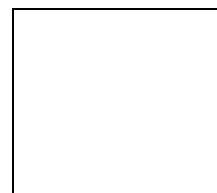


Agenda Item:

Regulatory Committee



Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	18 th October 2018
Officer	Andrew Martin – Service Director Highways and Emergency Planning
Subject of Report	Proposed speed limit reduction on part of Preston Road, Weymouth
Executive Summary	Following the advertisement of a proposed reduction of the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph on part of Preston Road, an objection has been received to the proposals. This report considers the objection, and whether the proposals in Preston Road should be implemented as advertised.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: No impacts.
	Use of Evidence: Site investigations, public consultation and support of Local Member, Town and District Councils and the Police.
	Budget: The cost of making the Order is estimated at £2500 inclusive of advertising charges.
	Risk Assessment: 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

Proposed Speed Limit Reduction, Preston Road, Weymouth

Recommendation	That having considered the objection received, it is recommended that the Committee approves the proposed reduction of the speed limit on part of Preston Road as originally advertised.
Reason for Recommendation	The recommendation is in line with County policy for speed limits which itself was adopted from Department for Transport guidance. In addition there have been a number of collisions on this section of road in recent years which have resulted in two serious injuries and one fatality. The proposal will create an environment which will contribute towards a lowering of speed-related collisions.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Drawing No. 2273/2/11-02
Background Papers	The file Consultation responses from the District and Town Councils, Dorset Police and the local County Councillor are held on file in the Environment and the Economy Directorate.
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Jessica Cutler Tel: 01305 225719 Email: Jessica.cutler@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Proposed Speed Limit Reduction, Preston Road, Weymouth

1. Background

- 1.1 Proposals were advertised for public consultation on 15 March 2018 to lower the speed limit on part of Preston Road in Weymouth from 50mph to 40mph. We received one letter of support and one objection to the proposal and this report considers that outstanding objection.
- 1.2 Preston Road is located to north east side of Weymouth. The part of the road in question runs between Melcome Regis and Overcombe and fronts onto the beach. Due to the urban nature of the area the speed limits at each end of road are 30mph whilst the central section is subject to a 50mph speed limit. The 50mph limit was introduced in 1990. The road consists of a single carriageway in each direction and is urban in nature.
- 1.3 There is no set frequency to reviewing speed limits but concerns raised by members and residents prompted a review in this instance. The review included analysis of collisions on this stretch of road, analysis of data relating to existing speeds, taking the speed limits on adjacent sections of Preston Road into account and the County's policy on setting speed limits. This policy itself adopts national guidance published by the Department for Transport.

2. Information

- 2.1 The review concluded that it would be appropriate to lower the 50mph section of Preston Road to 40mph.
- 2.2 When the 50mph speed limit was introduced in 1990 it was considered to be appropriate for the local area. Since then, Department for Transport guidance – and therefore County policy – has changed.
- 2.3 Department for Transport Guidance now states that 50mph limits within urban areas are appropriate on dual carriageways, ring or radial routes or bypasses which have become partially built up, with little or no roadside development.
- 2.4 The same guidance also states that 40mph speed limits in urban areas are appropriate: on higher quality suburban roads or those on the outskirts of urban areas where there is little development and with few cyclists, pedestrians or equestrians; on roads with good width and layout, parking and waiting restrictions in operation and where buildings are set back from the road; on roads that - where possible – cater for the needs of non-motorised users through segregation of road space and which have adequate footways and crossing places.
- 2.5 In the most recent three-year period for which data is available, there were four road traffic collisions on this section of Preston Road. The collisions resulted in nine casualties. Two of those were fatal and a further five were serious.
- 2.6 When the Police record details of road traffic collisions, they identify those factors which the officers believe contributed to the collision. Exceeding the speed limit was recorded as a contributory factor twice in the collisions on Preston Road.
- 2.7 85th percentile speeds (the speed 85% of vehicles were not exceeding) on this section of Preston Road are recorded by the County Council annually. These have been between 46.7mph and 47.2mph since 2012. In 2018 the recorded 85th percentile speed was 47.2mph.

Proposed Speed Limit Reduction, Preston Road, Weymouth

2.8 Average speeds on this section of Preston Road are also recorded by the County Council annually. These have been between 40.1mph and 41.1mph since 2012. In 2018 the recorded average speed was 41.1mph.

2.9 The data indicates that average speeds on this section of road are already close to 40mph. This suggests that a combination of factors (including but not limited to the nature of the urban environment, visibility, the volume of traffic, the presence of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists) already present motorists with sufficient reasons to choose – on average - to drive at speeds lower than the existing speed limit. The proposed lower speed limit would, therefore, seek to formalise the behaviour of the average motorist.

3. Law

3.1 Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) allows the County Council to make an Order prohibiting vehicles from driving at a speed in excess of a limit imposed by that Order.

4. Consultation

4.1 Under Dorset County Council's procedure, primary consultation was carried out on the proposed scheme and is supported by the Local Member, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and the Police.

4.2 There was one letter of support to the public consultation process for this Order. This has been summarised below:-

Name and Address	Summary of Response
Resident Preston Road Weymouth	Husband died from motorcyclist driving dangerously along Preston Road in 2015. Preston Road is very busy and reducing the speed limit should make the crossings safer.

4.3 There was one objection to the public consultation process for this Order and this remains outstanding. The outstanding objection is summarised below:-

Name and Address	Summary of Response
Resident Bridge Inn Lane Weymouth	The proposal looks arbitrary. Concerned that the evidence to support the change was not presented. Cars are safer than ever.

