

Agenda Item:

Regulatory Committee

11

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	12 March 2015
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions - Petition requesting the imposition of a 20 mph speed limit in Iwerne Minster
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council's published petitions scheme) requesting the imposition of a 20 mph speed limit in Iwerne Minster</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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location Plan A• 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 requesting the imposition of a 20 mph speed limit in Iwerne Minster**

- 2.1 The County Council received a petition on 10 February 2015 organised and approved by Iwerne Minster Parish Council. This reads as follows:-

“For some years the residents of Iwerne Minster have been particularly concerned about speeds, both along the A350 and down Tower Hill and Higher Street which joins the C13 to the A350. The Tower Hill and Higher St areas were of particular concern as to the safety of both residents and also pupils of Clayesmore School coming and going to and from their houses in the village, the Art Centre and the main school premises to the West of the A350.

To this end, a small group of villagers started a "20 is plenty in Iwerne Minster" campaign by monitoring speeds and driver behaviour, and encouraging drivers to slow down, in conjunction with the Police.

This resulted in a regular campaign of "20 is plenty" signs being displayed in the area. In November 2013 following discussion with Martyn Underhill, PCC for Dorset, plans were made to set up a Community Speed Watch in the village, funded by the Parish Council and this was launched in April 2014. The team consists of 14 members and they have monitored for 460 man hours, seeing 43878 vehicles, of which 1231 have been reported for speeds in excess of 36 mph, with speeds varying from 36 to 71 mph in the 30 mph limit.

In September 2014 a survey was undertaken by the Parish Council to ascertain the level of support for a 20mph limit on Tower Hill and Higher Street which resulted in a 100% "yes" vote in favour of a 20 mph limit from those residents present, excluding the 3 properties then unoccupied and 1 that did not respond (89% if they are included).

Iwerne Minster Parish Council together with local County Councillor Deborah Crouney and members of the Iwerne Minster Community Speed watch team present these results to County Councillor Peter Finney, PCC Martyn Underhill and MP Robert Walter to request support for the application that will be made for the limit to be reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph in the area surveyed.”

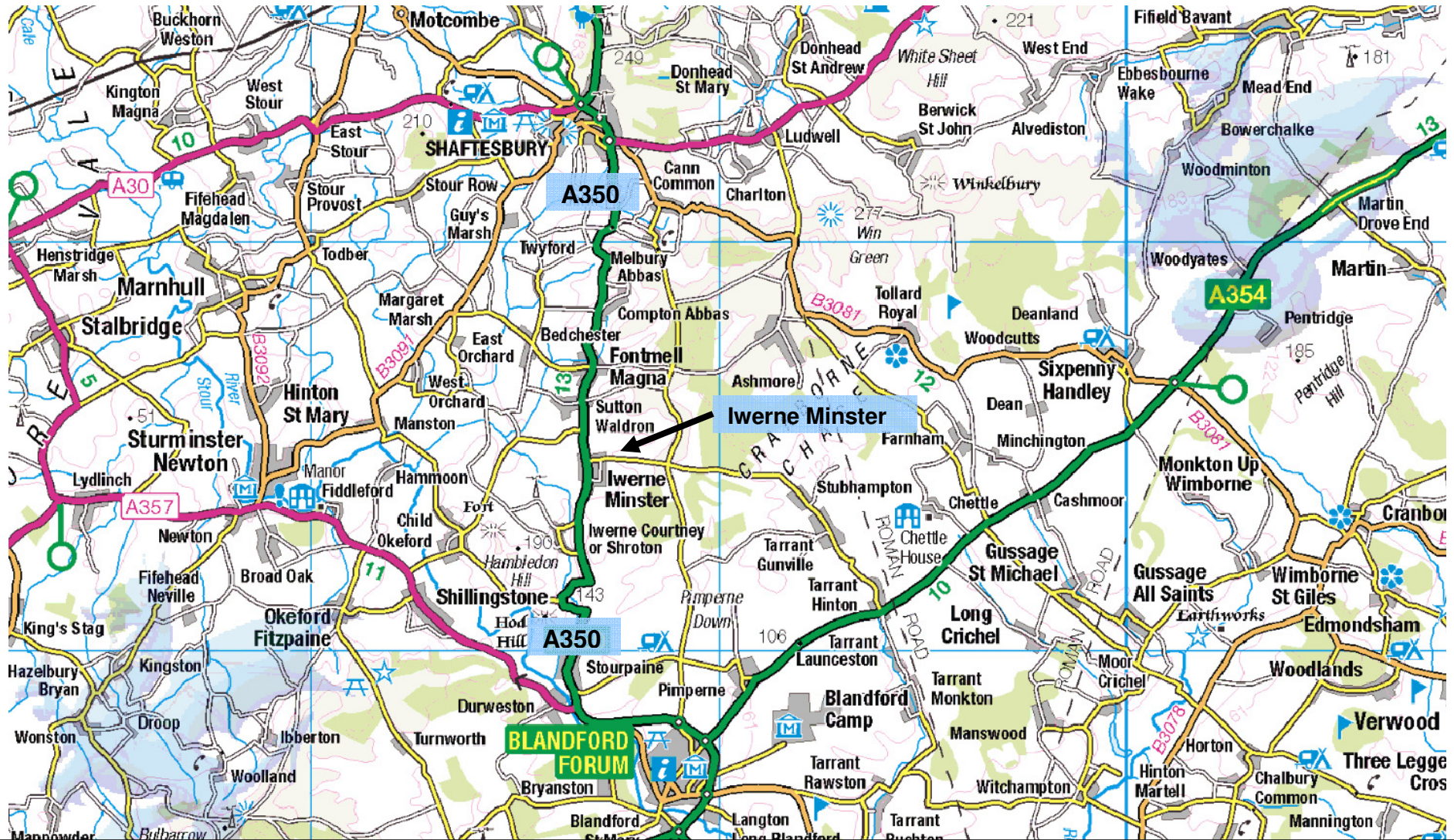
- 2.2 As this petition now contains more than 50 signatures, the Committee are invited to note and discuss this.
- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include:


