

Agenda Item:

Regulatory Committee

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Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	29 January 2015
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions - Petition to Reduce the Speed Limit beyond the Elworth Junction from Portesham on B3157
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council's published petitions scheme) in relation to Reducing the Speed Limit beyond the Elworth Junction from Portesham on B3157.</p> <p>The Scheme states that If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee.</p> <p>It is for the Committee to decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.</p>
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not required
	Use of Evidence: Not required
	Budget/ Risk Assessment: If taken forward in the traffic management programme to implement the new speed limit would cost in the region of £5000, which includes signs, adverts and staff time.
Recommendation	The Committee is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.

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Reason for recommendation	In order to comply with the County Council's published scheme for responding to petitions and so as to enable local people to connect with local elected decision makers.
Appendices	Portesham - Location Plan A Portesham - Location Plan B
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme Dorset County Council Speed Limit Policy Document
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Andrew Brown Tel: 01305 225142 Email: a.brown@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. **Background to the Petition Scheme**

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme (based on the national model) was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

2. **Petition – Petition to Reduce the Speed Limit beyond the Elworth Junction from Portesham on B3157**

- 2.1 The County Council received a petition on 9 December 2014 organised by The Recreation Working Group approved by Chesil Bank Parish Council. This reads as follows:-

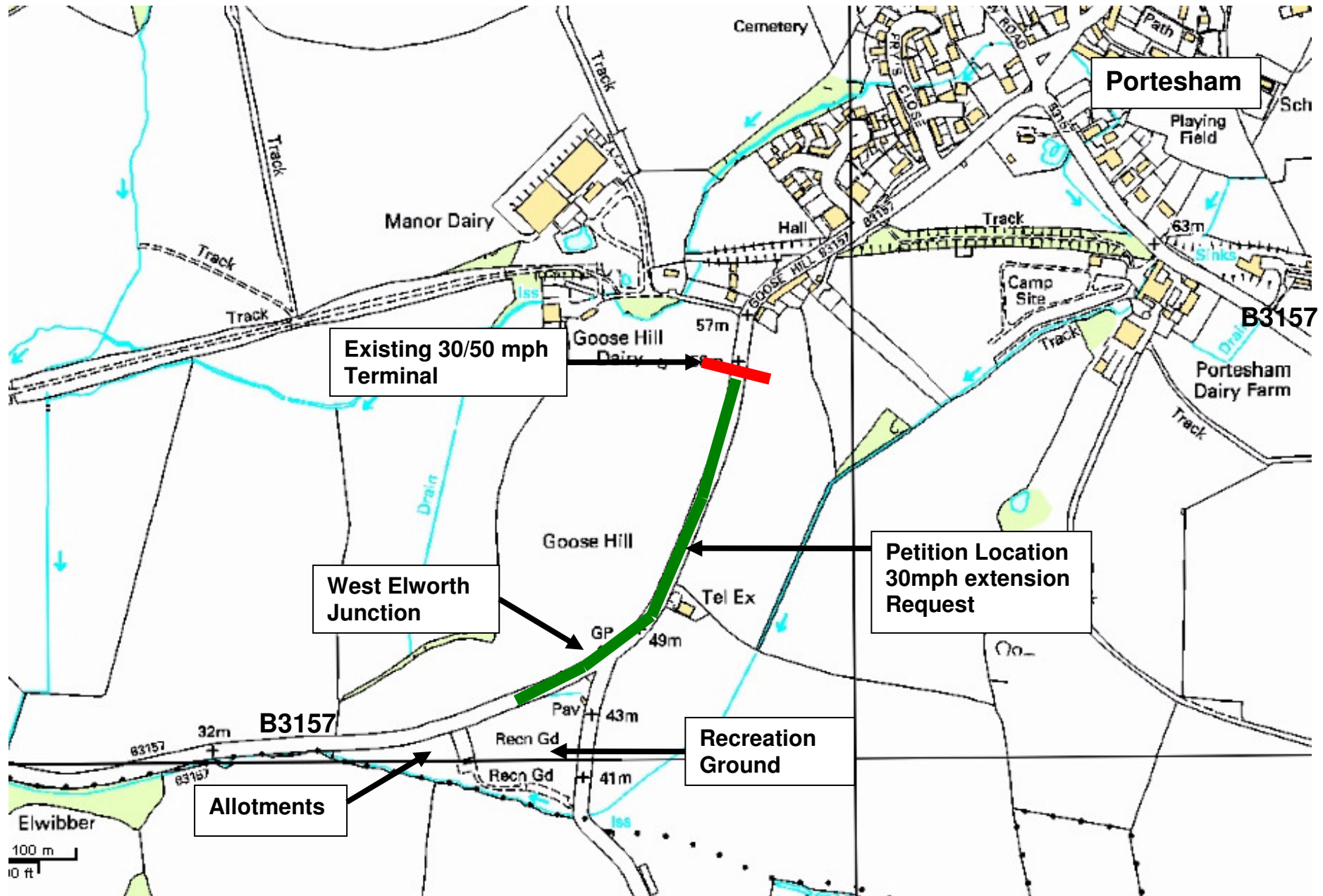
'This petition is about the safety of the B3157 for all road users from the village of Portesham to beyond the entrance to the Playing field/Allotments at West Elworth and asks Dorset County Council to extend the 30mph speed limit past the West Elworth Junction towards Abbotsbury. There is currently no safe access on the B3157 from Portesham to the Playing field to use the Tennis Court, Playing field and Allotments facilities. This junction is a renowned accident black spot and by reducing the speeds to after the junction this will reduce the risk when leaving and entering the road. The recreation group have held two Fetes at the Playing field site now and it poses a risk when pedestrians walk along the verge and meet vehicles which are travelling at 50mph around the bend. We have requested a footway from the Village but the costs are in excess of £200,000.00 and the DCC do not currently have the budget for this so we feel that in the meantime a reduction of speed would go some way to assisting with the safety of all the Playing field users and those using the West Elworth Junction.'


