

Individual Decisions

The attached reports will be taken as
Individual Portfolio Member Decisions on:

13 February 2009

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Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Speed Limit Review- November 2008
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Emma Webster
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	13 February 2009
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1623

Purpose of Report: To inform the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT of the recommendations of the Speed Limit Task Group following the speed limit review undertaken on 28th November 2008 and to seek approval of the recommendations.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in section 3 of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken: Speed limit review.

Key background documentation:

- Criteria for speed limits
- Reports for Task Group
- Minutes of Task Group
- Appendix A – Ward Members comments.

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Emma Webster - Tel (0118) 9411676
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Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Andrew Garratt
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Implications

Policy:	The consultation is in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
Financial:	The recommendations will be funded from the Council's capital budget.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal/Procurement:	The speed limit traffic regulation orders will follow the statutory consultation / advertisement procedure.
Environmental:	The proposed changes to the speed limits will improve road safety and therefore provide environmental benefits to local residents.
Partnering:	The Council working in partnership with the local Parish and Town councils and the Police when deciding new and amendments to speed limits.
Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.
Community Safety:	None arising from this report.
Equalities:	None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:	
Leader of Council:	To date no response received from Councillor Graham Jones. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell has no comment to make on the overall report.
Policy Development Commission Chairman:	Not applicable.
Ward Members:	See Appendix A for Ward Members comments.
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Keith Woodhams has noted the draft ID report.
Local Stakeholders:	Will be consulted as part of the statutory consultation process.
Officers Consulted:	Mark Edwards, Mark Cole
Trade Union:	Not applicable.

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 Each year the speed limit Task Group carefully considers the introduction or amendment of speed limits that have been requested by Members, Parish or Town Councils, members of the public or officers. These requests are assessed with regard to the Department for Transport Circular 1/2006 (setting local speed limits), the character and nature of the road, the recorded injury accident record and any available traffic survey data.
- 1.2 The Speed Limit Task Group, which met on 28th November 2008, is comprised of the following members:
- Councillor Graham Pask,
 - Councillor Gwen Mason,
 - Andrew Garratt, Principal Traffic & Road Safety Engineer,
 - Alan Dunkerton, Speed Management Co-ordinator,
 - Chris Sperring, Principal Transport Policy Officer,
 - Chris Hulme, Thames Valley Police Traffic Management Officer,
 - Julian Weal, Thames Valley Police Road Casualty Reduction Officer.
- 1.3 The Task Group considered a total of 15 requests for an amendment or introduction of a speed limit at the following locations:
1. B4009 Long Lane, Shaw Cum Donnington - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.
 2. A4 between Lower Way and Robin Hood Roundabout, Newbury - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.
 3. Priors Court Road, Chieveley – Request for lower speed limit.
 4. Brimpton Road (from Crookham Hill) – Review of current speed limits.
 5. Newbury Road, East Garston – Request for lower speed limit.
 6. Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill – Request for extension to speed limit.
 7. B4192 at Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.
 8. A4 – A338 to district boundary, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.
 9. A4 – A338 to Town Council boundary, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.
 10. A338 - A4 to district Boundary, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.
 11. A338 - A4 to M4 junction 14, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.
 12. Charnhan Park, Hungerford – Request for lower speed limit.
 13. Upper Eddington, Hungerford -- Request for 30mph speed limit.
 14. Hungerford Common – Request for lower speed limit.

15. Greenham Road & Burys Bank Road – Request for lower speed limit.

2. Speed limit Process

- 2.1 If the recommendations contained in this report are approved then the individual sites will be taken forward to the statutory consultation stage, which means that the formal and public consultation of a speed limit can be undertaken. This will include consulting a wide range of statutory consultees together with the appropriate parish/town council, local members and local residents by the way of a notice published in the local newspaper, notices erected on site and publication on the Council's web site.
- 2.2 A report of any comments and objections received during the formal consultation together with an officer's recommendation will be presented to the Executive Member for Highways, Transport & ICT for Individual Decision. Should the proposal to introduce or change a speed limit be considered appropriate then that proposal will be implemented.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Task Group considered all the above requests and recommended that the following are progressed to the statutory advertisement and consultation stage:
 1. B4009 Long Lane, Shaw Cum Donnington – extension to the 30mph speed limits at Curridge and Long Lane.
 5. Newbury Road, East Garston – introduction of 30mph speed limit.
 6. Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill – extension to 30mph speed limit.
 12. Charnhan Park, Hungerford – extend 30mph from roundabout to approximately 150 metres west.
 13. Upper Eddington, Hungerford – introduction of 30mph speed limit.
 14. Hungerford Common – seek authorisation for 40mph speed limit without the introduction of signs.
 15. Greenham Road & Burys Bank Road – introduction of 30mph speed limit.
- 3.2 The Task Group recommended that no further action is taken on the following requests:
 2. A4 between Lower Way and Robin Hood Roundabout, Newbury.
 3. Priors Court Road, Chieveley.
 4. Brimpton Road (from Crookham Hill).
 7. B4192 at Hungerford.
 8. A4 – A338 to district boundary, Hungerford.

