



12th February 2015

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (A610 NUTHALL BYPASS, NUTHALL AND THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015 (5184)

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider objections received in respect of the Nottinghamshire County Council (A610 Nuthall Bypass, Nuthall and the City of Nottingham) (50mph Speed Limit) Order 2015 (5184).

Information and Advice

2. The A610 is part of the County's primary road network. It enters Nottinghamshire from Derbyshire in the west and runs in a south-easterly direction through Eastwood, Kimberley, Nuthall and into Nottingham City. The section of the A610 related to this proposal is known as Nuthall Bypass and runs between Nuthall roundabout which is east of junction 26 on the M1 and Cinderhill roundabout in the city; so lies partly within the boundary of Nottingham City Council. The section is currently dual carriageway and derestricted so operates under the national speed limit of 70mph.
3. In 2005 an accident remedial route treatment scheme was undertaken on the wider A610. At this stage the Nuthall Bypass Way remained 70mph on the grounds that it did not have an accident problem. However, over the intervening years the section has become something of an anomaly lying between the 30mph restriction east of the Cinderhill Island and the 30mph A6002 Nuthall Island prior to the 40mph section further west.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council has received a number of requests from local residents and the local County Councillor for the speed limit to be lowered. The mean speed on this section of road is 46mph, which indicates that a 50mph speed limit would be appropriate. The proposed lower 50mph speed limit for the A610 was recommended by Nottinghamshire County Council's speed limit review, which was approved in August 2011.
5. The proposals were initially consulted on between 7th November and 28th November 2014 and formally advertised between 9th December 2014 and 5th January 2014 as shown on the enclosed drawing H/04078/2028.

Objections Received

6. During consultation, six responses were received. Replies have been sent direct to respondents and four of the responses received are considered to be outstanding objections to the proposal. Other comments raised include:
- The local County Councillor, Philip Owen, would prefer the proposed speed limit to be 40mph to reduce the number of different speed limits on the routes connecting to Nuthall Island. Councillor Owen stated that if such a limit was not feasible then the road should remain derestricted;
 - The Parish Council does not support the proposal and also suggests that the speed limit should be 40mph;
 - Comments that the proposed speed limit should be 40mph as the objector considers that this reflects the traffic speeds on this route anyway.;
 - Comment from Nottinghamshire Police that a 40mph speed limit would not get a high level of compliance unless it was enforced by technology; which is not justified at this location;
 - Nottingham City Council has been consulted on the proposals and supports the proposed 50mph limit. The section of road within the City Council area is maintained by the County Council as part of the cross boundary maintenance agreement.

7. Objections

The common theme on all outstanding objections was the desire for a 40mph order to be applied to the derestricted section, rather than the 50mph limit proposed.

Response

The proposals for a 50mph limit on this section of the A610 are based on the recommendations in the A&B road speed limit review formally approved in August 2011. The speed limit review used methodology recommended by the Department for Transport to consider the most appropriate speed limit for the route based on its route characteristics, mean speed and injury accident patterns. Using this methodology also maintains a consistent approach to speed management across the County.

The proposed reduction in the speed limit to 50mph will also offer additional benefits to any residents adjacent to the road by potentially reducing tyre surface noise. For speeds below 50mph then noise is generally due to the engine rather than tyre surface noise.

Nottinghamshire Police has indicated that it would not support a 40mph limit. The police state that such an order would mean a reduction from a national speed limit of 70mph to 40mph which is a decrease of 30mph along a dual carriageway of some considerable length. It considers experience shows that such a limit would not get a high level of compliance unless it was enforced by technology and that injury collision history would not support the installation of cameras at this location. The County Council also supports the view that there is likely to be widespread non-compliance with a further reduction in the speed restriction.

During the latest three and a half year period (01-01-11 to 30-6-14) there have been 18 injury accidents (1 serious and 17 slight), on this section of road, inclusive of the roundabout approaches/exits. Analysis carried out on the accident pattern reveals that only two of these

collisions have occurred away from the junctions so most are related to traffic queues rather than speed. It is considered that whilst there is no compelling accident justification to reduce the limit, a lower limit of 50mph is in line with the speeds actually being achieved by drivers.

Other Options Considered

8. The feasibility of implementing a 40mph limit was considered but was discounted due to objection from Nottinghamshire Police. It is considered further reductions would not be self-enforcing and would require camera enforcement that is not justified based on accident history. The lower 40mph limit also would not comply with Department for Transport methodology for the setting of local speed limits.

Comments from Local Members

9. County Councillor Philip Owen does not support the proposed speed limit order, as detailed in paragraph 7.

Reasons for Recommendations

10. The proposed changes to the speed limit on the A610 Nuthall Bypass are considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users, current average speeds and likely levels of driver compliance.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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

12. 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

13. Nottinghamshire Police supported the proposed 50mph speed limit as recommended below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The Nottinghamshire County Council (A610 Nuthall Bypass, Nuthall and the City of Nottingham) (50mph Speed Limit) Order 2015 (5184) 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 (SLB 13/01/2015)

14. 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 14/01/2015)

15. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 12 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

Nuthall ED

Councillor Philip Owen