

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Stratford on Avon Area Committee

Date of Committee 23 January 2008

Report Title D5005 Malthouse Lane and D5008 Earlswood Lakes Causeway, Earlswood Common - Proposed Extension of 30 mph Speed Limit

Summary Following formal advertisement of the proposed regularisation and extension of the existing 30 mph speed limit on the D5005 Malthouse Lane and D5008 Earlswood Lakes Causeway, Earlswood, eight letters of objection were received.

Associated engineering measures include 30 mph speed limit signs on Malthouse Lane and at both ends of the Earlswood Lakes Causeway at its junction with Valley Road.

This report considers the objections and recommends that the 30 mph speed limit should be implemented as advertised.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No

Background Papers Objection letters from residents.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Councillor G Atkinson supports the proposal.
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members



- Cabinet Member
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive
- Legal Ian Marriott – agreed.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police No objections.
- Other Bodies/Individuals Parish Council, Emergency Services, Road Haulage Associations.

FINAL DECISION

YES (If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Stratford on Avon Area Committee – 23 January 2008

D5008 Malthouse Lane, Earlswood Common Proposed Extension of 30 mph Speed Limit

Report of the Interim Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

Recommendation

That the extension of 30 mph speed limit for D5005 Malthouse Lane and the new 30 mph limit on the D5008 the Earlswood Lakes Causeway should be implemented as advertised.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following formal advertisement of a proposed extension of the 30 mph speed limit for D5005 Malthouse Lane to include D5008 Earlswood Lakes Causeway, Earlswood, eight objections were received. This report considers the objections and recommends that the 30 mph speed limit should be implemented as advertised.

2. Background

- 2.1 Speed limits in Earlswood have been investigated as part of the County Council's Village Speed Limit Review, which seeks the introduction of sustainable village speed limits throughout Warwickshire.
- 2.2 It was observed during the review, which incorporated a wider examination of possible changes to the existing 40 mph speed limit on Earlswood Common, Shutt Lane and Valley Road; that whilst the residential part of the D5005 Malthouse Lane benefited from a 30 mph speed limit, both the section of narrow single carriageway of Malthouse Lane flanked either side by Earlswood Lakes, and the D5008 Earlswood Causeway itself are currently derestricted i.e. subject to the national 60 mph speed limit. It was also considered that the approach from the south into the village could benefit from an extension of the speed limit to reduce vehicle speeds prior to the entrance to Earlswood Lakes Railway Station and the junction with Springbrook Lane.
- 2.3 Malthouse Lane currently has a 30 mph speed limit within the built up area with signs facing traffic traveling into the village from both directions. There are currently no signs to indicate the end of the 30 mph limit when travelling north out of the village towards the Causeway.

- 2.4 It is proposed to extend the existing 30 mph speed limit :-
- (i) To the south along Malthouse Lane to incorporate the junction with Springbrook Lane and the entrance to the railway station
 - (ii) To the north along Malthouse Lane to its junction with The Causeway.
 - (iii) To implement a 30 mph Speed limit on the Earlswood Lakes Causeway

These proposals are shown in **Appendix A**.

- 2.5 The majority of local residents support a reduction in the speed limit, to improve road safety and environmental conditions for residents.

3. Formal Consultation

- 3.1 Legal notices advertising the proposed 30 mph speed limit Order were placed on the roads and in the press on the 26 July 2007, with an objection period from 26 July to the 16 August 2007.
- 3.2 Letters were sent inviting comments on the proposed Order to the Local Member, Parish Council, local residents, Warwickshire Police, Emergency Services, Road Haulage Associations and other external organisations.
- 3.3 The Police have no objections to the proposed 30 mph speed limit.
- 3.4 The local Member, Councillor G Atkinson, supports the proposed 30 mph speed limit.
- 3.5 Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council does not support the proposed 30 mph speed limit.

4. Objections

- 4.1 Following formal advertisement of the scheme eight letters were received objecting to the proposal extension of the 30 mph speed limit to incorporate the Earlswood Lakes Causeway on the grounds that the erection of signs required to enforce a 30 mph speed limit, would imply to drivers that 30 mph is a safe speed at which to travel on the road.
- 4.2 Guidance from DfT states that the majority of drivers do not reach or exceed the speed limit on many single carriageway roads because it is often difficult to do so. This is especially evident on C class and Unclassified roads where the road layout characteristics include many narrow roads, bends, junctions and accesses.
- 4.2.1 Malthouse Lane and Earlswood Causeway are both narrow single carriageway roads. It is intended that the existing 30 mph speed limit signs at the end of the built-up-area on Malthouse Lane will be removed.

