



12th November 2015

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (ROADS IN THE LADY BAY AREA OF WEST BRIDGFORD) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015 (8239) AND THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (ROADS IN THE AREA BETWEEN RADCLIFFE ROAD AND DAVIES ROAD, WEST BRIDGFORD) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015 (8240)

Consideration of Objections

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above proposed 20mph Speed Limit Orders and whether they should be made as advertised.

Information and Advice

2. West Bridgford is located within the greater Nottingham conurbation and as such links well with pedestrian and cycle routes to destinations such as the City Centre, railway station and university areas. At present there are two areas with advisory 20 mph speed limits in West Bridgford. The first is an area bounded by Radcliffe Road, Davies Road and Albert Road and the advisory limit was introduced in 2012. The second is the Lady Bay area which forms part of a "Home Zone". The "Home Zone" includes an advisory 20mph speed limit and the aim of this scheme when introduced around 2000/01 was as a tool to improve the quality of life in residential areas with slower speeds, informal priority given to pedestrians and a visual emphasis on the change in status with traffic calming, seating and other street furniture.
3. The County Council is proposing to formalise the existing 20 mph areas in West Bridgford by converting them from advisory limits (where the official speed limit remains 30 mph but drivers are asked to travel at no more than 20mph) to mandatory limits (where the official speed limit is reduced to 20mph). Originally, requests were received from the West Bridgford Local Area Forum in 2010 asking for the introduction of 20 mph zones across much of the town. Since 2012 the government guidance has changed and councils are now asked to consider the introduction of more 20 mph limits and zones in urban areas and built-up village streets that are primarily residential (Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 "Setting Local Speed Limits"). The areas for the two new proposed 20mph speed limits have been chosen because they currently have advisory 20mph speed limits. These advisory limits formed a pilot scheme which has been well received by local residents

generally and ongoing monitoring continues to demonstrate low vehicle speeds. As such the County Council wants to take the opportunity to formalise the advisory 20 mph speed limit, which will improve signs and carriageway markings in the areas and so further reinforce driver awareness of the speed limit.

4. The aim of the lower speed limits is to improve the areas for vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians. This approach is consistent with guidance contained in the Local Transport Note (LTN) 2-08 and Manual for Streets 2. If popular / successful then this scheme may form the first phase of a wider programme of mandatory 20mph limits.
5. As part of the consultation, letters were hand delivered to the affected residents on 24th August 2015 with a return date for comments/objections of 25th September 2015. This letter included details of a drop in session that was held at the All Hallows Church Hall in the Lady Bay Area on 8th September 2015 as part of public engagement. The statutory consultation and public advertising of proposals was also undertaken during September 2015 and a location plan showing the areas included can be seen on the enclosed drawing "West Bridgford Area – Location Map".

Comments Received

6. During the consultation period there were a total of 60 responses to the proposed 20mph speed limits, with 36 of these being from the Lady Bay Area and 24 from the area between Radcliffe Road and Davies Road. In total, 18 of the responses are considered as outstanding objections with 15 relating to the Lady Bay Area and 3 to the area between Radcliffe Road and Davies Road. All the objections received are from local residents including residents on Radcliffe Road who are just outside the proposed areas covering the revised speed limit.
7. Objections – Lady Bay Area
The majority of the objectors considered that the proposed change in speed limit was not an effective use of funding and not required. Most objectors suggest thought that the current advisory 20mph speed limit was adequate in keeping down the speed of traffic and there were concerns that the new limit would not be enforced.

Response – Lady Bay Area

The proposed scheme has been developed using guidance on setting speed limits and is being introduced in areas that already have 20mph advisory limits. The area has good cycle and pedestrian links and it is considered that these measures will further help promote and encourage walking and cycling in urban areas and be beneficial to all roads users in the area. The nature of the areas selected enables the scheme to be implemented in an effective manner with minimal entry points meaning a low number of terminal signs indicating the change in limit being required. All repeater signs will be located on existing street furniture such as lighting columns and existing sign posts where possible. The introduction of a mandatory 20mph limit enables enforcement to take place, however, this will not be a high police priority.

8. Objections – Area between Radcliffe Road and Davies Road
One objector considers that the current 30mph speed limit was the most suitable speed limit for the roads in the area and that the proposed 20mph speed limit was unnecessary. The other 2 objectors are residents of Radcliffe Road and objected to the scheme because they

wanted the current speed limit on Radcliffe Road lowered from 40 to 30mph suggesting that the transition from 40 to 20mph, when turning off Radcliffe Road, was too large.

Response – Area between Radcliffe Road and Davies Road

The proposed 20mph speed limit is better suited to the narrow residential roads in the areas off Radcliffe Road with the revised limit being closer to the current speed of traffic in the these areas. There is currently no proposal to review or lower the speed limit on Radcliffe Road. Traffic currently turning off Radcliffe Road will have to reduce their speed appropriately to safely negotiate the junction radius comfortably and it is considered that the vehicles would then maintain a lower limit of 20mph rather than accelerating up to the current speed limit of 30mph.

Other Options Considered

9. Other options considered relate to the extents of the proposed 20mph limits, which could have been either lesser or greater and not implementing a mandatory lower limit.

Comments from Local Members

10. County Councillors Steve Calvert and Liz Plant fully support the scheme.

Reasons for Recommendations

11. The proposals are considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users and safety concerns.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. 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

13. The scheme is funded through the 2015/16 Local Transport Plan capital budget with an estimated works cost of £22,000.

Crime and Disorder Implications

14. Nottinghamshire Police raised no objections to the proposals.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The Nottinghamshire County Council (Roads in the Lady Bay Area of West Bridgford) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2015 (8239) and The Nottinghamshire County Council (Roads in the Area between Radcliffe Road and Davies Road, West Bridgford) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2015 (8240) are made as advertised and objectors advised accordingly.

Neil Hodgson
Service Director (Highways)

Name and Title of Report Author

Mike Barnett - Team Manager (Major Projects and Improvements)

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jeff Burton – Senior Improvements Officer Tel: 0115 977 2505

Constitutional Comments (SLB 15/10/2015)

15. Transport and Highways Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (GB 16/10/2015)

16. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 13 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

West Bridgford Central and South
West Bridgford Central and South

Councillor Steve Calvert
Councillor Liz Plant