

Agenda Item:

Regulatory Committee

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Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	11 June 2015
Officer	Andrew Martin - Head of Highways
Subject of Report	Proposed 30mph Speed Limit on the A351 in Harman’s Cross
Executive Summary	Following the advertising of proposed changes to the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph in Harman’s Cross objections have been received to the proposals. This report considers those objections, and whether the proposals should be implemented as advertised.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment:
	Use of Evidence: Site investigations, public consultation and support of Parish and District Councils and the Police.
	Budget: The cost of making the Order is estimated at £5000 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

Recommendation	That having considered the objections received, the Cabinet is recommended to approve the proposed 30mph speed limit in Harman’s Cross as originally advertised.
Reason for Recommendation	The proposals will improve the safety of the residents of the village providing an improved environment for those who live there.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Location Plan Appendix 2 – Drawing No. 2265/2/4, Plan of A351 Harman’s Cross, 30mph Proposals
Background Papers	Consultation response letters are available in the Members Room. Consultation responses from the District and Parish Councils, Dorset Police and the local County Councillor are held on file in the Environment and the Economy Directorate. Dorset County Council Speed Limit Criteria (available online on Dorset for You)
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1. Background

- 1.1 Proposals were advertised for public consultation on 19 February 2015 for a change in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the A351 in the village of Harman’s Cross. There were a number of objections received to the proposal in addition to comments received in support. This report considers those objections.
- 1.2 The A351 is the primary route between Swanage and Wareham and has a traffic flow in the region of 7000 vehicles per day. The current speed limit is 40mph.
- 1.3 The village of Harman’s Cross is in Worth Matravers Parish Council with a small section at the eastern end in Langton Matravers Parish. There has been a long standing request from Worth Matravers Parish Council to install a 30mph speed limit in the village on the A351, Valley Road.

2. Information

- 2.1 The advertised proposed 30mph speed limit has been a long-standing request from Worth Matravers Parish Council. The request has been investigated and prioritised with funds set aside in the Capital TRO programme budget for potential implementation subject to consultation and committee.
- 2.2 Department for Transport Circular 01/13, Setting Local Speed Limits 2013, sets out guidance for Village Speed Limits and states the following:
‘Fear of traffic can affect people’s quality of life in villages and it is self-evident that villages should have comparable speed limits to similar roads in urban areas. It is therefore government policy that a 30 mph speed limit should be the norm through villages’.
- 2.3 The latest available 5 year accident record (Feb 2010 to Jan 2015) shows that there have been 4 reported injury accidents in the village, 1 of which was serious, 3 of which were slight.
- 2.4 A Traffic Flow and Speed Survey was carried out from 22 November 2013 to 28 November 2013 (inclusive of both dates). The following table shows the daily average traffic flow figures and mean speeds recorded:

	Traffic Flow	Mean Speed (mph)
Eastbound	3408	33.7
Westbound	3310	37.2
Combined	6718	35.4

The combined mean speeds are just over the expected 34mph mean speed for introducing a 30mph, however the criteria is met in the eastbound direction. Improved signing and lining will need to be implemented the proposed 30mph.

- 2.5 The Dorset speed limit criteria requires a minimum length of 600m for 30mph speed limit with a minimum of 20 properties along that stretch of road. This criteria is met as the length in question is 2500m in length and there are 52 properties that front the A351, albeit that the majority have driveways in to these properties.
- 2.6 The A351 through Harman’s Cross has 2 garages which also have small convenience shops that are regularly used by locals.

There are numerous sections of footway along the length of the village however these are not continuous on one side but change from the north side to south side at various points.

There are a series of bends and dips through the village with some sections of double white centre lines preventing overtaking.

In the village there are 4 Bus Stops in each direction. These are used by school children and students to attend schools in Wareham and Swanage.

- 2.8 Improved lining and signing at the gateways and along the length of the proposed 30mph will be put in place if the scheme is approved. Repeater signs will be required and used in accordance with the ‘Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002’. Painted roundels will also be incorporated into the scheme at the start of the limit and at various locations along the route.

3. **Law**

- 3.1 Sections 84(1) and (2) and 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 enable Dorset County Council to make an order restricting the speed of motor vehicles on a road subject to notice and consultation requirements.

4. **Consultation**

- 4.1 Under Dorset County Council’s procedure, primary consultation was carried out on the proposed scheme and is supported by Worth Matravers Parish Council, Langton Matravers Parish Council, Purbeck District Council and Dorset Police. The Local County Councillor gave approval for the proposals to be advertised.
- 4.2 There have been 92 responses to the public consultation process, which are summarised below.

There are 57 people that support the proposal although these are from 40 different addresses. 50 of the supporters live in Harman’s Cross and 7 supporters live outside Harman’s Cross.

There are 35 objections to the proposals. 3 of which live in Harman’s Cross, 26 live outside of Harman’s Cross and 6 of which are address unknown.

4.3 Support – Common Themes

- Residents have to cross road without clear view of what is coming
- Bends and dips in the road make it difficult for some to gain access to village facilities
- Cars exceed existing speed limit
- Needs lowering for safety of pedestrians
- road only has narrow sections of pavement, not continuous and only on one side of the road
- Drivers leaving road side properties have their vision of on-coming traffic limited by blind bends and brows
- Several accidents along this stretch of road due to drivers going too fast
- Extremely hazardous stretch of road
- Reduction in speed limit might help to reduce the traffic noise
- Would be much easier to pull out of properties if cars were travelling at 30mph
- Very busy road

- Residents would be grateful for the 30mph to make life less dangerous and more sustainable
- Paramount that the speed limit is reduced
- Few villages in Dorset without a 30mph speed limit
- 40mph is too fast for this road

4.4 Objections – Common Themes

- Stretch of road in question has adequate double and single white lines
- Reducing the speed limit would create 'nanny state'
- Drivers should be taught and learn to think for themselves
- Persistent and reckless drivers will not be deterred by any speed limit and will continue to ignore them
- The ordinary motorist will be frustrated by slow limit along a stretch of 'A' class road where visibility is quite adequate
- Drivers concentration will waver as they will constantly be watching their speed to make sure they don't go over the limit
- There has only been occasional accident, which were nothing to do with speed, but mostly snow and ice which a low speed limit would do nothing to protect against
- On this bit of road there is plenty of visibility to enable pedestrians to judge speed of cars and the safe gaps to cross
- Unnecessary speed limit for road in question
- Wide road with no houses fronting immediately onto the road and there are no schools or public meeting places along the road
- All junctions are visible as you approach and well signposted
- 40mph is perfectly adequate for this stretch of road
- Any reduction in speed limit will just mean people will take more chances overtaking
- Don't see many drivers exiting from any of the side roads

4.5 Summary of Support and Objections received.

Name	Address	Object/Support	Reasons for objection/support
Mrs E Hill	Harman's Cross Resident	Support	Residents have to cross road without clear view of traffic. Bends and dips in road make it difficult for some to gain access to village facilities.
Mr M Hill	Harman's Cross Resident	Support	Residents have to cross road without clear view of traffic. Bends and dips in road make it difficult for some to gain access to village facilities.
Julie Seidel	Harman's Cross Resident	Support	Road through village not straight, has inclines, as a result cannot see very far when crossing road or pulling out of crossroads. Cars exceed existing speed limit, take your life into your own hands. Needs lowering for the safety of pedestrians.