9. A4 – A338 to Town Council boundary, Hungerford.
10. A338 - A4 to district Boundary, Hungerford.
11. A338 - A4 to M4 junction 14, Hungerford.

3.3 All the persons requesting the speed limit amendments will be informed of the Executive Member's decision.

3.4 Subject to there being no objections received to the statutory consultation for individual Traffic Regulation Orders for each speed limit, the advertised restrictions will be introduced.

Appendices

Appendix A - Ward Members comments

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – NOVEMBER 2008

	Speed limit Request	Ward Member	Comments
1	B4009 Long Lane, Shaw Cum Donnington - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.	Paul Bryant	To date no response received.
		Marcus Franks	Supports the recommendation.
2	A4 between Lower Way and Robin Hood Roundabout, Newbury - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.	David Goff	To date no response received.
		Jeff Beck	To date no response received.
3	Priors Court Road, Chieveley – Request for lower speed limit.	Hilary Cole	To date no response received.
4	Brimpton Road (from Crookham Hill) – Review of current speed limits.	Owen Jeffery	To date no response received.
		Terry Port	Absolutely and totally disagree with the recommendation to retain the existing speed limit. Apart from personal experience, there are frequent complaints from residents regarding the speed of vehicles on this stretch of road. There is also considerable evidence of skid marks on the road at points where properties access the road.
		Irene Neill	To date no response received.
5	Newbury Road, East Garston – Request for lower speed limit.	Graham Jones	To date no response received.
		Gordon Lundie	To date no response received.
6	Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill – Request for extension to speed limit.	Keith Lock	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Mollie Lock	Fully supports the recommendation.
7	B4192 at Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – NOVEMBER 2008

8	A4 – A338 to district boundary, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.
9	A4 – A338 to Town Council boundary, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.
10	A338 - A4 to district Boundary, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.
11	A338 - A4 to M4 junction 14, Hungerford - Assessment of A and B road speed limits.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.
12	Charnhan Park, Hungerford – Request for lower speed limit.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.
13	Upper Eddington, Hungerford -- Request for 30mph speed limit.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.
14	Hungerford Common – Request for lower speed limit.	David Holtby	Fully supports the recommendation.
		Paul Hewer	To date no response received.
15	Greenham Road & Burys Bank Road – Request for lower speed limit.	Julian Swift-Hook	To date no response received.
		Billy Drummond	To date no response received.

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Beenham Hill Proposed 30mph Speed Limit
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Emma Webster
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	13 February 2009
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1811

Purpose of Report: To inform the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) and ICT of an objection received during the statutory and public consultation on the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Beenham Hill, Beenham and to seek approval of officer recommendations.

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 implementation of the speed limit.

Key background documentation: Minutes of Speed Limit Review Meeting (May 2008), ID1620 - Speed Limit Review May 2008, Letter of objection.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Implications

Policy:	The consultation is in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
Financial:	The Statutory Consultation and advertisement procedure and implementation of the physical works 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:	N/A
Partnering:	The Council is working in partnership with the Police to ensure that the speed limit is legal and enforceable.
Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.
Community Safety:	None arising from this report.
Equalities:	None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	To date no response received from Councillor Graham Jones. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell does not have any comment to make, except I trust the local member is in agreement.
Policy Development Commission Chairman:	N/A
Ward Members:	Councillor Keith Chopping fully supports the recommendation.
Opposition Spokesperson:	To date no response received from Councillor Keith Woodhams. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Local Stakeholders:	Have been consulted as by the statutory advertisement process and via the local Neighbourhood Action Group
Officers Consulted:	Mark Cole, Mark Edwards
Trade Union:	N/A

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 A request from Beenham Parish Council for the 40mph speed limit on Beenham Hill, Beenham, be lowered to 30mph was considered by the Speed Limit Task Group at its meeting on 7th May 2008.
- 1.2 The task group, which consists of three Council officers, two Members and two Police representatives, considered that Beenham Hill does meet the criteria for a 30mph speed limit as specified in the Department for Transport guidance document 'setting local speed limits'.
- 1.3 The task group recommended the introduction of a lower speed limit and this was approved by Individual Decision (ref ID1620) on 30th June 2008. The statutory consultation and advertisement of the proposals was undertaken between 13th November and 4th December 2008.

