

Portfolio Holder Decision

The Warwickshire County Council (Henley-In-Arden To Hockley Heath Road A3400) (30mph,40mph And 50mph Speed Limits) (Variation No. 1) Order 2023

**The Warwickshire County Council
(High Street (A3400),Birmingham Road (A3400) And Various Roads, Henley In Arden) (20 Mph Speed Limit) Order 2023**

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 Order and Variation Order be made as advertised:

- The Warwickshire County Council (Henley in Arden to Hockley Heath Road A3400) (30mph,40mph and 50mph Speed Limits) (Variation No 1) Order 2023 &
- The Warwickshire County Council (High Street (A3400), Birmingham Road (A3400) and Various Roads, Henley in Arden) (20mphSpeed Limit) Order 2023

2. Reasons for decisions

2.1 A copy of plans PTRO22-031 & PTRO22-031-01 detailing proposals to introduce a 20mph Speed Limit throughout Henley in Arden, and a 140 metre extension to the existing 30mph speed limit (by order) can be found as Appendix A and A1. An objection was received to these proposals; the following table details the objection received, together with the officers' responses.

Emails/letters	
Objections received	1

Objection – Resident of Henley in Arden

I have read the proposal and disagree with the need for it.

The reason given:

In Henley town centre, an area of heavy pedestrian usage, a 20mph speed limit is proposed to avoid danger to persons or other traffic using the road and for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.

Having been a resident on the High Street for 20 years, I don't know of any accidents (due to speed) during that time. There are speeding vehicles, but the dangerous drivers are those doing in significantly excess of 30mph, which this will not influence unless there is some average speed camera initiative to follow. Dropping the speed limit only adversely affects careful drivers who stick to the speed limit of 30mph. Reducing the speed on the side roads like The Croft and Beaudesert is without benefit and shows the proposers this know little of the area, as they would know there is no chance of reaching anywhere near 30.

I'd suggest the danger is from the high percentage of drivers using their phones and individuals parking outside the shops, either on double yellows or zig zags near the lights and to target those individuals specifically.

I would therefore object to this proposal.

Engineers response

The accident history for Henley in Arden for the last 5 years for the period ending 20th January 2023, has been 13 injury accidents reported to the police over the length of the A3400 from its junction with the B4189 to the Railway Bridge North end of Henley in Arden. One Fatal Road Traffic accident, 5 Serious Injury accidents and 7 slight injury accidents. There have been seven pedestrian injury accidents of which one was a Fatal Pedestrian injury accident when a vehicle collided with an elderly pedestrian as they were attempting to cross the road. Two of the pedestrian injury accidents have involved child pedestrians crossing the main A3400. See Appendix C Accident Report.

Under the Statutory Criteria for Decision Making on Speed Limit Orders (Appendix B) Vehicle speeds have been carried out and assessed on two sections of the A3400 in Henley, the main area by the Church vehicle speeds are below the mean speed of 24mph required to introduce a 20mph Speed Limit. The North section of the A3400 going towards Rose Avenue vehicle speeds are only slightly higher than the 24mph required (25 mph).

The A3400 has been considered for the possibility of Average Speed Cameras but this would be some time in the future as we are currently due to trial several Average Speed Camera Routes in Warwickshire, the nearest being the A435 Alcester Road through Studley to Alcester.

When introducing a 20mph Speed Limit on the A3400 through Henley in Arden the Department of Transport Guidelines in setting up a 20mph speed limit requires the Local Authority to make any road off the main road in this case the A3400, a 20mph Speed Limit including Cul -de-sacs.

In a separate undertaking we are renewing the Double Yellow Lines outside the Church and Shops so we can try and deter motorists from parking outside the front, rather than using the provided Car Parking around the back. The Parish Council are considering installing new signing to the Car Parks in that area.

The use of Mobile Phones whilst driving is a Police matter, and this should be raised with them.

The published reasons for the introduction of a 20mph Speed Limit in Henley in Arden remain valid. It is therefore recommended that the proposals in their current form be implemented as advertised.

3. Background information

- 3.1. Warwickshire County Council launched the Highways Community Action Fund in April 2022. The fund is there to assist parishes ,town councils and community groups who wish to deliver small highway works which would otherwise not be a priority for the Council, but which local communities have a real desire for. **See Appendix D HCAF Application**
- 3.2. The Beaudesert & Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council made a funding Application in 2022, in which they described their bid as Traffic Calming in and around Henley in Arden and Wootton Wawen on the A3400 and A4189, to include 20mph on the historic Henley High Street.
- 3.3. There is strong support from the Community, local Police, Police Crime Commissioner, and the local MP Nadhim Zahawi.
- 3.4. The proposed measures include the introduction of a 20mph Speed Limit on the A3400 from its junction with the A4189 to a point just north of Millfield Court, with an extended 30mph Speed limit for 140 metres North of its original location.
- 3.5. These proposals were advertised and consulted upon in accordance with statutory procedure on the 13th April 2023, with consultation open until the 9th May 2023.
- 3.6. A copy of the objection received can be found in **Appendix E**.
- 3.7. A copy of the published notice can be found as **Appendix F**.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 Funding for the 20mph Speed Limit for Henley in Arden will be met from the Highways Community Action Fund this includes the 30mph extension. Estimated Costs of works £22,688.00, 50% funding from the Parish/Town Council and Community Sponsors (£11,344.00).

5. Environmental implications

- 5.1 It is not anticipated that the 20mph Speed Limit would have an adverse effect on air quality or noise levels, it is hoped that this new speed limit will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors and improve safety for all road users and residents, especially the elderly and young child pedestrians.

Report Author

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Assistant Director

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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

Email objection along with plans that can be produced if required.

Appendix A – Speed Limit Plans

Appendix B – Statutory Criteria for Decision Making on Speed Limit Orders

Appendix C – Road Traffic Accidents Summary Henley 01/05/2018-17/5/2023

Appendix D – Highways Community Fund Application Form Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council

Appendix E- Objections

Appendix – F 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 Hooper

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

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

Local Member(s): Councillor Ian Shenton