Mr B Seidel	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Never crossed the road at the crossroads for fear of being knocked down by speeding cars. Visibility of cars approaching from Swanage is limited due to brow of hill Essential lower speed limit is introduced to make it safe for all road users of all ages.
Sylvester Smith	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Road only has narrow sections of pavement, not continuous and only on one side, have to switch sides frequently. Road has several blind bends and brows. Drivers leaving roadside properties have their vision of on-coming traffic limited by blind bends and brows. Change to 30mph is a necessary first step for removal of a significant risk to the population of Harman’s Cross and the users of the A351.
Brian Rowlatt	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Due to the winding nature of the A351 many residents have poor sight lines when leaving their properties. The arrangement of the pavements mean most of us have to cross the road to get to the facilities, people struggle to cross the road, village of many ages Also wants the A351 resurfaced with sound reduction tarmac to help reduce the noise and improve the quality of life for the residents.
Yvette Rowlatt	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Due to the winding nature of the A351 many residents have poor sight lines when leaving their properties. The arrangement of the pavements mean most of us have to cross the road to get to the facilities, people struggle to cross the road, village of many ages. Also wants the A351 resurfaced with sound reduction tarmac to help reduce the noise and improve the quality of life for the residents.
E W Coburn	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Son had been seriously injured when hit by a car near Silver Mist. A car totally out of control narrowly missed a telegraph pole and finished in a garden to the entrance of South Instow. A near neighbour was walking with her children along path from South Instow when a car mounted the pavement and narrowly avoided them.
Sylvia Coburn	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Son had been seriously injured when hit by a car near Silver Mist. A car totally out of control narrowly missed a telegraph pole and finished in a garden to the entrance of South Instow. A near neighbour was walking with her children along path from South Instow when a car mounted the pavement and narrowly avoided them.

Margaret Woolford	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Consider this stretch of road to be extremely hazardous, particularly in view of the fact that we have no complete footpath along it.</p> <p>Can be very daunting trying to get to any for the village facilities, particularly for the elderly, disabled or anyone with young children pushing a pram/pushchair.</p> <p>In some places the lack of pavement can mean a trip to the shop can involve crossing the road several times.</p> <p>Road has numerous bends and dips and there is no safe place to cross.</p> <p>Footpaths that they do have are very narrow and is quite unnerving, especially when lorries thunder past at speeds in excess of 40mph.</p> <p>Hopefully a reduction in speed might help to reduce the traffic noise both inside and outside home.</p>
R J Woolford	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Trying to pull out onto Valley Road from where I live is extremely hazardous, to the right there is a bend in the road and to the left there is a bend with a blind dip.</p> <p>Pulling out onto the A351 would be much easier if vehicles travelling along it were only doing 30mph.</p> <p>Road is not only hazardous for drivers but pedestrians too as there is no complete footpath through the village, pedestrians have to cross the road several times in order to get from one side of the village to the other, there is no safe crossing place.</p>
H A D Salter	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>The configuration of the highway means it is twisting and undulating giving rise to numerous stretches where visibility is a matter of ten yards.</p> <p>Lots of properties share the same exit on to the highway, but no road junction signs to warn of there existence at all.</p> <p>Crossroads in the middle of the village have a seriously obscured view of the approaching traffic from the east because of the hump in the road outside Moonfleet garage.</p> <p>Crossing the main road is not a comfortable process, especially for the elderly, because the visibility available gives them little time to get over the road; in places whether they want to or not they are focused to cross the road because of the absence of continuous pavements, there is no pedestrian crossing anywhere.</p>

Mrs J Salter	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>The configuration of the highway means it is twisting and undulating giving rise to numerous stretches where visibility is a matter of ten yards.</p> <p>Lots of properties share the same exit on to the highway, but no road junction signs to warn of their existence at all. Crossroads in the middle of the village have a seriously obscured view of the approaching traffic from the east because of the hump in the road outside Moonfleet garage.</p> <p>Crossing the main road is not a comfortable process, especially for the elderly, because the visibility available gives them little time to get over the road; in places where they want to or not they are focused to cross the road because of the absence of continuous pavements, there is no pedestrian crossing anywhere.</p>
Martin Howell	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Does not have a continuous pedestrian footpaths along both sides of this busy road, consequently people have to cross the road frequently, there are no traffic islands to assist with crossing and there are many elderly residents in the village. Due to the bends in the road, access from the many drives and turning on to Valley Road is very difficult and hazardous due to the speed of approaching traffic.</p>
Felicity Crawford	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Driveway from property directly joins A351 in a position of poor visibility in both directions, it is really dangerous when vehicles are travelling at 40mph or more.</p> <p>Find it extremely difficult in the mornings to access the A351 due to the speed of vehicles, due to limited visibility and speeds there is no margin for error when pulling out.</p>
Mrs Pamela Crawford	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Driveway from property directly joins A351 in a position of poor visibility in both directions, it is really dangerous when vehicles are travelling at 40mph or more.</p> <p>Find it extremely difficult in the mornings to access the A351 due to the speed of vehicles, due to limited visibility and speeds there is no margin for error when pulling out.</p>
F J Crawford	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Driveway from property directly joins A351 in a position of poor visibility in both directions, it is really dangerous when vehicles are travelling at 40mph or more.</p> <p>Find it extremely difficult in the mornings to access the A351 due to the speed of vehicles, due to limited visibility and speeds there is no margin for error when pulling out.</p>

