

Regulatory Committee

BACKGROUND REPORT

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	4 January 2018
<p><u>Local Member</u> Cllr Deborah Croney Member for Hambledon</p> <p><u>Lead Officer</u> Michael Potter, Collision Reduction Team Manager, Dorset Highways</p>	
Subject of Report	Proposed introduction of a 20mph zone in Iwerne Minster
Executive Summary	<p>A petition asking for the speed limit to be reduced to 20mph in Iwerne Minster was submitted by Iwerne Minster Parish Council. This was discussed at Regulatory Committee on 12 March 2015.</p> <p>Regulatory Committee agreed that further investigation should be undertaken between Officers and the Parish Council.</p> <p>These investigations revealed that basic criteria for a 20mph zone were met but that County Council funding of such a scheme would not be justifiable against other priority schemes.</p> <p>Iwerne Minster Parish Council agreed to raise funds to cover the cost of a 20mph zone and it was agreed to proceed with the proposal. The necessary consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order was done. There were no objections received at the Primary Consultation stage so it was advertised in the local press and four objections and four letters of support were received.</p> <p>This report considers the objections and whether the proposed speed limit change should be implemented.</p>
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment:

	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>Site investigations, traffic and collision data, primary consultation and support of Local Members, Parish Council and the Police.</p> <hr/> <p>Budget:</p> <p>The cost of making the Order is estimated at £6600 inclusive of advertising charges. Iwerne Minster Parish Council have committed and secured the required funds for this Traffic Regulation Order.</p> <hr/> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p>
Other Implications	None
Recommendation	That having considered the objections received, Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposed community funded 20mph zone for Iwerne Minster.
Reason for Recommendation	<p>The proposals will regulate or reduce the speed of vehicles to a level which drivers can readily meet the general hazards which may be expected on this road. Also, to fulfil our obligation to review speed limits in light of changes in DFT (Department for Transport) guidance “Setting local speed limits”.</p> <p>The Dorset 20mph Speed Limit Policy was approved by the Environment Overview Committee in January 2014. This allows Parish Councils to fund 20mph speed limits and 20mph zones subject to meeting the criteria laid out in the County Council’s speed limit policy.</p>
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Location plan of the proposed speed 20mph zone in Iwerne Minster.
Background Papers	<p>The letters of response are available in the Members Room prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Consultation responses from the District and Parish Councils, Dorset Police and the local County Councillors are held on file in the Environment and the Economy Directorate.</p>

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1 Background

- 1.1 Iwerne Minster Parish Council have campaigned for 20mph speed limit in Iwerne Minster for a number of years. Tower Hill and Higher Street areas were of particular concern as to the safety of both residents and also pupils of Clayesmore School walking to and from their accommodation in the village, the Clayesmore Arts Centre and the main school premises to the west of the A350.

Higher Street does not have a pavement and Tower Hill only has a short pavement. A map showing the extent of the 20mph zone can be found at Appendix 1.

Iwerne Minster Parish Council have established a Community Speed Watch Team which have monitored 460 hours, seeing 43878 vehicles of which 1231 had been reported for speeds in excess of 36mph.

- 1.2 A petition requesting that the speed limit be reduced to 20mph in Iwerne Minster was submitted to the County Council by Iwerne Minster Parish Council. This was discussed at Regulatory Committee on 12 March 2015.

Regulatory Committee agreed that further investigation should be undertaken between Officers and the Parish Council. These investigations revealed that basic criteria for a 20mph zone were met but that County Council funding of such a scheme would not be justifiable against other priority schemes.

Investigations included site visits, traffic flow and speed surveys.

Iwerne Minster Parish Council agreed to raise funds to cover the cost of a 20mph zone and it was agreed by officers to proceed with the proposal as a community funded scheme.

The Dorset 20mph Speed Limit Policy was approved by the Environment Overview Committee on 23 January 2014. This allows Parish Councils to fund such speed limits and zones subject to meeting the criteria laid out in the policy.

Iwerne Minster Parish Council have committed funding for this proposed 20mph zone and have secured a financial commitment from Clayesmore School to contribute to the costs.

- 1.3 When the proposals were advertised four letters of support and four objections were received.

2 Information

- 2.1 The existing speed limit for the stretch of road in question is 30mph. County Council officers propose that a 20mph speed limit should be applied to the roads in Iwerne Minster, as shown in drawing in Appendix 1.

- 2.2 Officers have concluded that the use, length and layout of the roads meets with Department for Transport guidance adopted by the County Council as Policy for a 20mph zone.

3 Law

- 3.1 Section 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allow the County Council to make an Order prohibiting the driving of motor vehicles on the road(s) at a speed exceeding that specified in the order.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 After conducting further investigation at the request of Regulatory Committee, Officers were satisfied that the basic criteria for a 20mph zone were met. However, the proposal did not rank highly against other priorities and therefore County Council funding could not be justified.
- 4.2 Iwerne Minster Parish Council subsequently agreed and committed to raise the required funds for a 20mph zone to be installed.
- 4.3 Under Dorset County Council's procedure, primary consultation was carried out on the proposed scheme and support was received from the Local Member, the District Council, Iwerne Minster Parish Council and Dorset Police. The proposal was then advertised and four letters of support and four objections were received.

5 Objections received

- 5.1 The main points of the objections received were as follows – “money would be better spent on priority signage, speed bumps or double yellow lines. Speed is not the main issue; lack of anticipation and courtesy are the main problems so it would be cheaper and more effective if priority signs were installed at appropriate places in the village and ultimately Parish council funds should not have to be used to pay for this”.
- 5.2 The main points of the letters of support were as follows – “The proposal is sensible with such narrow roads and very limited footways and will provide a safer environment for the community to walk about within the village”.
- 5.3 It is important to note that members of Regulatory Committee are to make a decision on whether this community funded scheme should proceed. Regulatory Committee are not to decide on how Iwerne Minster Parish Council spends its funds; this decision has already been made by Iwerne Minster Parish Council.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Department for Transport stated in their circular 01/2013 “Setting local speed limits”, the following; “There is clear evidence of the effect of reducing traffic speeds on the reduction of collisions and casualties, as collision frequency is lower at lower speeds and where collisions do occur, there is a lower risk of fatal injury at lower speeds”.
- 6.2 Therefore, while we cannot say 100% that the road in question will be safer, it would be reasonable to suggest that there is the evidence to indicate that it could be if a 20mph zone were introduced. Within the roads in question there are multiple accesses and school sites which officers feel would benefit from a reduced speed limit.
- 6.3 Having considered the objections, officers propose that the Regulatory Committee recommend that Cabinet approve the proposal for a community funded 20mph zone in Iwerne Minster.

Andrew Martin

Service Director Highways January 2018