- 2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Committee are invited to note and discuss this.
- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include:
- taking the action requested in the petition
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - holding a meeting with petitioners
 - referring the petition for consideration by the council's audit and scrutiny committee
 - calling a referendum
 - writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition

3. **Context**

- 3.1 The petition contains 50 signatures. All signatories live in the Chesil Bank Parish Council area, which includes the villages of Portesham, Abbotsbury and Langton Herring. The request is also supported by Chesil Bank Parish Council.
- 3.2 The section of B3157 that the petition refers to would extend the existing 30mph speed limit in Portesham village by approximately 440 metres in a westerly direction towards Abbotsbury. The existing speed limit is 50mph and came in to operation on 4 October 2002.
- 3.3 The requested length of road covers a section where there is no frontage development. There is a BT telephone Exchange near the West Elworth Junction and a recreation ground and allotments adjacent to the junction. The current 30mph speed limit begins at the most practicable and obvious location at the start of the village development.
- 3.4 The Dorset Speed Limit Policy which is based on national policy states the following for village 30mph Speed limit:
- 30mph limits are not permitted on country lanes or for covering potential hazards such as bends or “T” junctions outside villages and towns
 - Terminal signs will be positioned as close as practicable to the start of visual development.
- 3.5 The latest available 5 year accident record (01/11/09 to 30/10/14) shows that there has been 1 Serious and 1 Slight accident, both of which were at the West Elworth Junction. These were in November 2009 and January 2011, since which time the carriageway has been re-profiled and resurfaced with the addition of coloured strips and SLOW markings in advance of the junction to further highlight this location.
- 3.6 There are no traffic or speed surveys available for this location.
- 3.7 Following a request from Chesil Bank Parish Council to the Transport Planning Team for a footway from the western end of Portesham to the Recreation Ground, a pre feasibility study was carried out in July 2014 to look at options and the viability and cost of such a footpath.
- The study showed that a footway would cost in the region of £200,000 which includes land requirements from adjoining landowners. When prioritised this request did not rank high enough for future funding in the Local Transport Plan to be taken forward.
- 3.7 If the Committee is minded to resolve that this petition request be taken forward, the site and suitability of the request should be assessed and prioritised against other proposals to establish if it is appropriate and meets criteria.

Andrew Martin
Head of Highways
January 2015



<p>Dorset County Council </p>	<p align="center">The County of Dorset Portesham - Location Plan B</p>			<p align="right">Mike Harries Director County Hall Dorchester DT1 1XJ</p>	
<p>Environment and the Economy Directorate</p>	<p align="center">Scale Not to Scale</p>	<p align="center">Date 7 January 2015</p>	<p align="center">Drawn by AJB</p>	<p align="center"><small>Reproduced from the 2002 Ordnance Survey 1:1250/1:2500 scale Land Line maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. Dorset C.C., County Hall, Dorchester, Licence No. LA076570</small></p>	<p align="center">Drawing No.</p>