<p>Mrs M Larthe de Langladure</p>	<p>Worth Matravers Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Busy road with continuous traffic through all day light hours. Is dangerous for local people to get to the shop, especially those that live on the opposite side of the road. Dangerous to get to the bus stops Residents would be grateful for the 30mph to make life less dangerous and more sustainable.</p>
<p>Richard Forgan</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Experience difficulty exiting property, frequently pull out with nothing coming and within seconds there is something on my tail, reducing it to 30mph would mean that traffic would be moving slower. Pedestrian access to the local shops is fraught with crossing a very busy road, especially in summer months. Vast range of residents from young children to the elderly, the volume and speed of traffic make crossing the road perilously difficult for all ages. There have been many accidents in the village where speed has been a factor. Would only take around 30seconds longer at 30 than 40, this is hardly an inconvenience, the benefits to improved health and safety for residents and drivers alike are immeasurable.</p>
<p>Sally Forgan</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Is an increasingly dangerous stretch of road, especially as traffic continues to increase and the village is constantly growing. There are some very difficult junctions when negotiating traffic at 40mph. It is always difficult to access the A351 and crossing it as a pedestrian is a nightmare. Would welcome a 30mph speed limit before a fatal crash happens, especially as there is no pavement on our side of the road. Paramount that the speed limit is reduced, lorries, coaches, vans, cars, motor bikes all speed if they can, in the last 12 months there have been several crashes in the village. People take there lives into their own hands when crossing the road as there is no pedestrian crossing and older people struggle to get across the road quick enough. All residents have great difficulty pulling out onto the main road and it is time the local and visiting traffic acknowledge and respect this need. Very few villages in Dorset, especially on such a busy tourist route that do not have a 30mph.</p>

<p>Mrs Judy Forgan</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Is an increasingly dangerous stretch of road, especially as traffic continues to increase and the village is constantly growing. There are some very difficult junctions when negotiating traffic at 40mph. It is always difficult to access the A351 and crossing it as a pedestrian is a nightmare. Would welcome a 30mph speed limit before a fatal crash happens, especially as there is no pavement on our side of the road. Paramount that the speed limit is reduced, lorries, coaches, vans, cars, motor bikes all speed if they can, in the last 12 months there have been several crashes in the village. People take there lives into their own hands when crossing the road as there is no pedestrian crossing and older people struggle to get across the road quick enough. All residents have great difficulty pulling out onto the main road and it is time the local and visiting traffic acknowledge and respect this need. Very few villages in Dorset, especially on such a busy tourist route that do not have a 30mph.</p>
<p>Dr KLM Forgan</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>This stretch of road has become increasingly dangerous as traffic continues to increase and the village is constantly growing. There are some very difficult junctions when negotiating traffic at 40mph. There have been several accidents at the crossroads in recent years. Busy garage and shop near a junction are particularly dangerous when traffic is going at 40mph. Need a 30mph limit before another fatal crash happens. Very frightening trying to cross this road at any time and also too worrying to use the pavements with traffic going past at 40mph. Had a pet killed soon after moving in and other families have lost pets because of the fast traffic, feel unable to keep animals because of the road. All residents have great difficulty pulling out onto the main road with its bends and increased poor visibility for access from the side turnings. Few villages in the county of Dorset without a 30mph speed limit.</p>

Richard Lewis	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>This stretch of road has become increasingly dangerous as traffic continues to increase and the village is constantly growing.</p> <p>There are some very difficult junctions when negotiating traffic at 40mph.</p> <p>There have been several accidents at the crossroads in recent years.</p> <p>Busy garage and shop near a junction are particularly dangerous when traffic is going at 40mph</p> <p>Need a 30mph limit before another fatal crash happens.</p> <p>Very frightening trying to cross this road at any time and also too worrying to use the pavements with traffic going past at 40mph.</p> <p>Had a pet killed soon after moving in and other families have lost pets because of the fast traffic, feel unable to keep animals because of the road.</p> <p>All residents have great difficulty pulling out onto the main road with its bends and increased poor visibility for access from the side turnings.</p> <p>Few villages in the county of Dorset without a 30mph speed limit.</p>
Mrs F A Emery	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>A351 is used as a thoroughfare, not much notice is taken that it is actually a village.</p> <p>There is no permanent pathway on either side of the highway through the village, therefore crossing the road is inevitable.</p> <p>There are many bends and undulations in the road make it difficult to see when the road is clear.</p> <p>Reducing the speed limit would give both drivers and pedestrians more time to assess conflicting situations which may arise.</p>
Mr & Mrs C J Witt	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>We have a gateway directly on to the road which is slightly wider than our cars width, to navigate this gateway you have to really slow down, many times over the past 40 years we have nearly caused an accident! The lower speed limit would also help us to exit the property.</p>
Linda Kawycz	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>There is significant danger to people driving out of their houses onto the road, people walking along it and people trying to cross it, especially children at the school bus pick-up point.</p>

Gordon Stevens	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	When I am pulling out of my house, the contours of the road mean I have limited visibility of oncoming traffic in one direction and they therefore have limited visibility of me until the last moment; a large number of residents have the same problem, a 30mph speed limit would greatly help alleviate this danger.
K Lee	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Few drivers make an attempt to slow whilst driving through Harman’s Cross, particularly relevant to me as I try to access the A351 from my drive</p> <p>View is obscured by brow of hill and bends in road, only gives me very short time to see if anything is coming</p> <p>30mph speed limit would solve all the problems and make access from my drive so much safer for me and drivers already on the road.</p> <p>Ribbon development with many driveways leading on to the A351, which is a major routeway in and out of Swanage, the road has many hills and bends which obscure vision.</p> <p>I believe the road through Harman’s Cross poses more safety problems than some roads in the area that have a 30mph limit on them and regular visited by no excuse police cameras.</p>
David L Nunn	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Reduction in speed limit is essential for the safety of both drivers and pedestrians.</p> <p>There have been several serious accidents due to excessive speed here recently.</p> <p>Many properties open directly onto the road, which has bends and also a blind summit, for those driving too fast there is little time to take action to avoid slow moving cars from a hedge concealed exit.</p> <p>The village has no pedestrian crossing, to cross this dangerous road you have to be very careful and cross quickly, both activities are more difficult for the young and old.</p>
Giselle Nunn	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Reduction in speed limit is essential for the safety of both drivers and pedestrians. There have been several serious accidents due to excessive speed here recently. Many properties open directly onto the road, which has bends and also a blind summit, for those driving too fast there is little time to take action to avoid slow moving cars from a hedge concealed exit. The village has no pedestrian crossing, to cross this dangerous road you have to be very careful and cross quickly, both activities are more difficult for the young and old.</p>

