

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	B4009 Westridge Green - Proposed 30mph speed limit
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	17 February 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2165

Purpose of Report: To inform the Executive Member for Highways & Transport (Operational) & ICT of the responses received during the statutory consultation on the proposed 30mph speed limit in the village of Westridge Green.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 4 of this report.

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

Statutory: ☒ **Non-Statutory:** ☐

Other options considered:

Key background documentation: Email objection - 29th October 2010,
Minutes of the Speed Limit Review - 21th April 2010
EIA Stage 1 - Appendix A.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Implications

Policy:	The consultation is in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
Financial:	The implementation of the speed limit will be funded from the approved Capital Programme.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal/Procurement:	The sealing of the Traffic Regulation Order will be undertaken by Legal Services.
Environmental:	A reduced speed limit will make a more pleasant environment for local residents.
Partnering:	The Council has worked in partnership with the Parish Council and the Police when proposing the new speed limit.
Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.
Community Safety:	None arising from this report.
Equalities:	EIA Stage 1 attached as Appendix A.

Consultation Responses

Members:	
Leader of Council:	Councillor Graham Jones - 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 is in agreement with proposals.
Select Committee Chairman:	N/A
Ward Members:	Councillor Alan Law is entirely supportive of the Objections and comments. I do not wish to see additional signage cluttering the countryside.
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 Cole and Mark Edwards
Trade Union:	N/A

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:</p> <p>The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Item is Urgent Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p>		

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 In August 2006 the Department for Transport published Circular 01/2006 Setting Local Speed Limits, which superseded the guidance, set in 1993. Circular 01/2006 also requested all traffic authorities to review the speed limits on all of their A and B roads, and implement any necessary changes, by 2011 in accordance with the new guidance. The B4009 between Streatley and Aldworth is therefore being assessed as part of this initiative and was considered by the Speed Limit task group at its meeting on 21st April 2010.
- 1.2 Also a 63 signature petition was received from residents of Westridge Green for the existing 40mph speed limit to be reduced to 30mph. It was agreed that this would be considered as part of the Speed Limit review process.
- 1.3 The Task Group, having considered the guidance specified in the Circular, traffic survey results, the number of recorded injury accidents and the residents concerns recommended that the length of the 40mph speed limit through Westridge Green be reduced to 30mph. This was approved by Individual Decision (ref ID 2095) on 28th May 2010 and followed by the statutory consultation and advertisement of the proposals, which was undertaken between 14th October and 4th November 2010.

2. Responses to statutory consultation

- 2.1 At the end of the statutory consultation period only one response had been received. This response was from a local resident who did not want additional sign clutter and questioned why West Berkshire Council was wasting money. They considered that a 20mph speed limit was more appropriate.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The response received during the statutory consultation period is not a direct objection to the advertised order but a request for a lower speed. A 20mph speed limit is not appropriate for this section of road.
- 3.2 The proposal to replace the whole length of the existing 40mph will not significantly increase the number of signs, however if the length of the proposed 30mph limit is reduced to cover Westridge Green, leaving a 40mph speed Limit between Westridge Green and Aldworth, then there will be no additional signs as only the sign face details will change.
- 3.3 The Speed Limit 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 that a 30mph speed limit is appropriate it is recommended that the new speed limit is introduced.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 In view of the above it is recommended that the proposed 30mph speed limit be introduced to cover the village of Westridge green, leaving a 40mph speed limit between Westridge Green and Aldworth.
- 4.2 That the respondent to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.

Appendices

Appendix A – EIA Stage 1