



11th September 2014

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

**THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(A38 KING'S MILL ROAD WEST, SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD) (50 M.P.H SPEED
LIMIT) ORDER 2014 (4140A)**
**(B6021 PENNY EMMA WAY, KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD) (40 M.P.H AND 50
M.P.H SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2014 (4147)**
**THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (ORCHARD WAY, SUTTON-
IN-ASHFIELD) (DERESTRICTED SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2014 (4148)**

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above Speed Limit Orders (SLO's) and decide whether it should be made as advertised.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council is proposing to amend the speed limit along the section of the A38 Sutton-in-Ashfield by-pass between its junction with Orchard Way and the King's Mill Hospital crossroads, as well as along of number of adjacent roads.
3. The proposal along this section of the A38 is being considered in order to address the level of accidents occurring along it and the aim is to achieve consistently safer speeds along the road. The existing speed limit along the A38 Sutton-in-Ashfield is currently 60mph, apart from short stretches either side of and through its junctions with Kirkby Road / Sutton Road, Station Road and Coxmoor Road, where the speed limit is 30mph.
4. Several road safety / engineering measures have been introduced over recent years, however accidents are still occurring. Other measures previously introduced include improvements to several of the junctions, upgrading of signing / carriageway markings and the addition of a number of central refuges. Between 2010 and 2013 there have been 73 reported injury accidents, 15 of which resulted in killed or serious injuries (KSI). Of the 73 accidents recorded, 26 occurred on the links between the junctions. However of these 26, 8 were KSI which represent over half of all KSI accidents occurring along the whole length of the road. Whilst the greater proportion of accidents occur at the junctions the accidents on the links result in higher severity generally. 46 accidents occurred at the junctions; 7 being KSI's. It is considered that there are inconsistencies in speed along the length of road and

this can lead to shunts that feature heavily on the approaches to the junctions. Drivers are also less constrained on the links between the junctions, resulting in higher speeds.

5. It is intended that the amended speed limit along the A38 is enforced by the introduction of average speed cameras. This two stage strategy has proved successful in ensuring that consistently lower vehicle speeds are achieved elsewhere in the County and this should be repeated along the length of the A38. On average in Nottinghamshire we have seen an 80% reduction in high severity accidents where these types of cameras are in operation.
6. When the proposals were initially advertised between 4th and 25th June 2014, the intention was to ensure that the speed limit along the road from approximately 400 metres west of its junction with the Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction to just south of the A38 / A617 / B6023 junction at King's Mill Hospital crossroads would be a uniform and a consistent 50mph along the 3.7km length of road. The creation of this consistent 50mph length of road involved the alteration of the limit through the junctions on the A38 from 30pmh to 50mph. This would provide an opportunity for the terminal points of the 30mph to be moved to the side roads which will both reinforce the change to a residential area and highlight the lower limit. This particular aspect of the proposals generated the only objections to the entire scheme though several comments were submitted.
7. No objections were received regarding the other aspects of the initially advertised proposals, which included:
 - Lowering the existing derestricted (60mph) speed limit to 50mph along and the A617 Sherwood Way South (MARR) between the A38 Sutton-in-Ashfield by-pass and the access road to the King's Mill Reservoir;
 - Lowering the existing derestricted (60mph) speed limit to 40mph along a short length of the A617 King's Mill Road East from the King's Mill Hospital crossroads northbound to the hospital access road.
8. Following comments received the County Council reviewed the scheme and a decision has been made to include a number of amendments to the overall scheme:
 - It is now proposed to maintain the current 30mph speed limit at the Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction. However such a change to the overall scheme will result in the remaining length of proposed 50mph speed limit along the A38 to the west of the junction being too short and would be contrary to guidance published by the Government, therefore it is intended to extend the proposed 50mph speed limit further westwards, towards its junction with Orchard Way.
 - The existing 40mph speed limit along Penny Emma Way is proposed to be extended westwards so that the junction with Oddicroft Lane will be included within this new limit due to the nature and volume of traffic using this junction. This amendment follows representations received from a resident of Kirkby Hardwick.
 - A 45 metre length of 'derestricted' speed limit is to be introduced at to the entrance to Orchard Way at its junction with the A38 since there are at present no signs to enforce the existing 30mph speed limit along Orchard Way. This will ensure that signage for the 30mph speed limit along Orchard Way could be installed at an appropriate location.
9. The amendments to the proposals were advertised between 16th July and 6th August 2014 as shown on the enclosed drawing H/04078/TRO4140/01/02.

