

**13 October 2021
Agenda Item:8**

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (COTGRAVE ROAD, NORMANTON THE WOLDS AND PLUMTREE AND CHURCH HILL PLUMTREE) (50MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2021 (8306)

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above Speed Limit Order and whether it should be made as advertised.

Information

2. Cotgrave Road which extends between the existing 40mph at Tollerton (west of Cotgrave Lane) and the A606 at Normanton on the Wolds, is a single carriageway rural distributor road that has no streetlights or footways. The road is rural in character with a number of bends and undulations. There are four access drives along the route, leading to agricultural or private premises and residences.
3. The road is currently subject to a speed limit of 60mph; the national speed limit for single-carriageway derestricted roads.
4. The reduction in speed limit was requested by local residents as part of a campaign to construct a footway along this length of road. It has been established that a footway cannot be delivered due to prohibitive costs and lack of sufficient verge.
5. In response it is proposed to introduce a speed limit of 50mph between the existing 40mph at Tollerton (west of Cotgrave Lane) and the A606 at Normanton on the Wolds. The proposed order will also include the existing stretch of 50mph along Cotgrave Road and part of Church Hill to the start of the 30mph at Plumtree.
6. In considering changes to speed limits, the Department for Transport (DfT) guidance "Setting Local Speed Limits" is used to determine the appropriate limit. A principle of this guidance relates to matching speed limits to recorded mean traffic speeds; a 50mph limit is considered appropriate for the type of road and the traffic using it.
7. The lower speed limit will act as a buffer zone and will help to reduce the speed of the traffic approaching the existing 30mph and 40mph speed limits and encourage greater compliance with the existing speed limits at start of the residential areas.

8. The statutory consultation was undertaken between 12th November and 11th December 2020, as detailed on plan H/SLW/3572/01.
9. During the consultation period, fourteen responses were received, including a comment from County Councillor Butler. Councillor Butler welcomed the proposed speed limit reduction but requested that consideration be given to extending the start of the current 40mph section to include the properties and the bend.
10. Eleven of the responses expressed support and / or made comments on the scheme. A common theme amongst the comments was to extend the existing 40mph, as requested by Councillor Butler, and to make Cropwell Road and Church Hill (from its junction with A606) a 30mph speed limit.
11. Consideration was given to the requests to extend the 40mph, but the characteristic of the road at that location remains rural, with only two vehicle accesses. Without an obvious change in the road characteristics the relocation of the 40mph terminal point could have a negative effect to that which was intended; that is, motorists approaching from the A606 will ignore the 40mph sign because they do not perceive it to be a residential area. As they approach to the row of residential properties there will no longer be a gateway feature to reinforce their perception of the change in speed limit and they are less likely to slow down. It is therefore not considered appropriate to extend the exiting 40mph speed limit.
12. It is considered that there are three outstanding objections to the proposals including one from Normanton on the Wolds Parish Council.

Objections Received

13. Objection – Proposed speed limit should be lower
All objectors objected on the grounds that all or part of the route should be subject to a lower speed limit. Respondents stated that they considered the proposed limit was inappropriate for the location and that the lower limit would be safer for vulnerable highway users. All objectors, including Normanton on the Wolds Parish Council, requested that the existing 30mph in Plumtree be extended along Church Hill to the A606 traffic lights. One objector wanted the entire route between Plumtree and Tollerton to be reduced to a 30mph limit. Another respondent wanted the 30mph limit at Plumtree to be extended to Clipston Lane in Normanton on the Wolds. The respondent also stated that the proposed 50mph should be reduced to a 40mph limit on the remainder of the advertised route. They and another respondent also requested that the existing 40mph section at Tollerton (which does not form part of this consultation) be reduced to 30mph.
14. Response – Proposed speed limit should be lower
The County Council use a number of factors when determining appropriate speed limits; these are based on the Department for Transport's guidance "Setting Local Speed Limits" and include existing traffic speeds, history of collisions, road purpose/function, population size, expected vulnerable road users and environmental effect. A 30mph speed limit is normally only proposed where the road is in a built-up area with multiple properties directly accessed from the road. This is not the case on the sections of this route where a 30mph limit has been requested and does not align with Government guidance on setting speed limits.
15. Similarly, the guidance does not suggest that a 40mph limit is appropriate for the section of road between Normanton and Tollerton, which is rural in character, with no development and few accesses and low pedestrian numbers. If speed limits are set at an unreasonably

low level it can increase collisions as drivers make unsafe overtaking manoeuvres to pass what they perceive as vehicles driving 'too slowly' and would be unlikely to achieve a high compliance level.

16. As the route does not align with official guidance for a lower speed limit, the advertised limit of 50mph is considered to be the most appropriate for the location.

Other Options Considered

17. The other options which were considered related to the appropriate speed for this section of road. The route was assessed in line with Department for Transport guidelines on setting speed limits and this indicated that 50mph was the appropriate limit.

Comments from Local Members

18. County Councillor Richard Butler expressed his support for the proposal and requested that consideration be given to whether the 40mph at Tollerton could be extended.

Reason for Recommendation

19. The proposed changes to the speed limit along Cotgrave Road are considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users and safety concerns.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

21. Nottinghamshire Police made no objections to the proposal. No additional crime or disorder implications are envisaged.

Financial Implications

22. The scheme is being funded through the 2021/22 Integrated Transport Measures capital programme with an expected cost of £4,000.

Human Rights Implications

23. The implementation of the proposals within this report might be considered to have a minimal impact on human rights (such as the right to respect for private and family life and the right to peaceful enjoyment of property, for example). However, the Authority is entitled to affect these rights where it is in accordance with the law and is both necessary and proportionate to do so, in the interests of public safety, to prevent disorder and crime, to protect health, and to protect the rights and freedoms of others. The proposals within this report are considered to be within the scope of such legitimate aims.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

24. As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, the Council has a duty 'to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not' by thinking about the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who don't;
 - Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who don't.
25. Disability is a protected characteristic and the Council therefore has a duty to make reasonable adjustments to proposals to ensure that disabled people are not treated unfairly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is **recommended** that:

- 1) The Nottinghamshire County Council (Cotgrave Road, Normanton The Wolds and Plumtree and Church Hill Plumtree) (50mph Speed Limit) Order 2021 (8306) is made as advertised and objectors advised accordingly.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sonya Hurt - Team Manager (Major Projects and Improvements) / Helen North – Improvements Lead Tel:0115 977 2087

Constitutional Comments (SJE – 14/09/2021)

26. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Transport & Environment Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to traffic management has been delegated.

Financial Comments (GB 08/09/2021)

27. The estimated cost to implement the works identified in this report total £4,000. It is proposed that the costs will be funded from the 2021/22 Integrated Transport Measures capital budget which totals £8.6m and is already approved as part of the Transport and Environment capital budget.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- All relevant documents for the proposed scheme are contained within the scheme file which can be found in the Major Projects and Improvements Team at Trent Bridge House, West Bridgford.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Cotgrave ED

Councillor Richard Butler