

Winning scheme cost £1m, conference told



Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council's award-winning £1m traffic calming scheme in Horsham was part of a £2.3m town centre redevelopment, the Urban Street Environment traffic calming conference was told last week. Pictured above, collecting their award for best traffic calming scheme, are (left to right) Robert Skeet, technical services engineer at Horsham District Council; Mark Suppel, architect at Horsham, Tim Pharaoh, chairman of judges, Peter Stonham, publisher of LTT and Urban Street Environment; Alan Lovell, county surveyor of West Sussex, and William Knott, chief engineer roads design, West Sussex.

na. Such zones only receive temporary approval provided the highway authority can prove that speeds in the zone have dropped to 20mph. The

would be considerable, and said that it would be disinclined to grant permanent status to a scheme if it could not achieve speed reduction targets.

UK-wide traffic calming 'would cost £7 billion'

Traffic calming consultant Tim Pharaoh has claimed that installing calming measures on all suitable roads in the UK would cost £7bn and at the current rate of progress would not be complete for 500 years.

Pharaoh said that progress could be speeded by diverting 20% of the £23bn trunk road budget and adding local authority and private sector contributions. "Taking money away from the trunk road programme that nobody seems to want and giving it to something people clearly do want appears to be an entirely sensible idea," he told the *Urban Street Environment* conference on traffic calming.

He outlined a scenario for traffic calming the 80% of the road network that could be calmed. 'Living priority' zones would have 20mph limits; 'mixed priority' areas such as main roads in shopping areas would have 20-30mph limits; and 'traffic priority' areas would give priority to traffic, but 30mph limits would protect vulnerable road users. Such designations and lower speed limits would allow the Government to achieve its safety targets, claimed Pharaoh.

"Such a strategy is not a luxury, but essential to retain the vitality and appeal of urban life," he added.