8 years now and the extreme noise from traffic going over speed humps is frightening! Heavy goods (tippers) with large chains attached to them the noise and vibrations from these tippers makes life in our garden unbearable.

[The mini roundabout] is where the main noise and vibrations come from. Why we can't we have a flat roundabout is beyond me, on this small mini roundabout coaches from schools and extremely large car transporters do a full turn very dangerous.

Please flatten roundabout.

In our opinion these cushions do not slow down traffic.

I have taken photos when large car transports do a full circle on this mini roundabout if you would live to see them you can also school coaches.

I have substantial vibration and internal damage caused by the speed humps (traffic calming). I have made many complaints to the local authority.

1) Would like speed cushion outside [my house] removed. Lorries hit it at speed causing house to vibrate.

2) We have contacted lorry companies direct.

3) There do not appear to be very noticeable speed restriction signs either end of Russell Road?

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Please can you take in to consideration our comments below when deciding the fate of speed cushions in Russell Road.

As residents who live only 10 feet away from the roads edge we feel that we are in the best position to give you a true depiction of living with traffic on Russell Road.

The introduction of speed cushions has not solved any of the problems we experience on a daily bases.

[This respondent made a number of comments on the detail provided in the consultation letter.]

Point 1 excessive vehicle speeds: It is our experience the speed cushions have not reduced excessive vehicle speeds

Point 2 personnel injury collisions:

What type of accidents occurred?

Not sure what this relates to!

What was the cause these accidents?

What does this prove?

Information given seems contradictory and ambiguous!

May we know the cause of these personal injury collisions 1987 to date?

Point 3 trend:

There has been an increase of cyclist through Russell Road i.e club cyclists and charity cyclists and from our observations we often see cyclists making repairs which would suggest deterioration of road surface and sunken gully drains

Tipper and other heavy commercial vehicles run rough shod over the existing speed cushions which would suggest the cause of deterioration of the cushions, also motor cyclist speed through the cushions

Point 4 Surrey police: not in a position to check and report speed levels in Russell Road

Point 5 Vibrations: these vibrations cause cracks within properties, in fact a speed cushion was removed because of this problem

Point 6 Removal of traffic calming: whilst we would agree with the concerns of Surrey police it is clear to us that renewing speed cushions is not going to resolve the problems, however, the obvious answer is to install strategically placed speed cameras, this would have the desired effect of reducing speed, vibrations and noise

As you will be aware there is a school on Russell Road and in Manygate Lane that leads into Russell Road this needs to be taken into consideration when making the final decision which we very much hope will be the installation of speed cameras.

And repair my cottage since the cushions were installed they have caused so much damage to my home and others.

There were no cracks or damage to [my house] on viewing twice before I bought [it shortly] after the installation of speed bumps.

I was 'shaken awake' at 6:30 the morning after I moved in. [a survey] found the house was sound but I was not told of the noise or damage etc. [Other residents] had the speed bump removed because of damage from the speed bumps. [My house] is further off the road but is still shaking and cracking up see photos. [The] survey did not mention a problem with the speed bumps and raised roundabout.

I will send photos. I only received your letter today so not enough time to print them out.

Massive cracks in the walls [of my house] since the installation of speed humps.

I was shaken awake at 6:30am by traffic every day except Sunday.

[When I viewed my house before the traffic calming was installed] no cracks in walls. [Also I knew a previous occupant who lived there prior to the installation of the traffic calming] no damage then.

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