

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 24th January 2006

Report Title Proposed 30 mph Speed Limit - Tachbrook Road, Whitnash

Summary As a result of the ongoing housing and industrial development along Tachbrook Road, Whitnash, it is proposed to introduce a 30 mph speed limit from a point just north of the new traffic signals at the junction with Harbury Lane, through to the start of the existing 30mph limit north of Montgomery Road. At present that length of road is subject to a 40 mph speed limit.

Three objections have been received to the proposal. It is recommended that the reduced speed limit be implemented as advertised.

For further information please contact Mike McDonnell
Traffic Projects
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers Three objections to the proposal.
Plan showing proposed locations of engineering measures.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Councillor B Kirton - 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 I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils Warwick District Council.
- Health Authority Warwickshire Ambulance Service.
- Police Warwickshire Police – do not object to the proposal on the condition that the engineering measures are installed.
- Other Bodies/Individuals Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association, AA, RAC, Warwickshire Fire Service, Royal Mail.

FINAL DECISION

NO/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

Warwick Area Committee – 24th January 2006

Proposed 30 mph Speed Limit - Tachbrook Road, Whitnash

**Report of the Strategic Director of
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That the proposed 30 mph speed restriction along Tachbrook Road, Whitnash be implemented as advertised.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As a result of the ongoing housing and industrial development along Tachbrook Road, Whitnash, it is proposed to introduce a 30 mph speed limit from a point just north of the new traffic signals at the junction with Harbury Lane junction, through to the start of the existing 30 mph limit north of Montgomery Road (see plan in **Appendix A**).
- 1.2 At present that length of road is subject to a 40 mph speed limit.
- 1.3 The proposal also involves reducing the speed limit to 30 mph on a short section of Heathcote Lane to the west of its junction with Tachbrook Road in order to obtain a consistent speed limit of 30 mph on all approaches to this junction.
- 1.4 It is proposed to install a number of central refuges and a new carriageway lining scheme to promote the reduction in vehicle speeds. These measures are necessary for the speed limit to be self-enforcing.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 This proposal was originally consulted upon in May 2003. At that time, Warwickshire Police would not support the proposal as they felt that the speed limit would not be self-enforcing and that engineering measures would be required.
- 2.2 The scheme was subsequently re-designed to include central refuge islands and carriageway lining and the consultation exercise was repeated in March 2005.

- 2.3 The proposals attracted three objections, one letter with comments against the proposal, six letters of support and four letters stating no objection, all from residents of Tachbrook Road. The three letters of objection have been carried forward to the formal stage as they could not be resolved.
- 2.4 The proposals were formally advertised on 8th December 2005 and no further objections have been received.

3. Objections

- 3.1 Three objections (referred to in 2.3 above) have been received to the proposed reduction in speed limit. Two of the objections were received by post from residents at the same address. One objection was received by email.

- 3.2 Objection 1 – The objector cannot see the reason for the speed limit and feels that it criminalises otherwise law-abiding drivers. In addition, those drivers who ignore the current speed limit are unlikely to adhere to a lower limit.

Comment – The speed limit is proposed to extend the existing 30 mph speed limit to the new Harbury Lane traffic signals to promote safety along this stretch of Tachbrook Road. The engineering measures will help to reduce the speed of drivers.

- 3.3 Objection 2 – The objector also cannot see the reason for the speed limit and is not aware of any accidents occurring here.

Comment – In the three years prior to March 2005 (the date of the letter) there had been 11 accidents on this stretch of Tachbrook Road, of which speed was reported to be a contributory factor in two of the accidents.

- 3.4 Objection 3 – The objector feels the scheme is unnecessary as the only time that a speed reduction would be appropriate is when children are travelling to or from school, when vehicle speeds are lower than 30 mph in any case. The objector feels the problem is actually with the volume of traffic resulting from the developments along Tachbrook Road, rather than with vehicle speeds.

Comment – The speed readings carried out on Tachbrook Road between Harbury Lane and Othello Avenue from 25th June 2003 to 1st July 2003 do not support the view that traffic speeds are significantly lower at the times when journeys to and from school are being made. The comment regarding the volume of traffic has been noted, but should not affect the decision on the speed limit.