<p>Nigel Edmonds</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Have witnessed the result of many accidents on this dangerous road, mostly caused by people driving too fast. Journey times would only increase by 75 seconds in each direction. Would urge the council not to place too much weight on the views expressed by people living outside the village as I believe it is those driving through the village who cause danger at or above the current speed limit. If nothing is done it cannot be long before a child, old person or others are killed on this road. Visibility in both directions on this road is limited when crossing as a pedestrian, or pulling out in a vehicle from a home or road on an apparently empty valley road and then have someone come up immediately behind you as soon as you complete your manoeuvre.</p>
<p>Mrs Jo Edmonds</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Do not have a footpath throughout the village and is a very busy trunk road, is getting more difficult to get across; due to lack of pavements I have to cross several times to walk along the main road to friends homes. It’s a nightmare getting out of driveways, the speed of vehicles is often in excess of 40mph and are therefore on top of you before you have taken up your position on the road; you are often tailgated until you pick up speed. The volume of traffic and speed have increased over the past 13 years, seem to be just a race track now between Swanage and Corfe Castle.</p>
<p>Mr Laurence A Borrows</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Turning on to the A351 is a very dangerous operation due to the lack of vision of the traffic passing South Instow junction right and left due to the nature of the road, bends and hills; have been lots of near misses and bound to be a fatal accident at this point. You also take your life in to your hands as a pedestrian trying to cross the road on foot and walking along the footpath to the garage and post box etc. this is also very dangerous due to the narrow pavement and suction of the lorries and coaches etc travelling past you well in excess of the speed limit.</p>

Mrs S M Lloyd	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>A large number of driveways and tracks open directly on to the A351, not only are there bends, but there are many rises/dips where the summit is almost blind and one must assume that when the road appears to be clear people are driving at or below the current limit to give time to exit safely, unfortunately this is not always the case.</p> <p>The pavement is not continuous on either side of the road, we are forced to cross from one side to the other, residents are taking their lives in their hands at the current speed.</p> <p>Reduction in speed will help to keep pedestrians and other road users safe.</p>
J M Lloyd	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Harman’s Cross is a residential area, with many houses and small housing clusters that access the road directly. Many of the access roads from individual houses onto the A351 are on steep inclines and of poor surfaces, not allowing easy traction out of them; many of these access roads are obscured from the A351.</p> <p>Number of bends and significant undulations on the A351, visibility is further hampered and generally traffic on the main road is not aware of access road traffic.</p> <p>Pavements are not continuous throughout the current 40mph area, thus requiring pedestrians either to walk in the road and retreat onto a narrow earth verge or to cross the road, subjecting themselves to fast moving traffic.</p>
Joanna Burri-Weaver	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>All vehicles speed if they can; had a car through their hedge, surprised they weren't killed! Been lots of collisions</p> <p>People take their life’s into there own hands when using the pavements and having to cross the road.</p> <p>All residents have great difficulty pulling out onto the A351.</p>
Rose Shaw	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Turning out of and on to the main road from the crossroads is hazardous, mostly caused by people driving too fast</p> <p>Visibility is limited when crossing as a pedestrian, or pulling out in a vehicle from a home or road on an apparently empty Valley Road and have someone come up immediately behind you as soon as you complete your manoeuvre.</p> <p>I trust the council will not place too much weight on views expressed by people living outside the village, as some of those contribute to the danger at or above the current speed limit.</p>

John Moore	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	There is no footpath that is continuous through the village without crossing the road to do so, there is a fair proportion of the village who are elderly and not so quick in crossing the road as the youngsters, only a matter of time before we have a serious if not fatal accident in the village due to limited sight lines round the hills and corners in the village, linked of course to excess speed. Footpath is not continuous and you have to keep crossing the road to stay on the path.
B L Engel	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	There are a number of bends and dips so that the sight distances are limited in many sections and the traffic is often exceeding the 40mph limit; when pulling out onto the main road from private drives and side lanes sight distance is very limited. The pavement is not continuous on each side of the road making it necessary to cross the road several times to get from one end of the village to the other.
Mrs P Lloyd	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Shared driveway directly joins the A351 in a position of poor visibility in both directions, traffic comes at speed on straight section of road and due to blind summit and my access being in the dip I do not have much time to pull out safely. There has been a marked increase in traffic and speeds in the last 50 years and am finding it increasingly difficult to get out of my drive safely on to the A351.
Richard Mortimer	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Reducing the speed limit will make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road.
Mr Ian Sizer	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	It is hazardous for us pulling out of our driveway due to numerous vehicles coming through travelling up to speeds of 60mph. Walking to the shop is also hazardous procedure and we tend to drive as it is safer.
Holly Sizer	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	Essential change to make driving and walking through the village safer Many bends in the road, have witnessed many near misses, when cars going to fast have to break dangerously close to each other as other cars are pulling in or out of driveways. Crossing the road is currently dangerous and has to be done two to three times from where I live to reach the garage shop and village hall.

<p>Mrs P M Barnes</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Increasingly dangerous stretch of road as traffic continues to increase and the village is constantly growing. There are some very difficult junctions when negotiating traffic at a minimum of 40mph. Witness lots of close near misses, by crossroads and the garage and shop Difficult to access the A351 and crossing it as a pedestrian is a nightmare. Would welcome a 30mph speed limit before another fatal crash happens, especially as there is no pavement on our side of the road. All residents have great difficulty pulling out onto the main road and it is time road users acknowledge and respect this need. Very few villages in Dorset without a 30mph speed limit.</p>
<p>Mrs Ronni Willett</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Number of children frequently crossing on this road and in places there is only paving on one side. There are many hidden dips and bends where drivers cannot possibly see and the current speed limit doesn’t allow for this. It is a terribly dangerous road, the speed limit should be brought in line with other urban built up areas.</p>
<p>Patricia White</p>	<p>Wareham Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>40 limit is too high because the residential community is both sides of the road and because of the bends it must be difficult for pedestrians to cross and also for traffic emerging from side roads.</p>
<p>Melanie Caldow</p>	<p>Corfe Castle Resident</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Traffic travels too fast through Harman’s Cross, if 30mph is adopted it must be enforced. Traffic posing a real danger to pedestrians trying to cross the road.</p>