4.4 The resident who objected lives nearby and wrote to the County Council in March 2018 to object to the proposal.

4.5 The initial objection was because they felt that the County Council's reasons for making the proposal were not sufficiently specific. They went on to highlight that – in

Proposed Speed Limit Reduction, Preston Road, Weymouth

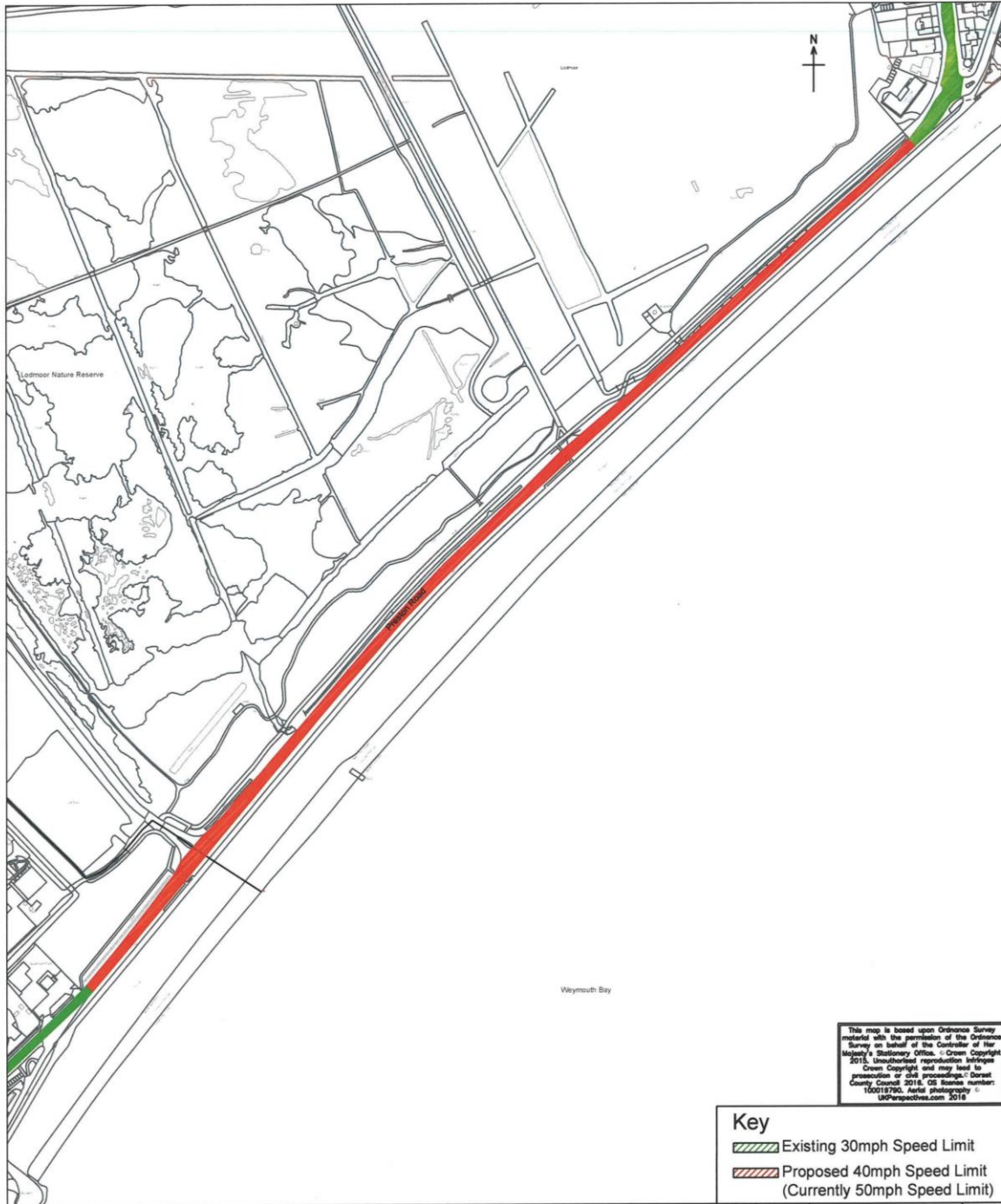
their view and experience – drivers using this section of Preston Road were in full control of their vehicles.

- 4.6 A response to the objector's original objection – which explained the reasons for the proposed changes – was sent in April 2018. This set out the County Council's policy and highlighted the number of collisions and severity of associated injuries on this section of Preston Road.
- 4.7 The objector responded to confirm that they would not remove their objections due to ongoing concerns about evidence that the change would be justified.
- 4.8 Having carefully considered the objection received, it is recommended that the current proposals should be progressed and that the objector is informed of this decision.

Andrew Martin

Service Director Highways and Emergency Planning

August 2018



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Key	
	Existing 30mph Speed Limit
	Proposed 40mph Speed Limit (Currently 50mph Speed Limit)

<p>Dorset County Council ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY DIRECTORATE Mike Horries Director for Environment and the Economy</p>	Project Title The County of Dorset Preston Road, Weymouth		Orig 21 Sep 18 Rev Date Issue / Remarks Checked - OGL
	Drawing Title Proposed Speed Limit Alterations		
<p>DORSET HIGHWAYS Andrew Martin Head of Dorset Highways</p>	Scale (A4 Size) 1:5000	Drawn SYL	Date 21 Sep 2018
	Drawing Number 2273/2/11		Drawing Status -