

**Proposed Decision to be taken by the
Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
on or after 21st March 2014**

**Burton Green Village – Proposed 30mph and 40mph Speed Limit
and Alteration to Traffic Calming Priority**

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves that the proposed Warwickshire County Council (Cromwell Lane, Hodgetts Lane and Red Lane Burton Green) (30mph and 40mph Speed Limit) Order 2014 is made as advertised and that the priority of the existing road narrowing on Cromwell Lane (over the disused railway bridge) is reversed.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Burton Green is a village in Warwick District situated to the north of Kenilworth. It borders directly with Coventry at Westwood Heath. The main route through the village and its side roads are currently subject to a 40mph speed limit.
- 1.2 It is proposed to introduce a 30mph speed limit to two of the main routes and on parts of a third and fourth where there is significant residential development.
- 1.3 Cromwell Lane and Hodgetts Lane have residential development to both sides of the road with properties fronting directly onto the road most with a dropped kerb access across the footway. A 30mph speed limit is suitable for a village and is in accordance with the guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 01/2013 Setting Local Speed Limits.
- 1.4 Red Lane has a lesser level of development and the proposals are for a short length of 30mph speed limit on Red Lane for a distance of 123 metres from its junction with Cromwell Lane.
- 1.5 On Hob Lane, it is proposed that a 50 metre long section of 30mph speed limit is introduced to include the Hob Lane junction. In addition, it is proposed to introduce a part time advisory 20mph speed limit in the immediate vicinity of Burton Green Primary School.
- 1.6 Cromwell Lane has an existing traffic calming feature (road narrowing) over the disused railway bridge. As part of this scheme it is proposed to reverse the existing priority so that traffic travelling in a northbound direction towards Coventry would give-way to southbound traffic.

- 1.7 A resident of Cromwell Lane objected to the proposed speed limit during the Statutory Consultation period. Two further residents sent emails expressing concerns, but these were received after the consultation deadline. Details of these concerns have however been included in this report.
- 1.8 The proposals have the full support of Warwickshire Police, Burton Green Parish Council, Burton Green Residents Association and the elected member County Councillor John Whitehouse.

2.0 **Objections**

- 2.1 A letter from a resident was received outlining three objections to the proposals:

Objection 1: It is totally unnecessary to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. I have lived in Cromwell Lane for almost 50years now and I do not know of a single accident caused by exceeding the speed limit.

Response: Warwickshire County Council uses guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT) when setting local speed limits. The current guidance states that a 30mph speed limit should be the norm in villages where there is a sufficient level of development greater than 20 houses with a density of more than six houses per 100m over a minimum distance of 600m. Both Cromwell Lane and Hodgetts Lane meet this criteria.

Objection 2: If you do decide to change the limit how are you going to enforce it?

Response: The proposals are supported by Warwickshire Police. Currently the Burton Green Community Speed Watch do conduct their monitoring activities on Cromwell Lane and there has been a commitment from Warwickshire Police through the Kenilworth Community Forum to continue to carryout ad-hoc speed limit enforcement.

Objection 3: I do not feel that consultation has been adequate consultation.

Response: The proposals have been discussed at length with Burton Green Parish Council and Burton Green Residents Association over the last two years with regular updates in the local 'Bugle' village newsletter. Plans of the proposals have been on display in the village hall and available for inspection upon request at Shire Hall, Kenilworth Library and Riverside House. Details of the proposals were also published in the Kenilworth Weekly news on 16 January 2014.

2.2 **Comments from Emails from other residents**

Two residents submitted comments, sent by email, which were received after the consultation deadline. Both were broadly similar but raised concerns regarding various elements of the proposed scheme as summarised below.

- a) **Speed limit on Cromwell Lane:** one resident objected to the proposed 30mph speed limit on the basis that it had been argued by WCC in 2009 that it was unsuitable for a 30mph speed limit. One resident welcomed the prospect of traffic travelling more slowly but was concerned about the effectiveness of the proposal.

Response: In 2013 revised guidance from the DfT was published. In addition, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, the neighbouring local authority, has reduced the speed limit on the rural road network adjacent to Burton Green to 40mph. This has reduced the effect of the change of environment from rural to urban/village. The proposed 30mph limit seeks to redress this.

- b) **Speed Limit on Hodgetts Lane:** one resident commented that this proposal makes perfect sense as there are bends, blind driveways and it does approach a junction.

No change to the existing 40mph speed limit on Red Lane and Hob Lane: both residents objected to the lack of consideration of a 30mph speed limit for Red Lane and Hob Lane.

Response: The environments of Red Lane and Hob Lane have a lower level of residential development than Cromwell Lane or Hodgetts Lane and are below the level of development the DfT guidance considers appropriate for the introduction of a lower speed limit.

- c) **Change of priority at Traffic Calming feature on Cromwell Lane:** the traffic calming feature was introduced in 2009 as part of the Village Speed Limit Review – Both the objectors believe that the priority should be left as it is as drivers are now used to it and it does have some effect.

Response: it is recognised that it would have been preferable originally for inbound traffic to yield to outbound traffic as this has the most impact on traffic speed in the village environs. The priority for traffic coming into the village not to yield to traffic travelling out of the village was adopted originally because the stopping sight visibility for inbound traffic was determined at the Safety Audit stage to be insufficient given that the road was subject to a 40mph speed limit. As a result of lowering the speed limit, the stopping sight distance is reduced and the priority can be changed to have its optimum effect. Temporary signs warning of the proposed change will be installed on site for up to six months. Notices will be placed in the local press and major local businesses and residents in the wider local area will be informed and alerted prior to the change.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves that the proposed Warwickshire County Council (Cromwell Lane, Hodgetts Lane and Red Lane Burton Green) (30mph and 40mph Speed Limit) Order 2014 is

made as advertised and that the priority of the existing road narrowing on Cromwell Lane (over the disused railway bridge) is reversed.