- 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

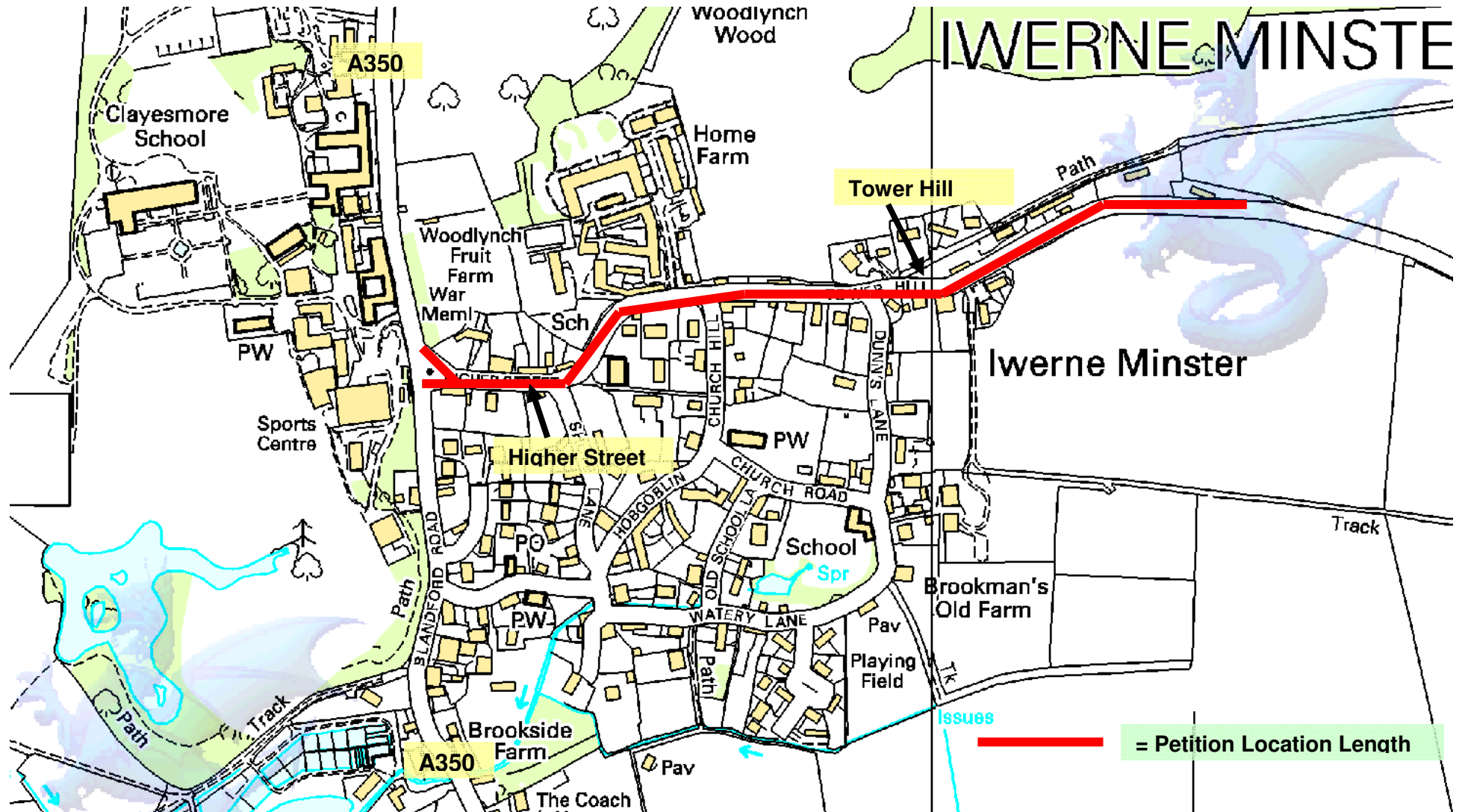
3. **Context**


- 3.1 The petition contains 56 signatures. All signatories live in Iwerne Minster and predominantly either in Higher Street or Tower Hill. The request emanates from Iwerne Minster Parish Council and is supported by local County Councillor, Deborah Croney.
- 3.2 Higher Street and Tower Hill is a 'C' Class Road in the village of Iwerne Minster that leads between the A350 and C13 Higher Shaftesbury Road.
- 3.3 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.
- If a scheme request is not taken forward under the 20mph policy as above, a request would usually be assessed, prioritised against criteria and future funds. However it must be borne in mind that currently there are in the region of 40 requests, with only 2 or 3 being taken forward in each financial year due to reduced budgets.
- 3.4 There have been no reported personal injury accidents in the latest available 5 year period (01/12/2009 to 30/11/2014) along Higher Street or Tower Hill.
- 3.5 There are currently no traffic or speed counts for this location
- 3.6 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
February 2015



<p>Dorset County Council </p>	<p>The County of Dorset Iwerne Minster - Location Plan A</p>			<p>Mike Harries Director County Hall Dorchester DT1 1XJ</p>	
<p>Environment and the Economy Directorate</p>	<p>Scale Not to Scale</p>	<p>Date 26 February 2015</p>	<p>Drawn by AJB</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Drawing No.</p>



<p>Dorset County Council </p>	<p align="center">The County of Dorset Iwerne Minster (Higher Street and Tower Hill) - 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 26 February 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>