



8th January 2015

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (B6020 FISHPOOL ROAD, BLIDWORTH AND RAVENSHEAD) (50 M.P.H SPEED LIMIT AND 30MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION) ORDER 2015 (3212)

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. The B6020 Fishpool Road is a single carriageway, rural road, with few properties that links Blidworth and Ravenshead villages. A new footway along this section of road was constructed during 2013/14 to improve accessibility between the villages, the riding school and to help link the wider rights of way network. The speed limit is currently 60mph; the national speed limit for single-carriageway derestricted roads.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council has received a number of requests for the limit to be lowered from Councillor Woodhead, local residents and Blidworth Parish Council due to concerns of vehicle speeds along the road. Following consideration of these requests, taking into account the accident history and the outcome of the A & B road speed limit review of this road it is proposed to amend the speed limit along this road.
4. The reduction is proposed in order to improve road safety and amenity for pedestrians. In summary the changes include extending the existing 30mph limit in Blidworth approximately 150m further west, beyond the village and around a slight bend and lowering the remaining stretch of the B6020 from the national speed limit to 50mph.
5. The 30mph extension will provide better forward visibility of the limit change for eastbound vehicles, offering a greater opportunity for drivers to slow to the appropriate speed before entering Blidworth Village. The proposed 50mph speed limit for the B6020 was recommended by Nottinghamshire County Council's speed limit review. During the four year period, January 2005 to December 2008, which was assessed as part of the review, there were a total of 7 reported injury accidents, resulting in twelve casualties, 5 of which involved killed or seriously injured (KSI) accidents. A similar accident pattern remains; with

7 accidents in the three and a half years between Jan 2011 and June 2014, resulting in 11 casualties, 3 of which involved killed or seriously injured (KSI) accidents.

6. The proposals were initially consulted upon between 16th September and 13th October 2014 and formally advertised between 26th November and 17th December 2014 as shown on the enclosed drawing H/04078/1999/01.

Objections Received

7. During consultation, seven responses were received. A number of comments were raised from individuals supporting the proposal for a reduced speed limit; these comments included:
 - Concerns regarding drivers leaving the road at the sharp bend;
 - Current speed limit not being adhered to and any new limit would need to be enforced;
 - Popular route for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists;
 - Difficulty in turning into and out of private driveways along the route.
 - The proposed 30mph limit extension being within the Conservation Area for Blidworth so associated signage and road markings should be kept to a minimum in areas within or adjoining the designation.
8. Replies have been sent direct to respondents and four of the responses received are considered to be outstanding objections to some or all of the proposals.
9. Objections
The common theme on all outstanding objections was the desire for a lower speed limit than that proposed; extending the 30mph limit further, past the next bend and / or applying a 40mph order to the derestricted section.

Response

The proposals for a 50mph limit are based on the recommendations of the A&B road speed limit review, which was presented to and formally agreed by County Council Members. The speed limit review considered the introduction of a 40mph limit, and found that it would both necessitate additional engineering measures to encourage compliance and would detract from the impact of the 40mph limit at the entrance to Ravenshead village, possibly leading to increased non-compliance within the residential area of Ravenshead.

Nottinghamshire Police has indicated that it would not support a 40mph limit, unless significant additional measures were in place to ensure compliance. The 50mph speed limit order is appropriate on the basis that it accords with guidance from DfT based on robust research and it also maintains a consistent approach to speed management across the County. 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.

Other Options Considered

10. Other options considered relate to the level of the speed limit restrictions to be enforced and these have been explored in the A&B speed limit review for the B6020

Comments from Local Members

11. County Councillors Yvonne Woodhead and Chris Barnfather did not comment on the proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations

12. The proposed changes to the speed limits along B6020 Fishpool Road are considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users and safety concerns.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. 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

14. The scheme is being funded by the Local Transport Plan (Integrated Transport Measures) for 2014/15 and will cost in the region of £10,000.

Crime and Disorder Implications

15. Nottinghamshire Police raised no objections to the proposals as recommended below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The Nottinghamshire County Council (B6020 Fishpool Road, Blidworth and Ravenshead) (50mph Speed Limit and 30mph Speed Limit Extension) Order 2015 (3212) is made as advertised and objectors advised accordingly.

Andrew Warrington
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:

Helen R North – Improvements Manager Tel: 0115 977 2087

Constitutional Comments (SJE – 10/12/2014)

16. 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 (GB – 10\12\2014)

17. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 14 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

Blidworth ED	Councillor Yvonne Woodhead
Newstead ED	Councillor Chris Barnfather