

# Decision Record – Proposed Speed Limits

## Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision

Councillor Peter Butlin – Transport and Highways

## Date of Decision:

**(NOT BEFORE – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012)**

25<sup>th</sup> September 2012

## Decision taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, approve the following proposed Speed Limit Orders, as outlined at Appendix A: References 1 to 16.

## Reasons for Decisions

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Cabinet meeting of 24 May 2012, approval was given to fund changes in speed limits as agreed by Councillors at the former Area Committee's. In addition, a number of the proposed speed limits are being funded by either casualty reduction funds or private developers.
- 1.2 Proposed speed limits were advertised and a number of objections were received, which were considered by the Portfolio Holder.

### 2.0 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has been carried out with Local Members, Town and Parish Councils, Warwickshire Police, Emergency Services, Road Haulage Associations and other statutory consultees.
- 2.2 Legal notices advertising the proposed speed limits were placed in local newspapers during July and August 2012. Notices were also placed on street, advertising the Orders.
- 2.3 The Portfolio Holder held an open public meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September to consider objections from members of the public. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.4 At that meeting, the Portfolio Holder agreed to all proposed Speed Limit Orders, with the exception of Reference 11. The Portfolio Holder agreed to consider the objection pack that had been compiled by local residents prior to taking a decision in respect of Reference 11.
- 2.5 Following further consideration, the Portfolio Holder has agreed that the proposed 50mph speed limit for Brittons Lane should be implemented as advertised. Any lower speed limit would be contrary to the County Council's speed limit policy.

**Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below and in the officer report):**

**Background:**

In 2007, a new Speed Management Strategy was approved by the County Council as a result of the Speed Limit Circular 01/2006 issued by the Department for Transport (DfT). This covers three key areas: Education; Engineering; and Enforcement. The setting of speed limits is a key element of this strategy.

The DfT Circular 01/2006 advises that the following criteria is applied when setting speed limits:

- i) analysing the existing speed data to identify the mean speeds of drivers;
- ii) to consider the environment and nature of the road; and
- iii) to consider any relevant injury accident data.

The DfT Circular 1/2006 places great importance on community concerns, and refers to the environmental impact of traffic and the level of public anxiety.

**Financial Implications:**

None stated.

Report Author:	Jo Edwards
Head of Service:	Graeme Fitton
Strategic Director:	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Butlin

## Checklist

**Urgent matter: yes/no\***

No

**Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)**

No

**Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?**

No

**List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]**

Decision report  
A summary of objections received from members of the public

**List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]**

Letters from members of the public in support / objection to the proposed Speed Limit Orders.

**Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.**

Legal – Ian Marriott  
Local Members

## Proposed Speed Limits

Ref.	Road Number	Road Name	Proposed Speed Limit	Objections Received (Y/N)
1	B4114	Nuneaton Road AND Birchley Heath Road, Green Lane, Monwode Lea Lane & Coleshill Road (Over Whitacre area)	50mph	N
2	* C12	Tunnel Road, Galley Common	50mph	N
3	* C13	Nuthurst Lane/Church Lane AND Red Lane/Astley Lane & Bedworth Lane (Astley area)	50mph	N
4	A423 & B4455	Oxford Road, Marton Road, Rugby Road & Fosse Way (Princethorpe area)	40mph & 50mph	N
5	* A428	Crick Road, Rugby	50mph	N
6	A3400 & B4035	London Road, Shipston Road, Brailes Road & Fell Mill Lane (Shipston & Brailes area)	30mph, 40mph & 50mph	Y
7	D5003	Forshaw Heath Road, Forshaw Heath Lane, Mill Lane & Poolhead Lane (Forshaw Heath area)	50mph	Y
8	B4102 & C89	Earlwood Common, Valley Road & Umberslade Road, Earlswood	30mph	Y
9	C98	Loxley Road/Stratford Road AND Loxley Lane, Knights Lane, Pimlico Lane, Church Lane, Kissing Tree Lane, Alveston Hill, Hunscombe Lane & Charlecote Road (Loxley, Wellesbourne & Alveston area)	50mph	N
10	* C33	Stockton Road & Napton Road, Stockton & Long Itchington	30mph & 40mph	N
11	B4463	Watery Lane AND Warwick Road & Brittons Lane, Norton Lindsey	50mph	Y
12	A452	Birmingham Road, Kenilworth	50mph	N
13	A4177 & B4439	Birmingham Road AND Old Warwick Road, Hockley Road, Five Ways Road, Shaws Lane, Stoney Lane & The Green (Hatton, Shrewley & Rowington area)	40mph & 50mph	Y
14	B4113	Various Roads within Stoneleigh area	50mph	Y
15	C43	Gallows Hill & Harbury Lane (Warwick & Bishops Tachbrook area)	50mph	N
16	* C36	Welsh Road, Offchurch Road, Long Itchington Road (Offchurch & Radford Semele area)	30mph & 50mph	N

