

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER MEETING – JOBS, ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT**

22 October 2013

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SPEED LIMITS - A61,
STRETTON AND CLAY CROSS**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of the results of a consultation and public advertisement of proposals to introduce changes to the existing speed limits on Main Road, Stretton, and High Street, Clay Cross.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The A61 is a former trunk road which, within Derbyshire, connects Alfreton, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Dronfield and then continues to Sheffield. The existing speed limit varies, where appropriate, from 70mph on the sections of dual carriageway to 30mph through towns and villages. Currently, the villages of Shirland and Higham are subject to 30mph whereas a 50mph limit is in place through Stretton village.

A request has been received from Stretton Parish Council asking that the current 50mph speed limit through the village be lowered. This request has been considered in light of the Department for Transport's latest guidelines on setting local speed limits. The collision history has been examined and speed readings have been taken along the route.

Derbyshire Constabulary has also requested that the County Council give consideration to the suitability of the existing speed limit adjacent to commercial outlets fronting the A61 Derby Road, Clay Cross, north of the linear shopping area comprising High Street, Clay Cross.

As a result of the comprehensive investigation undertaken, a proposal to reduce the 50mph limit on A61 Stretton Road, Clay Cross and A61 Main Road, Stretton (south of Clay Cross through Stretton village), to the south side of B6014 Morton Road, Stretton to 40mph and introduce a 40mph limit between the 30mph limit through Clay Cross and the 50mph limit to the north of Clay Cross, was therefore initiated. For details see drawing No NTA/SAP/27/13 attached.

Local Member Comments

Councillor Kevin Gillott has been consulted and supports the proposals.

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Officer Comment

A61 Derby Road, Clay Cross – 40mph speed limit

Derbyshire Constabulary fully supports this proposal.

No comments or objections were received to this proposal.

A61 Stretton Road and Main Road, Stretton

Clay Cross Parish Council responded to the consultation as follows:

“Concerns were expressed that any reduction in the speed will make little difference as vast numbers of vehicles, particularly motorcycles, already do not adhere to the current 50mph limit. It was further felt that more action needs to be taken now (by the Police) and then consideration be given to a further reduction.”

Shirland and Higham Parish Council responded to the consultation as follows:

“The Parish Council welcomes the proposals but would like the 40mph limit to be extended all the way from Clay Cross to Higham.”

An objection was received from Derbyshire Constabulary which can be summarised as follows:

- There will be enforcement implications from the start.
- The limit should convey and reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed and the wide semi-rural nature of the road does not do this.
- It was noted that the 85th percentile figure of 48mph would indicate that most drivers see the current limit of 50mph to be realistic.
- Community expectations will be raised even if driver compliance does not follow automatically.
- On the basis of the road topography it is considered that the current 50mph limit is retained.

The speed limits in the village of Stretton and on the outskirts of Clay Cross have been put forward with regard to the County Council's interpretation of the new Department for Transport Circular 01/2013. The document is a comprehensive publication with reference to numerous other supporting documents. Officers within the Council have therefore spent considerable time assessing literature to ensure that a holistic approach is adopted by the authority which is entirely consistent with that of all other traffic and highway authorities.

The new criteria recommends that villages should now have speed limits as the fear of traffic can affect people's quality of life and that such settlements should now generally have limits of 30mph as the norm, although where enforcement difficulties are anticipated an higher limit of 40mph may be considered along with other measures to try to ensure the self-enforcement of

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limit and try where practicable not to present Derbyshire Constabulary with an unmanageable enforcement task. The speed readings taken are obviously above the proposed 40mph limit but currently below the existing 50mph limit and it is hoped that the reduced limit itself will lead to a further reduction. It is acknowledged however that until the changes and until drivers become a custom to the new limit there will be a degree of un-certainty on exactly what reduction in speeds will be achieved. Nevertheless, Stretton is a village and the highest permitted limit is 40mph rather than the 50mph limit which currently exists. Speed Cameras are also evident on the north side of the village and it is expected this will help control speeds in that part of the village. The comments and concerns from Derbyshire Constabulary are however recognised and it is felt that after a year speed readings be taken again to assess the extent of any reduction and whether any further engineering measures should be undertaken to ensure a greater level of self-compliance with the limit with particular emphasis on the north side of the village leading into Clay Cross. It is not considered wise to commit public funds until or unless a problem is of course identified.

In association with the speed limit changes the County Council and the Police will of course continue to promote and increase the number of awareness campaigns, driver education training and focus on enforcement. The Council's own Road Safety Unit, the Road Safety Partnership and Derbyshire Constabulary are all working to together to achieve this common goal.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of implementing the proposed Order is approximately £6,000 and can be met from the Traffic Management Revenue Budget.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The local traffic authority has power under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to set local speed limits having regard to the guidance issued by the Department for Transport. This guidance is set out in Setting Local Speed Limits: Circular no. draft circular 01/2013.

The procedure to be adopted when making orders under Section 84 is set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (the 1996 Regulations). The local authority must carry out a consultation and notice of the proposals must be given in accordance with Regulation 7 of the 1996 Regulations allowing at least 21 clear days for the receipt of written objections. Any objections received must be considered by the local authority.

Having considered all objections, the Council may determine to introduce the new speed limits. The order will need to be formally made and advertised and the requisite signs erected. An Order shall not be made until after the last date for objections. No Order can be made more than two years after the date of publication of the notice of the proposals. No part of a Traffic Regulation

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Order can come into force before the date on which it is intended to publish a notice of making.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file 44XT in the Environmental Services Department. Officer contact details – Sue Pollard, extension 38634.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

8.1 The County Council proceeds with the introduction of the speed limit proposals as detailed on drawing number and in accordance with the proposals detail on the public notice.

8.2 The local Member and objector be advised accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

THE DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(A61 SHEFFIELD BOUNDARY TO ALFRETON)
(VARIOUS SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2013

Derbyshire County Council hereby gives notice that it proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be that it will prohibit any person from driving a vehicle at speeds exceeding 40 miles per hour along the following lengths of road:-

LENGTHS OF ROAD:-

A61 High Street / Derby Road, Clay Cross

From a point 192 metres (210 yards) north of its junction with A6175 Harris Way to a point 504 metres (551 yards) north of that junction

A61 Stretton Road / Main Road, Clay Cross / Stretton

From a point 224 metres (245 yards) south of A61 Stretton Road junction with Clay Lane, Clay Cross to a point 58 metre (63 yards) south of A61 Main Road junction with Morton Road, Stretton.

A copy of the Order and documents giving more detailed particulars of the Order are available for inspection at the offices of the Derbyshire County Council, Main Reception, County Hall, Matlock between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday until 6 weeks after the Order is made, and at Clay Cross Library, Holmegate Road, Clay Cross, Monday 9.30am to 7pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 5pm, Wednesday 9.30am to 12.30pm and Saturday 9.30am to 1pm until 13 September 2013.

All objections and other representations to the proposal must be made in writing and all objections must state the grounds on which they are made and be sent to the Strategic Director – Environmental Services, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG (For Attention of the Traffic and Safety Team) by 13 September 2013.

Dated: 22 August 2013.

Mike Ashworth, Acting Strategic Director - Environmental Services Department, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG.

EXISTING LIMITS

PROPOSED LIMITS

