



23rd June 2016

Agenda Item:

## **REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS**

### **THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (TOLLERTON LANE, TOLLERTON) (40 MPH & 50 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2016 (8246)**

## **CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS**

### **Purpose of the Report**

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

### **Information and Advice**

2. Tollerton Lane is a single carriageway, rural road with no footway or streetlights, which leads from the A52 Gamston Lings Bar Road to Tollerton Village; located circa 7km south-east of Nottingham City Centre. Nottingham Airport, a caravan park (Tollerton Park) and approximately six residential premises are accessed directly from Tollerton Lane. The speed limit is currently 60mph; the national speed limit for single-carriageway derestricted roads.
3. Planning permission for a private hospital development adjacent to the Airport, to the east of Tollerton Lane, was approved in March 2015 by Rushcliffe Borough Council (application reference 14/02496/FUL). The new junction visibility splays, agreed as part of the Section 278 detailed design and referred to in Condition 6 of the decision notice, require a speed limit reduction on Tollerton Lane to 40mph, between the existing 30mph speed limit at the entrance to the village and the new entrance to the hospital.
4. This lower limit was identified as a requirement at stage two of the Safety Audit process, when it became apparent that the forward visibility for drivers entering and exiting the new site was obscured due to a left hand bend in the existing carriageway and a large hedgerow at the side of the road. A 40mph speed limit will provide the forward visibility required to accommodate the entrance to the new hospital.
5. Nottinghamshire County Council conducted a consultation between 8<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 on these new speed limit proposals; as shown on drawing H/04078/2230.
6. During this period of consultation Nottinghamshire County Council received four responses, three of which were requests from local residents of Tollerton Park for the lower, 40mph

speed limit to be extended further north along Tollerton Lane either to its junction with Tollerton Park or all the way to the junction with the A52 Gamston Lings Bar Road, due to concerns of vehicle speeds along the road affecting the safety of pedestrians. The fourth response was from Tollerton Parish Council, which does not support the proposed 40mph limit.

7. In response to these comments the speed limit on the northern section of Tollerton Lane was assessed. Nottinghamshire 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 factors such as existing traffic speeds, history of collisions, road purpose/function, population size, expected vulnerable road users and environmental affect. These factors were all considered and it was concluded that a speed limit of 50mph was appropriate for this part of Tollerton Lane. This was further discussed with Nottinghamshire Police, as the body responsible for enforcing speed limits, who stated that "they feel a 50mph speed limit [on the northern section of Tollerton Lane] would attain more compliance than a 40mph and be consistent with other roads in the area".
8. After consideration of the consultation responses and assessment of Tollerton Lane the proposed scheme was amended. In addition to the proposed 40mph limit the County Council also proposed a reduced speed limit of 50mph on the northern section of Tollerton Lane, from its junction with the A52 Gamston Lings Bar Road to the start of the proposed 40mph.
9. The revised proposals were formally advertised between 8<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016 as shown on the enclosed drawing H/04078/2230/01.

## **Objections Received**

10. During the second round of consultation, a further three responses were received as well as a re-submission from the Parish Council. A number of comments were raised, which included:
  - Requests that the proposed 50mph speed limit be lowered further to 40mph
  - Requests that the speed limit remain derestricted (i.e. remain at 60mph) along all of Tollerton Lane
  - Concerns over the safety of pedestrians, particularly the elderly, crossing the road to the bus stop
  - Concerns regarding restricted forward visibility for vehicles exiting Tollerton Park, due to bends and the brow of a hill.
  - A comments that Tollerton Lane is a popular route for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists;
  - A comment that the new limit is through greenbelt and compromises the separate village integrity of Tollerton
  - Request for additional signage required to highlight the entrance to Tollerton Park
  - A comments that the opening of the new hospital will generate more traffic.
11. Replies have been sent directly to respondents and six of the responses received are considered to be outstanding objections to the proposals.

12. Objection – Proposed speed limit is too high

The common theme on four of the outstanding objections, all from residents of Tollerton Park, was the desire for a lower speed limit than the 50mph limit proposed; requests were made for a 40mph limit to apply to either the entire derestricted section of Tollerton Lane or to all but a stretch of approximately 500m.

Response

The County Council does not consider that a speed limit of 40mph is appropriate for the northern part of Tollerton Lane. The concerns of Tollerton Park residents are recognised and the original proposal has been amended to include a reduction of the speed limit on the northern stretch, which is now proposed as 50mph. The proposed 50mph limit is consistent with the type of road and its usage and is expected to be self-enforcing.

The County Council follows Department for Transport guidelines when setting local speed limits and work closely with Nottinghamshire Police to ensure that the proposed limits are appropriate and safe. Nottinghamshire Police has indicated that it would not support a 40mph limit, as it would receive little compliance. It is not considered that reducing the limit further would achieve additional benefits because of the likelihood that drivers will not adhere to it without additional measures, such as fixed or mobile cameras, both of which require significant funds and strong accident justification.

13. Objection – Proposed speed limit is too low

Two respondents, including Tollerton Parish Council objected to the proposed speed limit reduction on Tollerton Lane (both the proposed 40mph and the 50mph). The comments made include:

- No accidents between vehicles and cyclists/pedestrians on the roads have warranted a change in speed limit,
- There is no justification for the proposed new limits and they would be inconvenient for residents of Tollerton
- Residents of Tollerton do not support the proposed limit
- The new limit is through greenbelt and compromises the separate village integrity of Tollerton
- Existing speed restrictions within the village should be enforced

Response

In the previous three years there have been two injury accidents, one serious and one slight, on Tollerton Lane, both of which involved vulnerable users (pedal cyclists). The new hospital and associated infrastructure is expected to increase numbers of vulnerable users of the route still further. The proposed limits have been assessed using DfT guidelines and discussed with Nottinghamshire Police before being consulted upon.

The reduction in speed limit to 40mph will facilitate the safe operation of the new hospital entrance by ensuring adequate visibility of on-coming vehicles. The new 50mph speed limit has been proposed in reaction to comments received during the initial consultation; of the seven responses received, five requested or positively commented on a lower limit for Tollerton Lane. The speed limit is considered appropriate for the road as it reflects current usage and is expected to be self-enforcing. The introduction of this limit will not affect enforcement of other roads within Tollerton Parish. The County Council does not consider that a lower speed limit is detrimental to the village integrity of Tollerton.

The proposed speed limit changes extend over a distance of approximately 2 kilometres and are designed to improve safety along Tollerton Lane for all users; it is not considered that the lower limit will be substantially inconvenient for drivers.

## **Other Options Considered**

14. Other options were considered, which included a lower 40mph speed limit between the A52 Gamston Lings Bar Road and the entrance to the new hospital; however this was not supported by the speed limit assessment or by Nottinghamshire Police.

## **Comments from Local Members**

15. County Councillor Reg Adair did not comment on the proposals.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

16. The proposed changes to the speed limits along Tollerton Lane are considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users and safety concerns.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. 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**

18. The Speed Limit Order will be funded by the developer of Spire Hospital at a cost of £3,800, the signing works required will be undertaken by the developer at their own expense.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

19. Nottinghamshire Police confirmed their support of the proposed limits.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (TOLLERTON LANE, TOLLERTON) (40 MPH & 50 MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2016 (8246) is made as advertised and objectors advised accordingly.

**Neil Hodgson**  
**Acting Service Director (Highways)**

**Name of Report Author**

Mike Barnett

**Title of Report Author**

Team Manager (Major Projects and Improvements)

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (##/##/##)**

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

**Financial Comments (SES 25/05/16)**

21. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 18 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**

Ruddington ED      Councillor Reg Adair