Helen Gadd	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Lives near the start of the 40mph speed limit as you enter Harman’s Cross, most traffic is travelling in excess of the 40mph at this stage which is on a blind corner when you are travelling from Swanage direction; to turn into our drive, turning across the traffic you feel you are taking your life in your hands, when the oncoming traffic is travelling too fast then this has almost resulted in an accident.</p> <p>30mph limit would help to reduce the anxiety of turning in and out of our drive, this applies to many other residents of Harman’s Cross whose drives are on blind corners, hills and bends which is the nature of the road.</p> <p>There is no pavement near our house, and to walk along the road is like taking your life in your hands with the current speed limit.</p>
Steve Tooley	Langton Matravers Resident	Support	<p>Current speed is too high especially given there are very poor pavements there for pedestrians and the regular need for people to cross the A351 to use them.</p> <p>Speed limit needs bringing in line with other villages in the area.</p>
Trevor Ayling	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>It is impossible to exit from South Instow, Haycrafts Lane, Tabbits Hilland more importantly because of its greater use the local garage, without taking a risk with vehicles approaching at 40mph; the visibility is insufficient to exit without causing an approaching vehicle to brake hard.</p> <p>Trying to walk to the children’s play area at the village hall requires two hazardous crossings of the A351 in each direction; because of the intermittent pavement, the crossing points where the pavement runs out are both in especially hazardous places.</p>
John Kirwin	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Current speed limit make this a dangerous road for pedestrians, both residents and visitors, there is no continuous footpath along the road and pedestrians have to keep criss crossing 40mph is too fast for this road.</p>
Pamela Smith	Swanage Resident	Support	<p>This is a residential area and as such should have a 30mph speed limit; traffic speeds along the road at the moment, ensuring that accidents may well happen.</p>
Justine Pike	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>It can be difficult to turn on to the main road when coming out of Haycrafts Lane so any restriction on speed would help School children who live here cross this road when getting off the school bus which is dangerous at 40mph.</p>

Judith Leyman	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Valley Road through Harman’s Cross is accessed by many private drives servicing domestic properties, as a resident of North Instow I am witness to the dangers of joining the main road when through traffic speeds down the main road.</p> <p>The pavements that there are narrow and it is necessary for some people to walk on the road to access the bus stop or local shops; there are children and elderly people living in this village and consideration should be given to their safety.</p>
Jane Viney	Worth Matravers Resident	Support	<p>Speed camera as well to be sure that the speed limit is adhered to.</p>
Robin Brasher	Swanage Resident	Support	<p>It is a residential area more than 600 metres long with no pavements and drives concealed from the road so it is not obvious to visitors that it is a residential area.</p> <p>The existing speed limit does not protect pedestrians as a pedestrian will be just as dead if he got hit by a car travelling at 40mph as he would if the car was travelling at 140mph, whereas if he was hit by a car travelling at 30mph he may survive.</p> <p>There are a number of poor sight lines for people crossing the road; there is a blind bend just to the east of the public footpath from the Wilderness near the BP garage to Ailwood Farm.</p> <p>Most rural villages in the UK have a 30mph speed limit.</p>
Catherine Morris	Harman’s Cross Resident	Support	<p>Excessive speeds are done by many vehicles passing through the village</p> <p>Have had countless close shaves turning in and out of our driveway</p> <p>Reduced speed limit would make walking along the pavement much safer for my family, 30mph does not cause stones and dust to be kicked up, it also does not make pedestrians feel unsafe</p> <p>It would make my garden a more pleasant place to be for the children and I would feel they were safe.</p> <p>The traffic noise in my house would be reduced.</p> <p>I would feel less nervous about pulling out of my drive in my car.</p>

<p>Charles Hill</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>Stretch of road in question is very adequately policed by double and single white lines. To reduce the speed limit would only be another nanny state. Drivers should be taught and to learn to think for themselves. The persistent and reckless drivers will not be deterred by any speed limit and will continue to ignore them, thinking they know better. The ordinary motorist will be frustrated by slow limit along a stretch of 'A' road where visibility is quite adequate In my years driving I have formed the view that too slow limits can lead to drivers concentration wavering (admiring scenery etc.) or he spends too much time watching his speedometer to ensure that he does not get penalised for exceeding an unnecessary speed limit. Can foresee this bit of road becoming a 'cash cow' if speed limit is reduced to 30mph. Only occasional accident but mostly in snow or ice, which a lower speed limit would do nothing to protect against. On this bit of road there is plenty of visibility to enable pedestrians to judge the speed of cars and the safe gaps to cross. Just because the residents of Harman’s Cross are getting older, do not penalise the motorist.</p>
<p>Kate Spurling</p>	<p>Swanage Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>Unnecessary for the speed limit to be reduced, main route into and out of Swanage, not necessary to regulate or reduce the speed of vehicles to a level which drivers can readily meet the general dangers which may be expected on these roads. Wide road with no houses fronting immediately onto the road and there are no schools or public meeting places along this road; all the junctions are easily visible as you approach them and are well signposted. Not aware of any accidents on this stretch of road that would be avoided if there had been a 30mph speed limit rather than the current 40; for many years the limit along this road was 60mph and even at that limit I am not aware of any incidents which were purely caused by speed. 40mph is entirely appropriate for the majority of this road and anything less would unnecessarily slow the general flow of traffic, with no tangible safety benefits.</p>

Amanda Prior	Harman’s Cross Resident	Object	Current speed of 40mph is perfectly adequate for this road, I am a resident within the area and have no issue with the current speed limit. Decreasing to 30mph will also encourage more housing development within the area which I strongly object to.
Jacquetta Hill	Coombe Keynes Resident	Object	40mph limit is acceptable and a lower limit is not needed, there isn't a school or lots of pedestrians. If you lower it to 30mph those that speed at 40 will speed at 30, you would be better off leaving it at 40 and putting in a permanent speed camera, or mobile speed awareness camera/sign or getting the no excuse team to monitor it.
Mike Streeter	Corfe Castle Resident	Object	Totally unnecessary, there are no houses close to the road, hardly any pedestrians and hardly anyone takes any notice of the present limit so why bother with a reduced limit.
Mrs Nicola Hunt	Wareham Resident	Object	Have never seen the current speed limit enforced, would make more sense to enforce the current speed limit, rather than attempt to slow all through traffic at all times.
Emma	Swanage Resident	Object	There are not enough pedestrians walking around Harman’s Cross to warrant reducing the speed limit on a main A road. Harman’s Cross does not have any attractions or places of interest on the main road, therefore why reduce the speed. Makes me curious as to why people moved to Harman’s Cross in the first place if it's on a main road, just to complain about it.
Mr D Lucas	Swanage Resident	Object	This speed limit does not need to be changed from its current limit; myself and many of my family travel this road every day never any problems frankly it is a very safe road and I see no need for this. By setting the speed limit artificially low will just mean many people will pay less attention while driving, accidentally stray over or spend more time looking at their speedos all potentially causing accidents to happen.
Tara Ferrari	Swanage Resident	Object	I drive this route twice a day and in the last 20 years have not come across an accident caused by a speeding motorist

