

Agenda Item:

Regulatory Committee



Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	6 April 2017
<p><u>Local Members:</u> Cllr David Mannings Member for Lodmoor Cllr Andrew Canning Member for Linden Lea</p> <p><u>Lead Officer</u> Jon Lake, Senior Technical Officer, Collision Reduction Team, Dorset Highways</p>	
Subject of Report	Proposed Speed Limit Reduction A353 White Horse Hill
Executive Summary	Following the primary consultation to proceed to the advert stage for the proposed change to the speed limit on the A353 at White Horse Hill support was received from the Local County Councillors, The Local Parish Council and The Police. An objection was received from The District Council. This report considers the objection, and whether the proposed change should be advertised.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment:
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>Site investigations, primary consultation and support of Local Members, Parish Council and the Police.</p>
	<p>Budget:</p> <p>The cost of making the Order is estimated at £2,750 inclusive of advertising charges.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the</p>

	County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW
Other Implications	None
Recommendation	That having considered the objection received, Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposed new speed limit for the A352 to proceed to the public consultation advert stage.
Reason for Recommendation	The proposals will regulate or reduce the speed of vehicles to a level which drivers can readily meet the general dangers which may be expected on this road.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Location plan of the proposed speed reduction from 60mph to 40mph
Background Papers	The letters of response are available in the Members Room prior to the meeting or in the Collision Team Office 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.
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Jon Lake Senior Technical Officer, Collision Reduction Team, Dorset Highways Tel: 01305 225120 Email: j.c.lake@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1 Background

- 1.1 The stretch of road at White Horse Hill currently has a speed limit of 60mph between the 30mph speed limits in Preston and Osmington. The section of road has entrances to three farms (Northdown, White Horse and Eweleaze) and three businesses (White Horse Holiday Park, Top Gear Garage and the adjacent car sales operation). In the summer holiday season both Eweleaze and White Horse farms operate successful and very busy camp sites and during this period there is an increase in the traffic accessing these sites. There have been a number of injury collisions on this route.
- 1.2 Proposals were sent to the primary consultees for consultation so that we could proceed to the public advert stage. An objection was received from the District Council. A meeting was set up with Officers, the two local County Councillors and the District Council to discuss the proposal and try and get the objection withdrawn. Following the meeting the District Council did not withdraw their objection.

2 Information

- 2.1 The existing speed limit for the stretch of road in question is 60mph. County Council officers propose that a 40mph speed limit should be applied to the stretch of road, as shown in drawing in Appendix 1. The length of the 40mph limit would be approximately 0.7 of a mile.
- 2.2 It felt that the use, length and layout of this section of the A353 meets with Department for Transport guidance adopted by the County Council as Policy for a 40mph speed limit.
- 2.3 Speed survey data has been reviewed and the mean average and 85thile speeds recorded were close to what would be considered reasonable for the speed limit to be reduced to 40mph limit.

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 Under Dorset County Council's procedure, primary consultation was carried out on the proposed scheme and an objection was received from the District Council.

5 Comments on Objection

- 5.1 The main objection by the District Council is that there seems to be no logic to the proposal and the money would be better used to produce a footpath away from the traffic. However, none of the recorded collisions here have involved pedestrians so a footpath would not help in reducing the speeds of vehicles.
- 5.2 The DFT stated in their circular 01/2013 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."

5.3 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 will be. Within the stretch of road in question there are farms and businesses which the County Council feel would benefit from a reduced speed limit.

6 Conclusion

6.1 Having considered the objection it is proposed that the Regulatory Committee recommend that Cabinet approve the proposal to proceed to the public consultation advert stage.

Andrew Martin

Service Director Highways April 2017

