

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – 3 JANUARY 2013

PROPOSED 40 SPEED LIMIT HOWE HILL WATLINGTON

Report by Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to consider objections/comments received following consultation and formal advertisement of a proposed 40mph speed limit on Howe Hill Watlington. The exact location of the proposed limit is shown on the plan included at Annex 1.

Background

2. The proposed 40mph limit extends for a distance of approximately 1 mile from (and including) the junction of the B480 with the B481 where the road width is comparatively narrow at around 6.5m and the alignment quite poor with several bends and a steep gradient over part of its length. A group of around six properties front the road at the top of the hill at the south end and further north there are a similar number of properties spread along the route with accesses onto the road.
3. Local residents, via the Parish Council approached Councillor Caroline Newton for funding for a speed limit and as a result formal consultation was undertaken.
4. Councillor Newton proposes to use Area Stewardship Funds to implement a 40 mph speed limit on Howe Hill Watlington to deal with local residents concerns about the speed of vehicles in the area, although vehicles are travelling within the current speed limit this is perceived to be excessive for the location by local residents.

Consultation

5. The proposals were advertised formally in the local press.
6. Thames Valley Police have indicated no objection to the proposal but one objection has been received. The scheme is supported by the Parish Council.

Objection

7. One objection has been received indicating that the proposed speed limit is unnecessary as, from the objector's observations, vehicle speed is limited to 40mph by site specific conditions in any event. In addition, the objector sees the increased signing as cluttering the rural environment and the cost of a TRO is a waste of public funds.
8. Officers comment that there is an accident history along this stretch of road with 3 slight injury accidents in the past 3 years. However, the objection does support the case from local residents in that 40mph does appear to be the maximum suitable speed for this location and to have an enforceable speed limit would deal with the local perceptions of a speeding issue. With regard to increased clutter, gateway and repeater signs are required under the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 for the proposed limit to be legally enforceable.

How the Project supports LTP3 Objectives

9. Implementation of the speed limit will improve road safety at this location.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

10. The cost of implementing the Traffic Regulation Order will be met from the Area Stewardship Fund for the Watlington Locality.
11. Design and consultation has been undertaken by Environment & Economy officers as part of their normal duties.

RECOMMENDATION

12. **The Deputy Leader of the Council is RECOMMENDED to authorise the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order for a 40mph speed limit on Howe Hill, Watlington as advertised.**

MARK KEMP

Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Consultation Documentation

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