David Budd	Wareham Resident	Object	<p>The existing 40mph limit is the correct limit for the road because; no specific dangers are specified in the Statement of Reasons which in my view illustrates the weakness of the case to reduce the speed limit; development is low density and sporadic along the whole length of the road, particularly between the commencement of the limit at the eastern end of the settlement and North Instow, with only a handful of properties to the south of the road.</p> <p>As a road user I rarely encounter the following; vehicles entering or egressing residential driveways, as these are not numerous; turning movements at the crossroads; pedestrians crossing the road, pedestrians using the footway. These general dangers are minor and are encountered on roads with higher speed limits than 40mph.</p> <p>Vast majority of traffic currently keeps to the 40mph limit</p> <p>Lowering the limit to 30mph will almost certainly see vehicles exceeding that limit as the character and features of the road do not impart to a driver that this is a built up residential area where 30mph would naturally apply.</p> <p>There appears to be no overwhelming safety benefit as evidenced by the collision stats to reduce the speed limit.</p>
Tracey Porter	Wool Resident	Object	<p>I feel that the 40mph limit should remain in place.</p>
Ian Brown	Swanage Resident	Object	<p>Road through Harman’s Cross is not lit, there are no schools and one shop, there are pavements through the village. There is no reason due to serious accidents.</p> <p>Current speed limit of 40mph fits this section of the road well as properties are all off the road and very few walkers are ever seen in this area.</p>
Dominique Plummer	Swanage Resident	Object	<p>The speed limit should stay at 40 as people stick to it and it is safe to drive through Harman’s Cross at that speed.</p>
Adam Coggins	Swanage Resident	Object	<p>There have been no personal injury accidents recorded in the last 3 years to justify a reduction in speed limit.</p> <p>I am not aware of any evidence from a speed survey demonstrating that 85th% speeds are above 40mph.</p> <p>I am not aware that the police have raised speed as an issue in this location.</p> <p>I have not witnessed excessive speed on this section of road.</p>

Emma Groome	Swanage Resident	Object	I drive through Harman's Cross twice a day and as a school child I used to live there, I see no real reason for this proposal, there is no school or shop in the village, you rarely see anyone walking on the wide pavements; surely some lessons in the green cross code would be more beneficial than a speed limit that would be supercilious.
William Bath	Wool Resident	Object	I have to drive this twice everyday to work, it is tedious enough at 40mph, another cash cow for the government.
Kyle Hickman	Swanage Resident	Object	The issue is not speed; there have been not accidents that are directly attributable to speed. Nobody has a front door that opens on to the road, houses all have driveways. The majority of homes are probably seconds and therefore not even occupied all year round. There isn't even a pavement all the way through the village; perhaps that's what should be introduced with more overt signage and repeaters and perhaps a fixed site speed camera.
Ryan Norman	60 West Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5HE	Object	No need to change it, should concentrate on more important areas like the completely useless and poorly positioned crossing outside Corfe Castle primary school that is a danger to all of the people that use it.
Tim Swales	Swanage Resident	Object	There is absolutely no reason to lower the speed limit along this stretch of road, I don't recall there being any major incidents along this route attributed to speed. I even ride a cycle along this road regularly without feeling unsafe. This road is the major artery into and out of Swanage, this is already a difficult slow journey which is compounded by tourist traffic in summer, lowering the speed limit will only compound an already painful journey.
Coral	Swanage Resident	Object	Stay as it is.

<p>Tim Brown</p>	<p>Kingston Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>This is the main road into Swanage, there is plenty of visibility for crossing this road when vehicles are travelling at the current 40mph speed limit. Reduction in speed will likely result in more penalty charges for drivers caught abusing the new limit and not actually serve to lower the speed of a great many drivers.</p> <p>The statement of purpose for reducing this to a 30mph limit is "so drivers can readily meet dangers which may be expected on these roads" at 40mph this is achievable, the dangers in this area represent pedestrians and drivers emerging from properties and the petrol station.</p> <p>In most cases residents have preferred privacy by enclosing their driveways and front gardens over visibility for accessing the highway and expect the council and other residents to suffer for this.</p> <p>The current 40mph limit is not usually driven at excessive speed as the road conditions often dictate a slower appropriate speed; no matter what the speed limit a driver should always drive at a speed appropriate to the conditions any accidents occurring in this rural stretch of road are simply due to irresponsible driving and not that the limit is currently too high.</p> <p>This is a busy main road and lowering the speed limit further will result in more congestion during the summer months, longer journey times on what is already a slow route, and people using the alternative Langton Matravers route which is less appropriate due to it then being quicker.</p> <p>This could have an adverse affect on local businesses in Swanage where road improvements take a back seat to reduced speed limits.</p>
<p>Corrinne Lamb</p>	<p>Wareham Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>40mph is suitable for this road, it isn't a built up area, no school or shops, apart from the 2 petrol stations.</p> <p>It's a decent and steady mph through Harman's Cross, as the saying goes, if it's not broke, don't fix it.</p>
<p>Josie De Ruiten</p>	<p>Kingston Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>There is no need to drop the speed limit in Harman's Cross, it will cause major delay to Swanage and out of the Purbeck area!</p>
<p>Susan Custance</p>	<p>Swanage Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>Totally unnecessary, local residence will still have to wait to access the main road, the same anywhere if you choose to live on a main road.</p>

Bob Hollister	??	Object	Any reduction in speed limit will just mean people will take more chances when overtaking.
Darren Gale	??	Object	The Harman's Cross stretch currently at 40mph is enough; on driving through, I barely ever see any one walking on the pavements other than morning and afternoon school runs and am yet to hear of any incident of near misses or collisions. I also find that the rumour of one person that favours the speed limit to reduce to 30mph id because "People don't cut their hedges" an absolute joke! how owners of properties who don't cut their hedges in Harman's Cross has anything to do with road conditions and how road users drive, it's beyond me.
Caroline Finch	??	Object	This is the main road into Swanage and there has never been a cause to reduce this vital road for emergency services, it is totally not necessary and would be of no advantage to the thousands of vehicles that use this road every day.
Ms Grace Lucas	??	Object	As someone who grew up in Harman's Cross before it had any pavements and was a national speed limit road, I feel that this proposal is ludicrous. My opinion is that the volume of traffic has not increased significantly in this time in fact over the last few years may have actually decreased, it has had an insignificant increase of properties also and these are not roadside when the speed limit was decreased to 40mph limit and the pavement was introduce this was seen as the best compromise on pedestrian safety and movement of through traffic, this is still the case as the number of pedestrians seen has actually decreased since then as very few people walk anywhere these days. To my knowledge there have been very few if any accidents along this stretch. I am also lead to believe that the local councillors are in the process of acquiring the final small stretch of roadside land to allow a continuous pavement through Harman's Cross as such I cannot see any benefit to lowering the speed limit for anyone in fact the complete opposite.
David Bowerman	??	Object	Having known this road for over fifty years, I consider this a retrograde step and I suspect against the wishes of most local residents