4. Summary

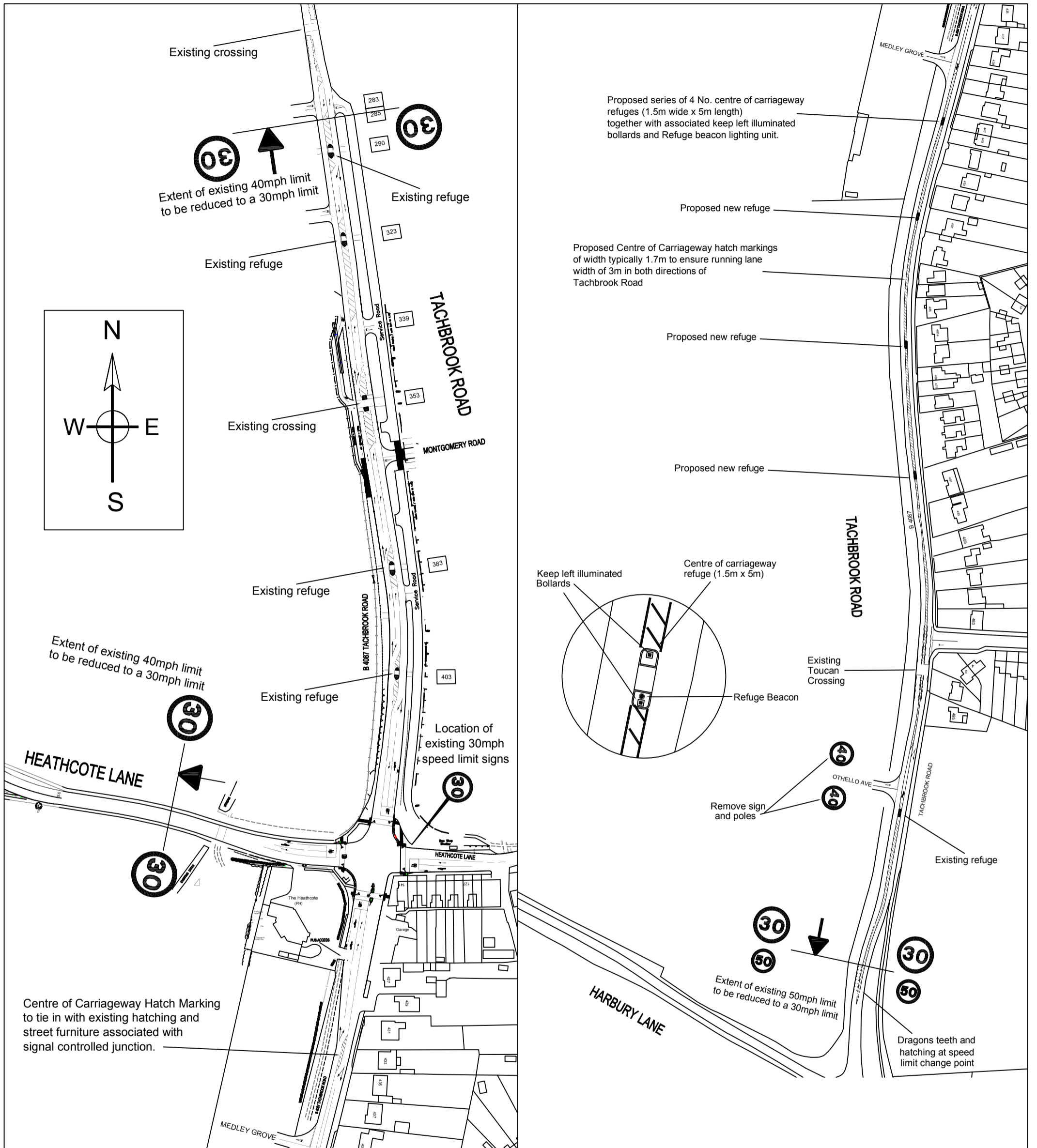
- 4.1 Three objections have been received (to date) to the proposed reduction in speed limit on Tachbrook Road from 40 mph to 30 mph from a point north of the junction with Harbury Lane to the existing 30 mph speed limit north of Montgomery Road.

- 4.2 It is recommended that the proposed 30 mph speed limit on Tachbrook Road, Whitnash, be implemented as advertised.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director of Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

9th January 2006

APPENDIX A OF AGENDA NO.



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Department of Planning,
Transport and Economic Strategy

Warwick Area Committee - 24th January 2006

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Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

Title - Proposed 30mph speed limit - Tachbrook Rd, Whitnash.

D.S. Lynn BSc CEng MICE
Head of Engineering Services

Rev	Date	By	Chk	Amendment	NOTES	TITLE	DRN	MMcD	CK'D
						Proposed Speed Limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph Tachbrook Road Whitnash			
							DATE	01 Mar 05	
							SCALE	Not to scale	
							DRG. NO.	TM 5174	