\* Other source of funding

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**Present**

Councillor Peter Butlin (Portfolio Holder, Transport and Highways)

**Other Councillors:**

Councillor Les Caborn  
Councillor Jose Compton  
Councillor Mike Perry

**Officers:**

Georgina Atkinson, Democratic Services Team Leader  
Carolyn Burrows, Team Leader, Safety Engineering  
Jo Edwards, Senior Road Safety Engineer  
Ian Marriott, Community and Environment Legal Services Manager

**Members of the public:**

Kevin Barber  
Mollie Barber  
Andrew Battrick  
Ralph Dearden  
Alice Hardman  
Linda Cashmore  
Tony Jones  
Phil Johnson

P.C. Neal Westwood, Warwickshire Police  
P.C. Hattie Sibbick, Warwickshire Police

**1. Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

**2. Various Speed Limits**

Councillor Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, welcomed the Councillors and members of the public in attendance.

He referred to the schedule of proposed Speed Limit Orders, as outlined at Appendix A to the decision report. Councillor Butlin explained that the proposed orders at References 1 to 5, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 16 had not received any objections; therefore, following consultation with the Senior Road Safety Engineer, it was agreed that those Speed Limit Order be approved.

Councillor Butlin explained that the proposed Speed Limit Orders which had received objections would be considered and that any objectors in attendance at the meeting would have the opportunity to present their concerns to the Portfolio Holder.

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Reference 6 – A3400, London Road / Shipston Road, B4035 Brailes Road  
and Fell Mill Lane, Shipston-on-Stour

Jo Edwards, Senior Road Safety Engineer, provided an outline of the rationale for the reduction in speed limits along sections of the A3400 and B4035, following a number of road traffic incidents. She advised that the proposal had been fully supported by the Long Compton Parish Council and that additional signage and road markings would also be implemented to address the road safety issues.

Andrew Battrick spoke in objection to the proposed reduction in speed limit along the A3400 and outlined his view, as follows:

- In accordance with the Department for Transport Circular 01/2006, 'upper tier' roads had a recommended speed limit of 60mph. He considered the A3400 to be an 'upper tier' road.
- The highest mean speed recorded along the A3400 was 56mph, which demonstrated that the majority of drivers did keep within the current 60mph limit.
- At present, there was no road safety signage (apart from two small bicycle awareness signs); yet despite this, the majority of drivers did keep within the current 60mph limit, as demonstrated by the speed recording.

In light of the road safety issues which had been outlined by the Senior Road Safety Engineer, Councillor Butlin approved the advertised Speed Limit Order, Reference 6.

Reference 7 – Forshaw Heath Road / Forshaw Heath Lane / Mill Lane /  
Poolhead Lane

Jo Edwards advised that all objectors would prefer the proposed 50mph speed limit to be reduced to a 40mph speed limit. However, the Department for Transport issued strict criteria in respect of the setting of speed limits and any further reduction than the proposed 50mph would also be contrary to County Council policy.

Councillor Perry reported that he had been on a site visit to the area and had also undertaken consultation with local residents. Within the current 60mph speed limit, drivers' mean speed along the road was recorded at 45mph; therefore it was anticipated that a reduction to 50mph would also reduce the level of mean speed. In light of this, Councillor Perry was in support of the proposed Speed Limit Order.

Councillor Butlin outlined the importance in ensuring that the County Council's speed limit policy was applied consistently across the county. Based on the road characteristics and environment, he considered that the 50mph speed limit was appropriate and therefore, the advertised Speed Limit Order, Reference 7, was approved.

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Reference 8 – Earlswood Common, Valley Road and Umberslade Road

Jo Edwards provided an outline of the rationale for the reduction in speed limit to 30mph, following a number of road traffic incidents. One objection had been submitted in respect of the proposal.

Councillor Perry spoke in favour of the proposal and referred to a number of recent road traffic incidents which had been attributed to the high speed of vehicles on the approach to the junctions of Earlswood Common, Valley Road and Umberslade Road.

Councillor Butlin considered that the Speed Limit Order had been proposed to address the serious road safety issues that had been experienced in the area and in light of that, the advertised Speed Limit Order, Reference 8, was approved.