Objections Received

10. During both rounds of consultation, sixteen responses were received with eight supporting the proposals. A number of comments were raised from individuals supporting the proposals these include:
 - Drivers not ‘merging in turn’ through the junctions;
 - Current speed limit not being adhered to and any new limit would need to be enforced;
 - Overgrown vegetation obscuring signs;
 - Lack of right turn filter on the traffic signal after heading south along Kirkby Road and vehicles turning onto A38 towards M1.
11. Replies have been sent direct to respondents, but in summary the current ‘merging in turn’ layout complies with standards and there is nothing practical that could be done readily to ensure that drivers comply with the layout. In addition The County Council is also planning to carry out an extensive programme of cutting back vegetation along the A38 during 2014.
12. It is the intention to follow up the changes to the speed limits with the introduction of average speed cameras along the A38 to enforce the 50mph limit; this will supplement the current red light camera that is in operation on the A38 travelling towards Mansfield through the Kirkby Road / Station road junction, an upgrade of the camera is also planned.
13. Extensive studies into the feasibility of a right turn facility at the A38 / Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction have been carried out. These have shown that any changes would have a severe effect on capacity of the junction, leading to further increases in queues in the peak period on approaches. Therefore any changes would require major upgrades to the junction.
14. Eight responses are considered to be outstanding objections to some or all of the proposals.

15. Objections

Five local residents objected to the proposed increase in speed limit at three junctions along the A38 (Kirkby Road / Sutton Road, Station Road and Coxmoor Road) on the grounds that it is unacceptable to increase the speed limit by 20mph at these locations given the levels of accidents occurring along the A38. The objections suggest that the risk of collisions for local residents will be increased when accessing the side roads from individual properties. One of the residents has also suggested that speed cameras are installed on Station Road to reduce speeding vehicles towards the A38.

One local resident is objecting and suggests that the increased speed limit will encourage high speed cornering.

The head teacher of Ashfield School objected to the proposed increase in speed limit at the Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction on the grounds of increased risk to the safety of students who are required to cross the A38 twice a day. The school suggests that over 300 students walk to school from the Sutton side of the A38 crossing it at busy times of the day. Parents have expressed concerns about the existing safety issues and feel very strongly that these will be made worse by the proposed increase in speed through the junction.

The views from the Ashfield School and local residents regarding the speed limit increase on the Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction is supported by County Council Steve Carroll who submitted comments for consideration to the Highways department suggesting that the 30mph limit should be maintained at this location. Through Ashfield District Council's planning committee Councillor Carroll also raised concern regarding the proposals for the Station Road junction and that consideration should be given to maintaining the 30mph limit at this location was well.

A local resident of Kirkby-in-Ashfield has raised a number of concerns relating to speed enforcement, operation of A38 / Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction and 'merging in turn' lanes that have been discussed. However, it has also been suggested that the speed limit on the A617 should also be reduced to 40mph in both direction and this should continue to the Sherwood Way South junction with the A38 and A617.

Response

The A38 / Kirkby Road / Sutton Road is predominately residential in character and the first entrances to Ashfield School is located 280m south of the A38 junction. Due to concerns raised about the volume of pedestrian activity at this junction at peak times and safety of road users the proposals were amended to retain the 30mph limit through this junction. This was reflected in the second round of consultation and this change did not generate any further objections at this location.

