

Decision Record – Objections to proposed speed limit change on Welsh Road East Southam

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Date of decision	2 June 2021
	Signed

Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves (1) the implementation of a 40mph speed limit as advertised in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The site is located on Welsh Road East Southam.

Reasons for decisions

Where objections have been received to advertised traffic orders it is necessary for the Portfolio Holder to decide on the orders.

Background Information

The scheme comprises a reduction in the speed limit on Welsh Road East from national speed limit (60 mph) to 40 mph for a distance of 600m in a south easterly direction as shown in Appendix 1.

The proposed traffic orders were advertised on 19 November 2020. Warwickshire Police have objected to the proposed speed limit order and have made comments in relation to this.

County Councillor Andy Crump has supported the proposed speed limit order due to the new development to the east of Southam beyond Spitfire Lane.

Warwickshire Police objection to speed limit change

Warwickshire Police support the principle that when drivers comply with a reduced speed limit there are tangible benefits including, reducing the frequency and severity of injury road collisions and improving people's sense of wellbeing in their local communities as well as when using the roads, it should be re-iterated that limits should largely rely on their self-regulating qualities.

The proposal is not accompanied with any speed survey data which makes it very difficult to assess this proposed limit, I am of course aware of the affects that Covid-19 restrictions are having and the difficulties in obtaining representative data. Having visited the location I can understand that it would be beneficial, in light of the new development, to reduce the actual speed of vehicles along that road. However, I'm not sure the signage alone would have the desired effect. The road in nature is wide, fairly straight, fast, rural stretch of carriageway which lends itself to overtaking opportunities prior to entering the built-up area, or on leaving it in the opposite direction. I cannot see that, without further engineering measures, there will be any tangible

degree of compliance to a new 40mph speed limit and I fear that this will be placing an unacceptable expectation of enforcement on Warwickshire Police.

Warwickshire Police would request that additional Engineering features be considered at this proposed terminal point, that seek to reinforce to drivers the change of environment, supplementary gateway features as well as the markings and roundels on the road surface for example, therefore promoting self-regulating compliance.

Warwickshire Police, whilst adopting a position of non-objection, are keen to work with the highway authority to consider additional Engineering features that seek to reinforce to drivers the change of environment. This will both help to prevent the creation of an unrealistic expectation of compliance, where at present none exists and support the speed reductions required.

Response: Dragons teeth markings, 40 mph roundels and the use of repeater signs along the 600m stretch of road have also been added to the scheme design with a gateway feature added at the start of the proposed 40mph speed limit (see Appendix 2). Due to the road not being street lit we could not add further speed reducing features to make this scheme self-enforcing but looking at future funding possibilities to make this possible.

Financial Implications

Under the local Councillors Delegated Budget Capital spending finances the cost of the works will be fully funded.

Environmental Implications

The environmental impacts of delegated Budget highway schemes are considered as part of the process.

The contractors on the Council's Framework Contract for the Provision of Engineering and Construction Works (WCC 6012) have all demonstrated that they hold a certificate of compliance with BS EN ISO 140001 (or equivalent) or have otherwise satisfactorily demonstrated their policies and arrangements for the management of construction-related environmental issues.

Report Author	Chris Round chrisround@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning
Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

Lists of reports considered

Not Applicable

List of background papers

Police objection in the form of letter & email.

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Clarke

Corporate Board – NA

Legal – Ian Marriot

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality –

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse/Helen Barnsley

Councillors – Local Member(s): Cllr Crump (Southam South)