4.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

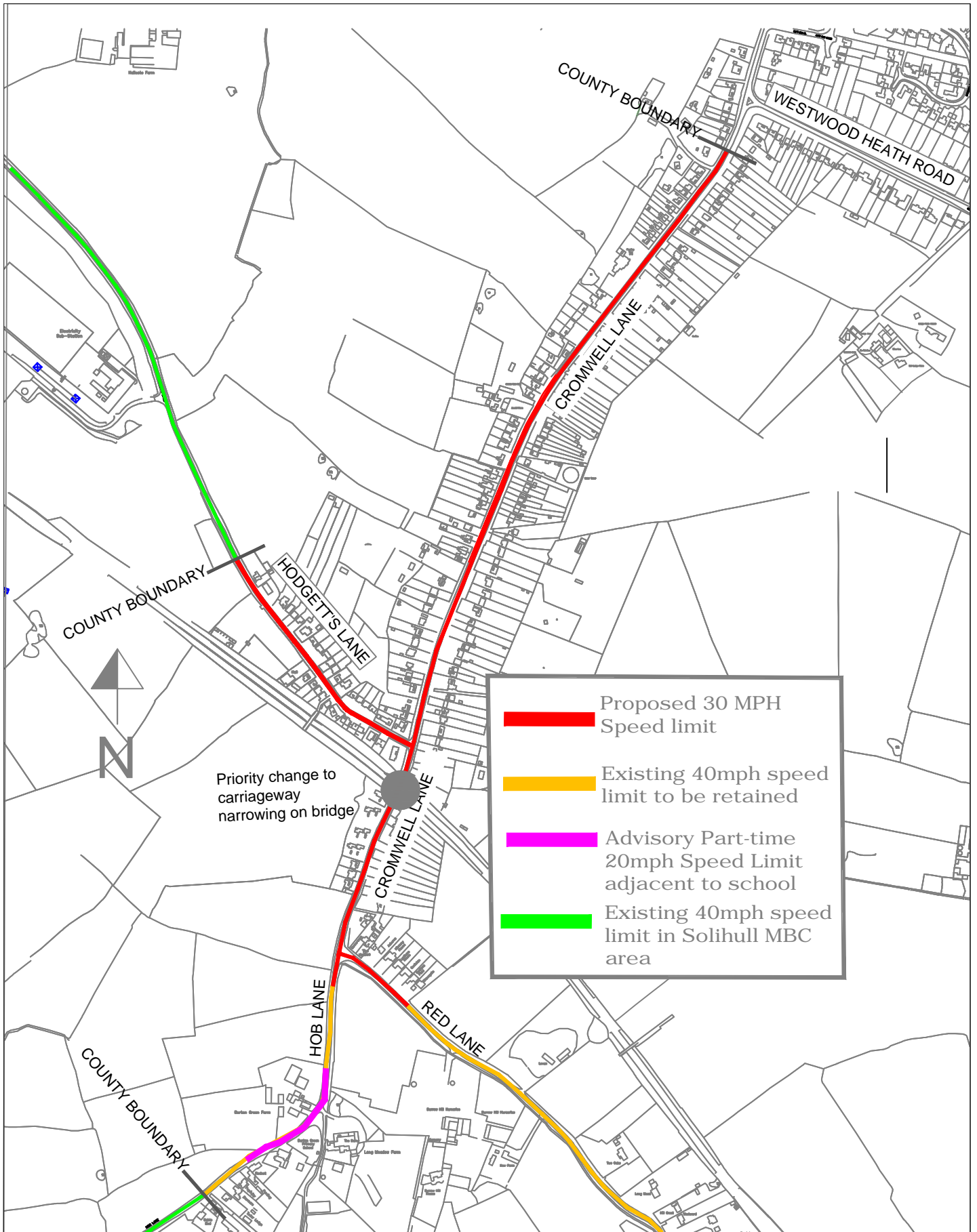
4.1 Funding is available for the 2014/15 financial year

Background papers

Letter of Objection

Public notice

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| | Proposed 30 MPH Speed limit |
| | Existing 40mph speed limit to be retained |
| | Advisory Part-time 20mph Speed Limit adjacent to school |
| | Existing 40mph speed limit in Solihull MBC area |

Priority change to carriageway narrowing on bridge

| REV | DATE | BY | CHK | AMENDMENT | REV | DATE | BY | CHK | AMENDMENT | REV | DATE | BY | CHK | AMENDMENT |
|-----|-------|----|-----|-----------|-----|-------|----|-----|-----------|-----|-------|----|-----|-----------|
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NOTES
 H:\Traffic\A_VILLAGE SPEED LIMIT REVIEW\Burton Green\Polly Brant July 2013 onwards\Speed Limit
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 Warwickshire County Council.

Drawing title
Burton Green Speed Limit
PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT
 Project title
Transport Seminar Scheme 2012/13

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| Drawn by | Checked by |
| PB | ZZZ |
| Date | December 2013 |
| Scale | nts |
| Drawing number | TP8904 |