With reference to the A38 / Station Road junction whilst this is also predominately residential in character, there are no generators of pedestrian and cycle activity in the immediately vicinity to its junction with the A38 similar to the nature and scope of Ashfield School which would provide the same high levels of vulnerable highway users crossing the A38 at school opening and closing times. The current 30mph limit across this junction and merging lanes is shorter than the Kirkby Road / Station road junction and it is considered this negates the usefulness of the limit. Maintaining a 50mph limit through the junction will have the benefit of slowing vehicles down in advance and provide the opportunity to reinforce the 30mph limit on the side roads.

For the A38 / Coxmoor Road this is less residential and on the Kirkby side of the A38 primarily has industrial and commercial premises along it. Pedestrian and cycle activity along it close to its junction with the A38 would not be as high as would be expected at the Kirkby Road / Sutton Road and Station Road junctions. A public house is located on the Sutton side of the A38 and is considered that the vast majority of customers travelling to it on foot or by bike would probably do so from the Sutton area due to the lack of residential properties on the Kirkby side of the road.

Due to the reduced level of pedestrian activity at the other junctions along the A38 (excluding Kirkby Road / Sutton Road) the County Council considers that the consistent reduced speed limit along the majority length of the A38 will help achieve the aim to reduce accidents along this section road.

As part of the works to amend speed limit the County Council will need to move the 30mph speed limit terminal points onto the side roads which provides the opportunity to reinforce the lower limit that should assist with both compliance and awareness of the lower limit within the residential areas.

Other Options Considered

16. Other options considered relate to the extents of the speed limit restrictions and this has been reflected in the second round of consultation undertaken by the County Council and changes made considering feedback received.

Comments from Local Members

17. County Councillor Steve Carroll requested that consideration was given to maintain the existing 30mph limit on the junction of A38 / Kirkby Road / Sutton Road and raised concerns that the County Council is proposing the speed limit is increased to 50mph through the A38 / Station Road junction. Proposals were amended to maintain the current speed limit through the A38 / Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction following feedback from all the consultation responses. County Council Officers have met Councillor Carroll to reassure / confirm the decisions and reasoning in proposing a consisting 50mph along the remaining of length of the A38 as described in this report.
18. County Councillors Tom Hollis, Jason Zadrozny and John Knight did not comment on the proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations

19. The proposals to the Speed Limits along part of the A38 around Sutton-in-Ashfield and adjacent roads are considered in order to address the level of accidents occurring along sections of the A38 Sutton-in-Ashfield by-pass and the aim is to achieve consistently slower speeds along the road, including the approaches to and through the junctions along it. Changes have been included to take into account feedback and final proposals a considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of 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, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

21. The scheme is being funded by the Local Transport Plan (Integrated Transport Measures) for 2014/15 and will cost in the region of £25,000.

Crime and Disorder Implications

22. Nottinghamshire Police raised no objections to the proposals. However the police did raise concerns were raised regarding the high levels of child pedestrians across the A38 at the Kirkby Road / Sutton Road junction.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The Nottinghamshire County Council (A38 King's Mill Road West, Sutton-in-Ashfield) (50 M.P.H Speed Limit) Order 2014 (4140A), (B6021 Penny Emma Way, Kirkby-in-Ashfield) (40 M.P.H And 50 M.P.H Speed Limits) Order 2014 (4147) and (Orchard Way, Sutton-in-Ashfield) (Derestricted Speed Limit) Order 2014 (4148)

Are made as advertised and objectors advised accordingly.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director (Highways)

Name of Report Author

Mike Barnett

Title of Report Author

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 26/06/14)

23. The Transport and Highways Committee has responsibility for transport and highways including the planning, management and maintenance of highways including traffic management and road safety. The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (TMR 26/06/14)

24. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 21 of the report.

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

Sutton-in-Ashfield West ED

Councillor Tom Hollis

Sutton-in-Ashfield East ED

Councillor Steve Carroll

Sutton-in-Ashfield North ED

Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Kirkby-in-Ashfield North ED

Councillor John Knight