

Portfolio Holder Decision

A444 Griff Way, Nuneaton - Proposed 40mph Speed Limit

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Date of decision	14 July 2023
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves that the below named proposed Speed Limit Variation Order be made as advertised:

The Warwickshire County Council (Various Roads, Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth) (Speed Limit) (Variation No. 1) Order 2023

2. Reasons for decisions

2.1 As part of highway works across Nuneaton associated with improving traffic flow, works are planned to amend the roundabout junction of the A444 Griff Way and College Street. As an integral component of these works, a reduced speed limit is proposed on the A444 Griff Way between the College Street and Eliot Way roundabouts, as well as a short section on each of the northbound approach to and southbound exit from the Eliot Way roundabout.

2.2 A copy of plan PTRO22-025-01 detailing proposals for a reduced 40mph speed limit can be found as Appendix B. Objections and comments were received to these proposals and can be found as Appendix C; the following tables detail the objections received, together with the officers' responses.

Emails/letters	
Objections received	9

Ref	Objections received	Total number of responses containing the comment
A	A444 Griff Way as a dual carriageway principal road should be the quickest route to avoid 'rat-running' on alternative routes – speed limit should not be 40mph without traffic calming on the Bermuda	1

	bridge route & a reduced 40mph on Coventry Road.	
B	Accident statistics do not back up the need for speed reducing measures.	1
C	No safety benefits for cyclists or pedestrians.	2
D	Speed limits ineffective without enforcement measures.	1
E	Speed limit should be retained at 50mph or increased, not reduced.	5

Ref	Officer Comments in Response to Objections
A	<p>As a dual carriageway principal road designed for high traffic volumes, the A444 will remain the optimal route between Griff Island and the College Street roundabout.</p> <p>The alternative route across Bermuda bridge is single carriageway 30mph road with road narrowings as speed reducing features. The Coventry Road route is majority single carriageway, partly 50mph and partly 30mph, and also incorporates a 7.5T weight limit so is less desirable for all traffic and also unsuitable as an alternative through route for heavy goods vehicles.</p>
B & E	<p>There have been 8 recorded Personal Injury Collisions on this section of the A444 Griff Way in the past 5 years, including 2 recorded as serious. Reductions in average speeds associated with a speed limit change only tend to be small, but any management of speed can contribute to a reduction in risk and a reduction in severity of personal injuries.</p> <p>In addition, changes to the roundabout layout will result in changes to driver behaviour, so management of speed is an integral measure for avoiding the introduction of risk of collisions not associated with the current road layout.</p>
C	<p>It is accepted that the A444 Griff Way is not a desirable route for pedestrians and cyclists. While reduced speeds are an integral measure for reducing hazard risks for all road users, this is a scheme predominately directed toward vehicular traffic.</p>
D	<p>There are no current plans for fixed speed enforcement measures. However, the A444 Griff Way would be subject to ad-hoc Police enforcement in the same way as any road on the Warwickshire network, with the potential presence of marked and unmarked vehicles acting as a deterrent against excessive speed.</p>

The published reasons for intervention on the A444 Griff Way remain valid (see 3.1). It is recommended that the proposals in their current form be implemented as advertised.

3. Background information

- 3.1. Proposals are for a 40mph speed limit, for the following reasons:
 - (i) to avoid danger to persons or other traffic using the road and for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
- 3.2. Proposals were advertised and consulted upon in accordance with statutory procedure on the 4th May 2023, with consultation open until the 30th May 2023.
- 3.3. The scheme design gave consideration to guidelines for setting speed limits as laid out in The Department for Transport's Circular 01/2013 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. The statutory criteria for decisions on making Speed Limit Orders are included as **Appendix A**.
- 3.4. Drawings showing published proposals for the 40mph speed limit are found in **Appendix B**.
- 3.5. Copies of objections and comments received can be found in **Appendix C**.
- 3.6. A copy of the published notice can be found as **Appendix D**.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 Costs associated with the introduction of the 40mph speed limit (including legal costs, consultation) would be approximately £3k, funded from existing capital budgets associated with the approved project for works on the A444/College Street roundabout. Implementation costs are expected to be approximately £3k, funded from the same capital budget.

5. Environmental implications

- 5.1 It is not anticipated that the reduced speed limit would have an adverse effect on air quality or noise levels, with emissions and noise from the additional capacity through the College Street junction offset by reductions in queuing and stop/start traffic.

Report Author	Phil Mitton philmitton@warwickshire.gov.uk,
Assistant Director	Scott Tomkins, Assistant Director for Environment Services
Strategic Director	Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities
Portfolio Holder	Jan Matecki, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

Letters and email objections along with large scale plans that can be produced if required.

Appendix A – statutory criteria for decisions on making Traffic Regulation Orders

Appendix B – drawing showing published proposals for the 40mph speed limit

Appendix C – copies of objections and comments received

Appendix D – Public Notice

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jan Matecki

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder

Legal – Serena Cammish, Caroline Gutteridge

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – Joanna Kemp

Procurement – John Hopper

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Leaders of the Party Groups, Communities OSC Chair & Spokespersons

Local Member(s): Councillor Clare Golby