Reference 11 – Brittons Lane, Norton Lindsey

Jo Edwards provided an outline of the rationale for the reduction in speed limit to 50mph, following a number of road traffic incidents. She explained that the objectors would prefer a lower speed limit than the proposed 50mph; however, the Department for Transport issued strict criteria in respect of the setting of speed limits and any further reduction than the proposed 50mph would also be contrary to County Council policy. It was important to acknowledge that the majority of drivers chose their speed according to the environment and the signs would indicate that 50mph was the maximum speed and not intended to be a target.

Alice Hardman spoke in objection to the proposal. She referred to her written objection, which had been included in the decision report, and clarified that she did not support a 40mph speed limit as this was still too high for the road. A copy of an objection pack that had been compiled by local residents was given to Councillor Butlin. Alice Hardman outlined the objection, on behalf of the residents which included the following points:

- There was a total of 12 residencies within a short space, so therefore the residents considered that the area was a hamlet, rather than isolated households.
- The objection had been supported by the local MP, Chris White.
- The characteristics of the road included sharp bends, no street lighting, a lack of turning points and no pavements.
- The road was frequently used by cyclists, horse riders and walkers, as well as the local residents.
- There had been a number of accidents along the road.
- There was a concern that the installation of 50mph speed limit signage would increase drivers' speed.

The residents considered that a speed limit of 30mph – and possibly 20mph on certain stretches – was a necessity, given the issues raised. Councillor Butlin was invited to undertake a site visit of the area before taking a decision on the proposed Speed Limit Order.

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In light of the issues raised, Councillor Butlin agreed to defer his decision in respect of the advertised Speed Limit Order, Reference 11, in order to read the objection pack and undertake a site visit, if considered necessary.

Reference 13 – A4177 Birmingham Road, Hatton / Five Ways Road, Stoney Lane

Jo Edwards provided an outline of the rationale for the extension of the 40mph speed limit on the approach to the Hockley Road junction, following a number of road traffic incidents. She explained that the majority of drivers chose their speed according to the environment and that enforced speed limits which did not reflect the environment often had a negative effect and could increase drivers' speed, rather than reduce.

Tony Jones spoke in objection to the proposed Speed Limit Order and outlined his view, as follows:

- He had been involved in the Parish Plan and therefore was aware of the reservations in respect of the National Speed Limit within the area, particularly along small side lanes.
- There was already a high level of speed limit signage installed in the area.
- There was an accident black spot at the Stoney Lane junction, caused by a large tree which reduced drivers' visibility.
- As Stoney Lane was a straight road, drivers often had the temptation to speed and overtake other vehicles.
- He suggested that a roundabout at the Hockley Road / Birmingham Road junction would be the most appropriate traffic calming method.

Phil Johnson spoke in objection to the proposed Speed Limit Order and outlined his view, as follows:

- That the stretch of the A4177, which was currently 50mph, should be reduced to 40mph, due to the high number of road traffic incidents that had occurred at the junction.
- The volume of vehicles parked along The Green, adjacent to the school, caused a build-up of traffic and made the road dangerously narrow.
- The 30mph approach to the school on The Green was insufficient.

Councillor Compton explained that the school now encouraged parents to park their vehicles in the church car park, rather than along the road. A recent site visit to the area, to ascertain whether there was any layby space for cars, had demonstrated a lack of space for parking. Councillor Compton agreed to contact the school again with regard to the issue.

With regard to Station Road and Mill Lane, Councillor Compton advised that she had submitted these for consideration next year.

Councillor Butlin considered that the Speed Limit Order had been proposed to address the serious road safety issues that had been experienced in the area and in light of that, the advertised Speed Limit Order, Reference 13, was



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approved. However, he acknowledged the concerns that had been raised by the objectors and agreed to monitor road safety at the A4177 junction, as referred to by Phil Johnson.

Reference 14 – Bubbenhall Road (Various Road, Stoneleigh)

Jo Edwards provided an outline of the rationale for the reduction in speed limit to 50mph. She explained that the objector would prefer a lower speed limit than the proposed 50mph; however, the Department for Transport issued strict criteria in respect of the setting of speed limits and furthermore, any further reduction than the proposed 50mph would be contrary to County Council policy.

Councillor Butlin considered that the Speed Limit Order had been proposed to address the serious road safety issues that had been experienced in the area and in light of that, the advertised Speed Limit Order, Reference 14, was approved.

**Resolved**

The Portfolio Holder agreed:

- 1) To approve the proposed Speed Limits Orders, as outlined in Appendix A to the decision report, as follows: References 1 to 10 and 12 to 16; and
- 2) To defer the decision in respect of the proposed Speed Limit Order in Appendix A (Reference 11), until a later date.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

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Portfolio Holder  
(Transport & Highways)