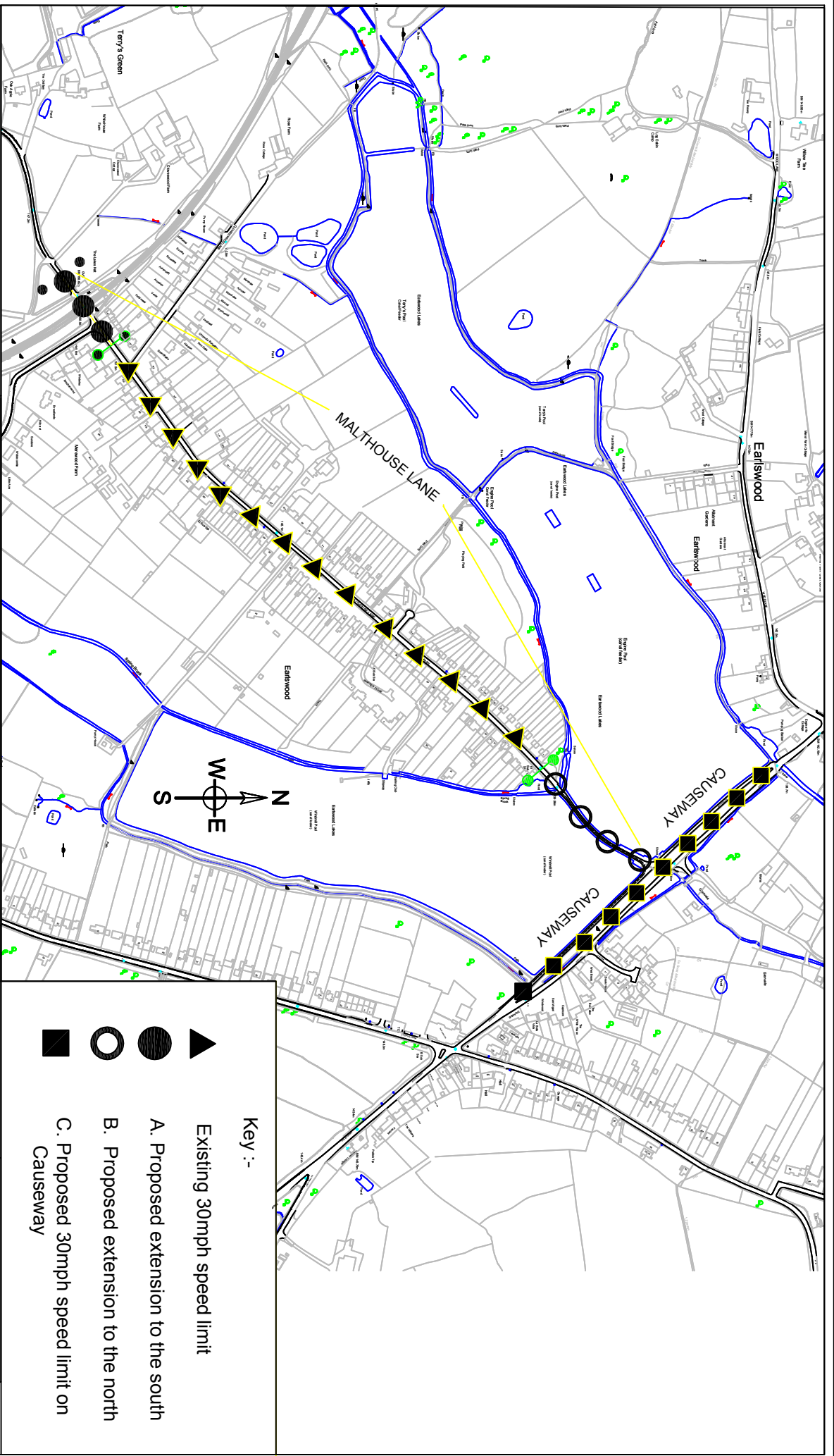
- 4.2.3 New signs indicating the proposed new 30 mph speed limit for Earlswood Causeway will be erected at its junctions with Valley Road. Repeater signs are required to be erected on the unlit section of Malthouse Lane and the Earlswood Causeway.
- 4.3 Four of the eight objectors also state that they consider that a 20 mph limit is more appropriate to the Causeway.
- 4.3.1 Whilst there is provision for a 20 mph speed limit under the legislation, guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT) states that 20 mph limits are not appropriate on roads that are through routes. Guidance also states that the minimum length of a speed limit should generally be not less than 600 metres to avoid too many changes of speed limit along the route. The route from the current 30 mph limit on Malthouse Lane to Valley Road via the Causeway would be 390 metres to the north west and 450 metres to the south-east. Bearing in mind that Valley Road changes from a derestricted (60 mph) limit to a 40 mph limit between the two junctions of the Causeway, a 20 mph limit on the Causeway would lead to an excessive number of changes of speed limit within the recommended 600metres.
- 4.4 Two of the objections received also state that the Causeway is a private road, maintained by WCC Highways but that it is not a public road and that the Causeway is a narrow track which is on private property.
- 4.4.1 County Council records show that Malthouse Lane and The Earlswood Lakes Causeway are Highway maintained at public expense. British Waterways maintain the adjacent fences and civil engineering features designed to manage the lake water levels.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The scheme has the support of the local County Council Member and Warwickshire Police.
- 5.2 The scheme will be effective in regularising the speed limit on Malthouse Lane and the Earlswood Lakes Causeway.
- 5.3 It is recommended that the extension of the 30 mph speed limit on Malthouse Lane and the Earlswood Lakes Causeway be implemented as advertised.

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9 January 2007



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Earlswood Village Speed Limit Review

Plan A

Earlswood Lakes Proposed Speed Limit Extents



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