<p>Jan and Bertie Marsh</p>	<p>Langton Matravers</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>Whenever we drive out through there we rarely see people walking along the pavement or don't see that many cars exiting from any of the side roads. You naturally have to slow down at St Michaels Garage and at Foleys Garage, a 30mph speed limit is going to make traffic problems worse not better, as traffic will then be building up causing people to get frustrated especially in the summer.</p>
<p>John B Cordery</p>	<p>??</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>There has not been a study that shows this proposal is required or would have any safety advantages.</p>
<p>Mark Finch</p>	<p>Swanage Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>Statement of reasons refers to "to regulate or reduce speed" implies a belief that speeds can be reduced simply by lowering the speed limit. What alternative measures have the council considered other than a reduction in speed limit and why were they rejected? Does the appearance of the road match the characteristics that drivers would expect to see on a road with the proposed speed limit? if not are the proposals to change the appearance? Does the visual appearance of Harman’s Cross match that of a road where drivers would expect a 30mph limit? DfT circular 01/2006 says, " for mean speeds to be acceptable they should be no higher than the posted limit after it has been implemented" I believe this is still relevant This has always been a safe road your current speed and accident stats back this up, your current speed stats also show that the current limit is self regulating. A351 Harman's Cross has predominantly through traffic running through it and virtually no roadside properties therefore I would question whether it is being proposed "where appropriate" also on any given day there are no more than a couple if any pedestrians or cyclists. Drivers have a right to expect speed limits to be applied on a consistent and rational basis across the country. Unrealistically low speed limits will lessen drivers respect for all limits, to the detriment of road safety generally.</p>

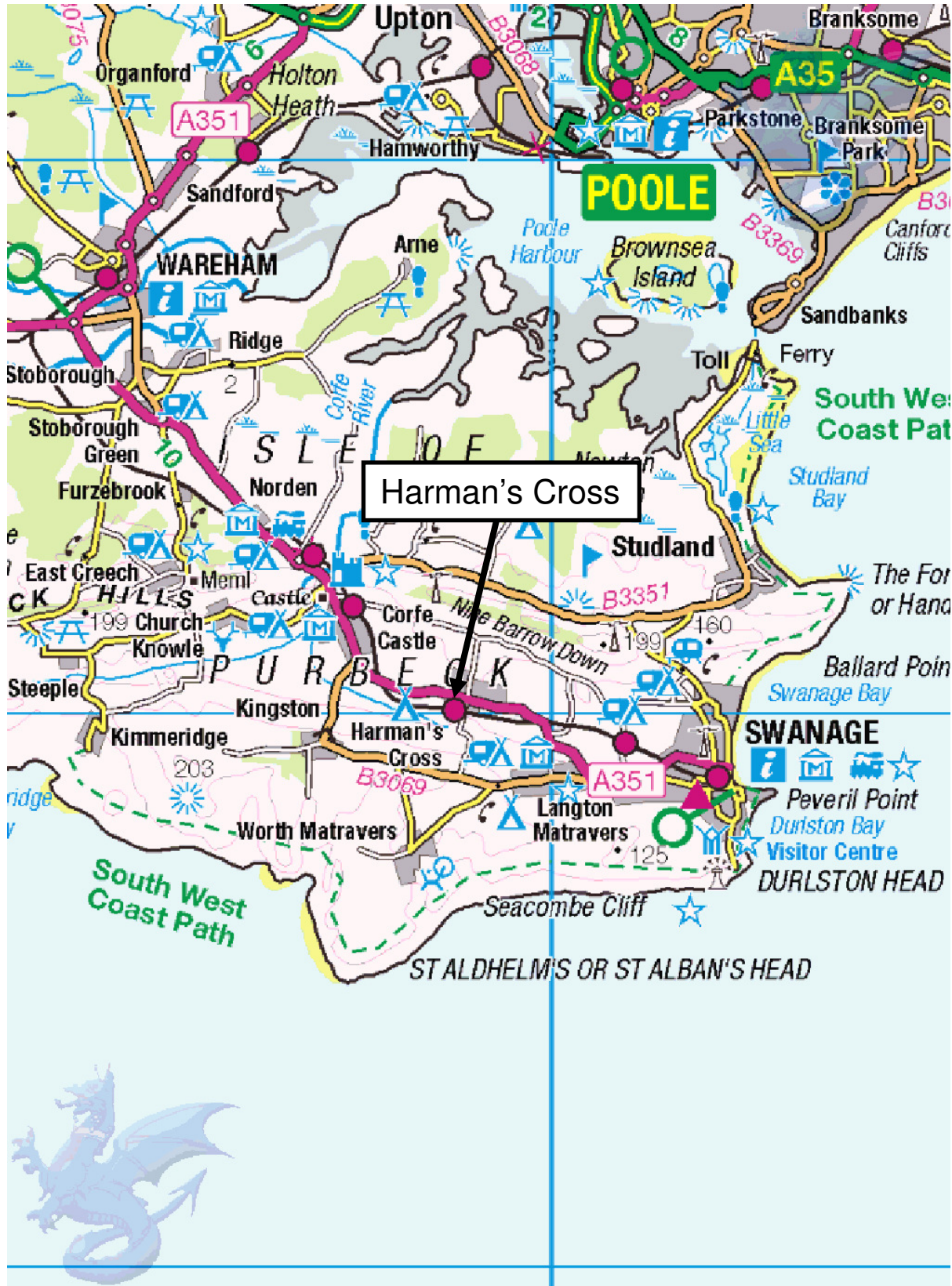
<p>David Hollister</p>	<p>Harman’s Cross Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>I have lived in Harman’s Cross since 1946 and can only recall one serious injury on this stretch of road in the village. Apart from one particular stretch, there are adequate pavements for pedestrians and some of us feel that the money spent on imposing a 30mph speed limit would be better spent on making this 100 yard stretch of road safe for pedestrians by putting in a proper pavement. Existing 40 limit is, for the most part, respected by motorists; it is seldom policed, I feel that a 30mph limit would be hugely frustrating to motorists and would not be universally respected I am concerned that residents, incorrectly assuming that motorists would stick to 30, would consider themselves safe to stray on the road with inevitable dire consequences.</p>
<p>Andy Farrer</p>	<p>Swanage Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>I don't often see pedestrians at all on Valley Road. I have on many occasions visited friends on Valley Road and never struggled to safely get onto the road, one simply has to look and listen. Harman’s Cross is significantly safer now that it was with a 60mph limit Slowing people down on this stretch of road which is a safe stretch of road anyway, will slow down the route even more and present a real danger of even more frenzied accumulation of frustrated drivers trying to overtake as they come off the Wytch Farm roundabout on the first stretch of 60mph. I appreciate that roads are safer at 30 than 40 and so on, but it's simply not practical to drive everywhere at 30mph.</p>
<p>Becky Campbell</p>	<p>Swanage Resident</p>	<p>Object</p>	<p>This is the main road out of Swanage and although there are houses there, buildings are not dense and they are set well back from the road. There are very few pedestrians ever seen in Harman’s Cross. Most, perhaps all, houses have driveways with space to turn vehicles, so no one is reversing out of driveways Where there are junctions, the view is clear and unobstructed. As a driver I feel that the 40mph limit is appropriate and it feels safe; reducing it in my opinion would result in some people becoming impatient and taking risks by overtaking in places which are unsafe</p>

