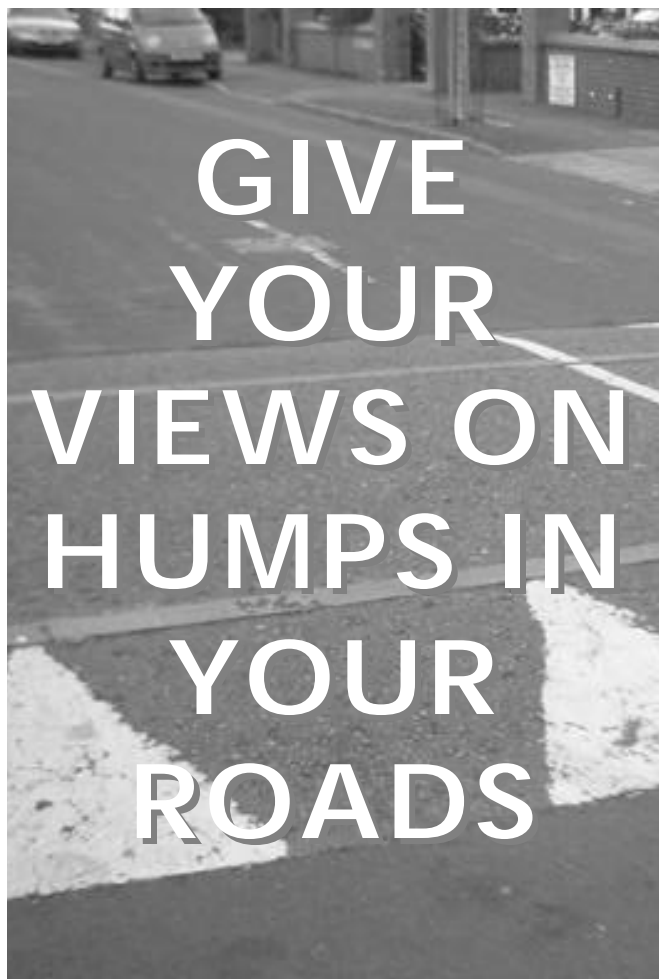


Portland St Cycling Plan

JOHN PUGH MP'S LOCAL SURVEY

Sefton Council has passed a proposal to consult the people of Southport on a new 'cycling infrastructure' plan in the Portland Street area. Local Newspapers are full of stories about plans for a cycle route and traffic calming in this area, and you should have received consultation packs in the mail recently. The Department for Transport has named Southport a "Cycling Town", and will pay for improvements to Southport's cycling infrastructure. The Council and local councillors are, to their credit, actively seeking your views on the plans you will have received. I hope and trust that everyone will look at all the information and make up their own mind.



After proper and accurate information is disseminated, everything will depend on how residents respond. We are encouraging people to attend the drop-in sessions with council officers and take a full and active part in the consultation. Sessions will be held as follows:

Thursday 1st October - 4.00pm - 8.00pm
Southport Unitarian Church, Portland Street.

Saturday 3rd October - 10.00am - 1.00pm
The Family Life Centre, Ash Street.

There are four basic elements in the plans which aim to improve the local environment:

1. A 20mph speed limit zone on Portland Street and the surrounding area.
2. The provision of a *preferred cycle route* (not a path or a lane!) from Lord Street to Kew, along Portland Street, with landscaping and traffic-thinning along its length, including advanced stopping areas for cyclists at some junctions. **Cars will still be able to park on the street.**
3. Speed bumps on roads crossing Portland Street, including Part Street, and raised junctions at most junctions on Portland Street.
4. Road closures at three points along Portland Street.

Obviously, this is a very large project, people may like the sound of some of this, all of this or none of this. The plans as they are will certainly discourage rat-running and improve road safety, but revised plans may do so without causing inconvenience.



Unfortunately, the Council has only asked for a YES/NO response to the whole of the scheme despite the complex and varied views I have heard from so many residents. This is why I have sent out this leaflet.

I have heard many varied opinions in recent weeks. Local traders have expressed concern about parts of the proposal and their possible effects on trade. I have held a meeting with traders, and written to them, and expressed their concerns to the council.

It has been suggested that areas of your road nearest to the junction with Portland Street should have speed bumps to slow down traffic. These need not be heavily intrusive but we need to know whether you think these are necessary at all or desirable, whether this part of the Council's plans is supported by the people who actually live in the road. It is not my view that counts: it's yours.

Please cut off and fill in the form below and either post it to me or just pop up to 35, Shakespeare Street and pop it through the door or just phone 533 555. We will present all evidence to the council.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

1. Are you in favour of speed bumps on your road?

Yes No Don't know

2. Are you in favour of road closures on Portland Street?

Yes No Don't know

3. Are you in favour of raised junctions on Portland Street?

Yes No Don't know

4. Are you in favour of a 20mph speed limit zone?

Yes No Don't know

Please tell us about your specific concerns. _____

Q & A

How did these plans get to this stage?

The Southport Area Committee - a meeting of the Sefton Council - discussed plans similar to these earlier this year. After months of revision and consultation, a comprehensive version of the plans was put forward to the committee, which voted to pass them to the consultation phase, which we are in now.

Can the plans be altered before a decision is made?

The plans can be altered, and it is likely that they will be. Residents should give specific suggestions if they have them.

Couldn't this money be spent on doctors and nurses?

No. This money is given by the Department for Transport specifically for cycling infrastructure. The Council is not allowed to spend it on anything else.

How many injuries have there been in the area?

The area between Duke St. and Eastbank St./Southbank Road has recorded 22 injury accidents in the last 3 years. The junctions along Portland St. have been made a priority for safety improvements through the council's Urban Safety Management programme.

When will the council stop taking responses to the consultation?

The council will stop taking responses on Friday the 9th October. So I encourage you to use this opportunity while you have it.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you would like any further information about the plans please contact Peter Hillsdon on 0151 934 4808

*As your Liberal Democrat MP, I intend to represent **your** views in this matter. I have held a successful meeting with local business owners and we are currently carrying out surveys to see if residents support these measures or not, or require specific amendments to the published plan.*

I have heard many valid concerns about this plan, and I think sensible compromises will need to be sought. If the consultation process is comprehensive we may be able to design a plan that suits almost everyone. Any consultations I hold will be for the purpose of creating the most rational and agreeable traffic scheme for our community.


I completely understand many residents' concerns and I want to hear more. My view is that traffic-calming measures should not and will not be implemented without the approval of residents, so the consultation is your chance to determine events. The fairest and best solution will be reached when we work together, and I am looking forward to working with you to achieve this.


- John Pugh MP



Published and promoted by John Pugh MP, printed by Southport Lib Dem print, both at 35 Shakespeare Street, Southport, PR8 5AB

Please return this letter to the following address, or call or email us:

 Freepost NWW46640A
35 Shakespeare Street,
Southport, PR8 5AB

 (01704) 533 555

 pughj@parliament.uk

We are only around the corner, feel free to drop by.