2. Statutory Advertisement and Consultation

- 2.1 At the close of the statutory consultation and advertisement period one response had been received. The respondent objected to the proposals commenting that;
 - When travelling downhill it would be difficult to keep below 30mph, without braking at some point unless starting the descent in a low gear.
 - When travelling uphill it would be very difficult to maintain momentum if starting the climb at or below 30mph.
 - The need to use lower gears would increase pollution and add to the carbon footprint.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 There are many steep gradients within 30mph speed limits that are effective and do not present the problems identified by the respondent. Also there is a sharp bend at the bottom of the hill and a mini roundabout at the top which drivers will need to negotiate and therefore they should be approaching these at a slow speed.
- 3.2 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 a 30mph speed limit is introduced.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 In view of the above, it is recommended that:
 - The proposed 30mph speed limit is introduced as advertised;
 - The objector be informed accordingly;

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	West Mills, Newbury - Prohibition of Driving
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Emma Webster
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	13 February 2009
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1818

Purpose of Report: To inform the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) and ICT of the responses received during the statutory and public consultation on the proposal to prohibit driving along part of West Mills, Newbury and to seek approval of officer recommendations.

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

Reason for decision to be taken: To enable the prohibition of driving to be progressed to implementation.

Key background documentation: Plan No.LSS/02/001
ID 1653 - Petition - To make West Mills, Newbury 'No Entry' at all times.
Responses received during statutory consultation.

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Job Title:	Principal Traffic and Road Safety Engineer
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Implications

Policy:	The consultation is in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
Financial:	The Statutory Consultation and advertisement procedure and implementation of the physical works 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:	The proposal will remove through traffic on West Mills and will therefore provide environmental benefits for residents of the area.
Partnering:	None arising from this report.
Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.
Community Safety:	The implementation of the prohibition order would address the concerns identified in the petition and report ID1653.
Equalities:	None arising from this report

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	To date no response received from Councillor Graham Jones. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell Has no comment.
Policy Development Commission Chairman:	Not applicable
Ward Members:	To date no response has been received from Councillors Roger Hunneman and Gabrielle McGarvey. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Opposition Spokesperson:	To date no response received from Councillor Keith Woodhams. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Local Stakeholders:	Have been consulted as part of the public and statutory consultation process.
Officers Consulted:	Mark Edwards, Mark Cole
Trade Union:	Not applicable.

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 A petition containing 44 signatures was presented to the Newbury Area Forum during March 2008. The petition raised road safety concerns for pedestrians from drivers currently disregarding the 'No Entry' restriction on Bartholomew Street at its junction with Bridge Street when turning right into West Mills.
- 1.2 A report on this issue was presented to the Newbury Town Centre Task Group at its meeting on 23rd July 2008. The Task Group fully supported the closure of West Mills.
- 1.3 The petition was considered by Individual Decision (ID 1653) on 26th September 2008 when it was resolved to undertake the statutory consultation and advertisement of the proposed closure of West Mills and subject to there being no objections received, that the closure be implemented.
- 1.4 Statutory consultation and advertisement of the proposals was undertaken between 4th and 25th December 2008.

2. Responses to statutory consultation

- 2.1 At the end of the statutory consultation and advertisement period three responses had been received, including a letter of support from a local resident.
- 2.2 One objector proposed "that the current ban on turning right into West Mills be abolished" citing the following benefits:
 - Reduced traffic flow through the Market Place,
 - Reduced vehicle journeys,
 - Reduced costs,
 - Drivers would no longer be breaking the law.
- 2.3 The other objector raised numerous comments and considered this to be a change to address a relatively low risk event, which could only present a problem outside of the Pedestrian Zone hours of operation. Other comments included:
 - This was a useful access to West Mills from the south of Newbury.
 - This measure would impact on visitors to St Nicholas Church and Newbury Spring Festival attendees.
 - General comment regarding penalising legitimate road users at the expense of a few offenders.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 There is not a right turn ban at present. Vehicles turning right do so by driving the wrong way down a one way street, namely Bartholomew Street. This is an illegal and dangerous practice that is hazardous for pedestrians and drivers.
- 3.2 Reducing the one way restriction on Bartholomew Street and thereby moving the No Entry to allow vehicles to turn right from Bridge Street into West Mills would legalise the unsafe manoeuvre and traffic volumes would increase. The increase in

traffic, the restricted visibility for drivers turning right and the narrow road width would increase the risk for pedestrians using West Mills and cannot therefore be recommended.

- 3.3 Access from the south to West Mills can be obtained via Craven Road and Oddfellows Road, which is now a public highway for its entire length. This route can also be used by visitors to St Nicholas Church.
- 3.4 Although the journey lengths and times from the north of Newbury to Westfields would be reduced if the right turn into West Mills was permitted, it is considered that the road safety concerns outweigh any potential environmental impact of legalising the manoeuvre.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 In view of the road safety issues it is recommended that the proposed prohibition of driving restriction be introduced as advertised.
- 4.2 That the respondents to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.