5. Recommendation

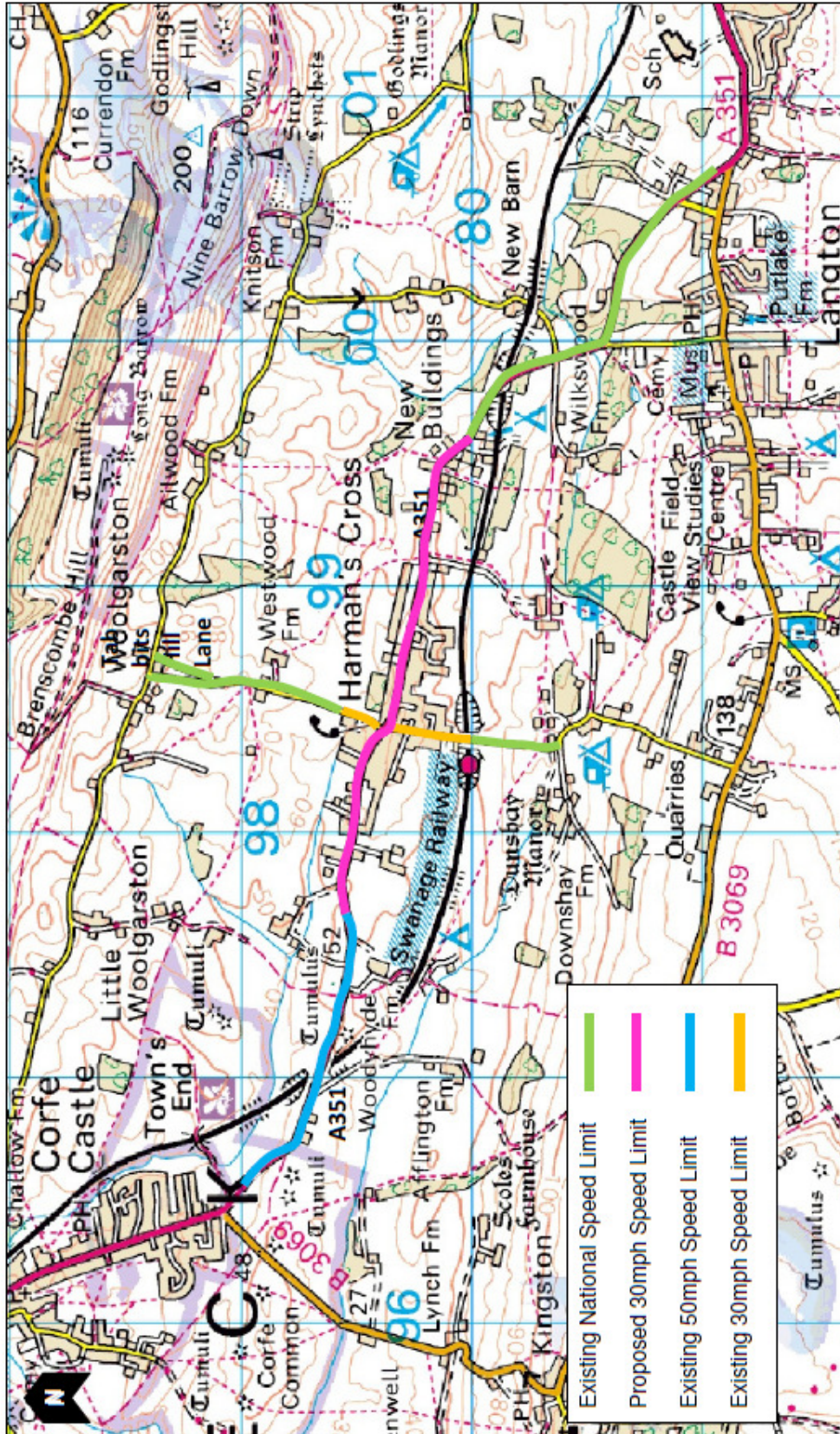
- 5.1 The competing views of those responder's who support or object need to be considered by committee. The majority of those that responded from the village are in support, however it must be borne in mind that there were objections also from residents of the village. The majority of those who objected were from outside the village.
- 5.2 Both sides of the discussion make strong cases for or against the imposition of a 30mph speed limit, although improved signing and lining will be required to ensure that the traffic speed is close to 30mph.
- 5.3 On balance having considered the objections received and the support from Worth Matravers Parish Council, Langton Matravers Parish Council, Dorset Police and the majority of the local community in Harman's Cross, it is recommended that the Cabinet approve the proposed 30mph speed limit in Harman's Cross as originally advertised.

Andrew Martin
Head of Highways
June 2015

Location Plan for Harman's Cross



Plan of A351 Harman’s Cross 30mph Proposals



<p>Dorset County Council</p> <p>Environment and the Economy Directorate</p>	<p>The County of Dorset</p> <p>A351 Valley Road, Harman's Cross</p> <p>Proposed 30mph Speed Limit</p> <p>Date: 03/02/15</p> <p>Drawn by: CM</p> <p>Scale: Not to Scale</p> <p><small>Reproduced from the 2009 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 scale Land Line 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>Mike Hamies Director County Hall Dorchester DT1 1XJ</p> <p>Drawing No. 2265/2/4</p>
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