

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Aldworth Road, Compton - Proposed extension of existing 30mph speed limit
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	20 December 2013
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2752

Purpose of Report: To inform the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision of the responses received during the statutory consultation on the proposal to extend the existing 30mph speed limit in the village of Compton, and to seek approval of officer recommendations.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 3 of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken: To enable the proposed speed limit to be introduced.

Other options considered: N/A

Key background documentation:

- Responses received during statutory consultation.
- Minutes of the Speed Limit Review - 29th August 2012

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Pamela Bale - Tel (0118) 9842980
E-mail Address:	pbale@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Andrew Garratt
Job Title:	Principal Traffic & Road Safety Engineer
Tel. No.:	01635 519491
E-mail Address:	agarratt@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	The consultation was in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
Financial:	The implementation of the speed limit would be funded from the approved Capital Programme.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal/Procurement:	The Sealing of the Traffic Regulation Order would be undertaken by Legal Services.
Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:			
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)			
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia			<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Gordon Lundie - To date no response has been received, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell - I agree
Ward Members:	Councillor Virginia von Celsing - Attended the Speed Limit Task Group in support of the request.
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Keith Woodhams - To date no response has been received, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Local Stakeholders:	N/A
Officers Consulted:	Mark Edwards, Mark Cole, Chris Vidler

Trade Union:

N/A

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Requests for new or amended speed limits are considered by the Speed Limit Review Task Group, which consists of Council officers, Members and the Police. When assessing the request the Task Group consider current guidance, traffic survey results, the number of recorded injury accidents and the local environment.
- 1.2 A request from Compton Parish Council to extend the existing 30mph speed limit on the Aldworth Road was considered by the Task Group at its meeting on 29th August 2012. The recommendations of the Task Group were approved by Individual Decision (ref ID2555) on 29th December 2012 and included within the Traffic and Road Safety programme for 2013/14.
- 1.3 Aldworth Road is subject to a 40mph speed limit between a location just east of the Railway Bridge and a location to the east of its junction with Downs Road and Coombe Road. There is a footway on one side of the road for most of its length and there are gateway signs.
- 1.4 Within the latest three year period to the end of August 2013 there have been no recorded injury accidents within the length of the proposal. The results of a traffic survey undertaken during June 2012 in the vicinity of Church House showed that, the mean speed of eastbound and westbound traffic was 37mph and 35mph respectively. The 85th percentile speed of eastbound and westbound traffic was 43mph and 41mph respectively and an average two way daily volume of 903 vehicles was recorded.
- 1.5 The statutory consultation and advertisement of the proposals was undertaken between 15th August and 6th September 2013.

2. Responses to statutory consultation

- 2.1 At the end of the statutory consultation period only one response had been received. This was from a resident of Compton and it was not initially clear if the response received was an objection to the proposal or a request for a lower speed limit. Further correspondence subsequently established that the resident objected to the proposal with the following comments:
 - At present there is no visible enforcement of speed limits whatsoever apart from the occasional visit of an Enforcement Team, which rarely catches any offenders.
 - Through traffic consistently exceeds the posted limits, which are totally unsuited to the more congested and narrow roads in the village.
 - A rigidly enforced 20mph speed limit on the length of the High Street between Station Road and Newbury Lane and all the other built up roads in the village is required.
 - It would be more prudent to erect signs on the three major approaches to the village indicating that speeding motorists will be observed, reported and fined.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 The proposals will not adversely affect people with particular protected characteristics.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The response received during the statutory consultation period is not a direct objection to the advertised order but a request for a lower speed limit within Compton village and requests for more enforcement.
- 4.2 Whilst speeds limits are introduced by the local highway authority in consultation with the police, enforcement of a limit can only be undertaken by the police. Where speeding is raised as a concern the council undertake traffic surveys to determine the extent of the issue and where appropriate road safety education initiatives are carried out.
- 4.3 The comments about having a 20mph speed limit within the village do not relate to the length of proposed traffic regulation order. However 20mph speed limits should be self enforcing and previous traffic surveys within the village indicate that physical measures would be required to reduce traffic speeds to the required level, which are unlikely to be well supported.
- 4.4 The Speed Limit Review Task Group considers a number of factors when considering a speed limit. These include the current speed limit, the injury accident record, results of any traffic surveys, the character and nature of the road. Given that the Task Group consider an extension to the existing 30mph speed limit to be appropriate and it is supported by the Parish Council, it is recommended that the proposal is introduced.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 In view of the above it is recommended that the proposed extension to the existing 30mph speed limit on Aldworth Road be introduced as advertised.
- 5.2 That the respondent to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.