

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**29 June 2017**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**PETITION: A615 WINGFIELD ROAD, OAKERTHORPE – REQUEST FOR  
REDUCTION IN SPEED LIMIT**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To consider a petition requesting a reduction of the speed limit on Wingfield Road, Oakerthorpe.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 22 December 2016, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a 203 signature petition, requesting a reduction of the speed limit on the A615 Wingfield Road, Oakerthorpe (Minute No. 137/16 refers).

The petition reads as follows:

*“We the undersigned call upon Derbyshire County Council to:*

- 1. Reassess the ‘National’ (60 miles per hour) speed limit between The Old Post Office Cottage, Wingfield Road, DE55 7LH towards the Parkside Riding Stables, DE55 7AP.*
- 2. We request the speed limit on this stretch of road be made 40 miles per hour due to speeding concerns for pedestrians and cyclists and reports of some residents – with driveways along this length of road – being unable to “pull” their vehicles out of their properties safely.*
- 3. To reinforce the new 40mph limit there should be painting of “40mph” roundels on Wingfield Rd at appropriate locations.”*

**Officer Comment**

The A615 is the main link between Matlock and Alfreton, thereafter gaining access to the A38, leading to the M1 or Derby. It is considered that the majority of car journeys will be made up of commuter traffic during peak times, tourist traffic into and out of the Peak District National Park and journeys generated locally.

The A615 is mainly a rural route with residential developments at Oakerthorpe, Wessington and Tansley. Other roadside developments remain sparse throughout this route between these villages.

In addition to the petition on 30 January 2017, a meeting was held on Wingfield Road where Officers from the County Council's Traffic and Safety Team met local residents including the lead petitioner, the Local Member for Ripley West and Heage (at that time, Councillor David Williams) and the Amber Valley Borough Councillor for the Wingfield Ward. At the meeting a wide range of safety concerns were raised by the residents and officers from the Traffic and Safety Team had the opportunity to answer those concerns and give an explanation as to why the current speed limit and road safety measures are in place.

The Department for Transport (DFT) criteria, as contained in *Circular 01/2013 Setting Local Speed Limits*, provides a national policy on the appropriate setting of speed limits. The criteria dictate that on single carriageway rural roads, where development is sparse, the National Speed Limit is appropriate. A lower 50mph speed limit can be considered on roads which have a mixed function and a high number of bends, junctions or accesses. It is considered that the low number of bends, junctions and accesses encountered on Wingfield Road precludes it from being considered for a 50mph speed limit and the current National Speed Limit remains appropriate.

Derbyshire Constabulary's Traffic Management Officer has been informed of the concerns raised by the petitioners and advises that they would not support the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph; citing that the current speed limit remains a realistic speed limit given the rural nature of the road. The current location of the terminal signs near the presence of houses reiterates to drivers the need for a speed transition reduction. Extending this limit risks terminal signs losing their association with the properties which would impact on compliance, and that consideration should be given to creating/enhancing 40mph Gateways where these 40mph limits are currently located. Enhancing the signing and incorporating 40mph road surface roundel will reiterate the existing speed transition.

A review of the Collision history database, which records all collisions resulting in personal injury, reveals that there have been none on the 60mph section of Wingfield Road in the last three years (this being the standard test period for assessment) and therefore the available data does not indicate a road safety issue relating to speed.

Taking into account local residents and Derbyshire Constabulary's Traffic Management officers comments, it is proposed that the following works be carried out:

- A single 'KEEP CLEAR' road marking to be installed at the vehicular access to residential properties close to the junction with the B6013.
- A 40mph road marking roundel to be installed on the carriageway adjacent to the speed limit signage.
- A 'SLOW' road marking to be installed on the carriageway adjacent to the proposed 100 yards count down marker sign.
- Oakerthorpe Village name plate sign to be replaced with new and installed under the 40mph speed limit sign.
- 100, 200 and 300 yards count down signs to be installed in grass verge.
- A redundant Slippery Road warning sign be removed.

Proposals detailed on the attached plan HMT/RS/79/17.

### **Local Member Comment**

The Local Member, Councillor Trevor Ainsworth, welcomes the proposals and believes that the signing and lining works, as detailed on the attached drawing number HMT/RS/79/17, will have a positive effect in influencing driver behaviour.

Councillor Ainsworth has also made comment regarding a previous speed survey in which he has said: *"I find that the speed data slightly flawed as apparently it was nearer the traffic lights and whilst you cannot not argue with the data, I could suggest that we put the indicator further up the hill towards the derestricted portion of the road to ascertain what the average speed is of the vehicles as they pass the first residential property and drive."*

*This is something we could revisit if the recommendations do not influence driver speed.*

*I however believe that the recommendations proposed will make a difference and would wish to be informed of a date for the completion of works."*

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost to install the signs and lining at the location will be in the region of £2,000. This forms part of the work approved in the 2017-18 Local Transport Plan within the Route, Freight and Parking Management budget.

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

(4) **Key Decision** No.

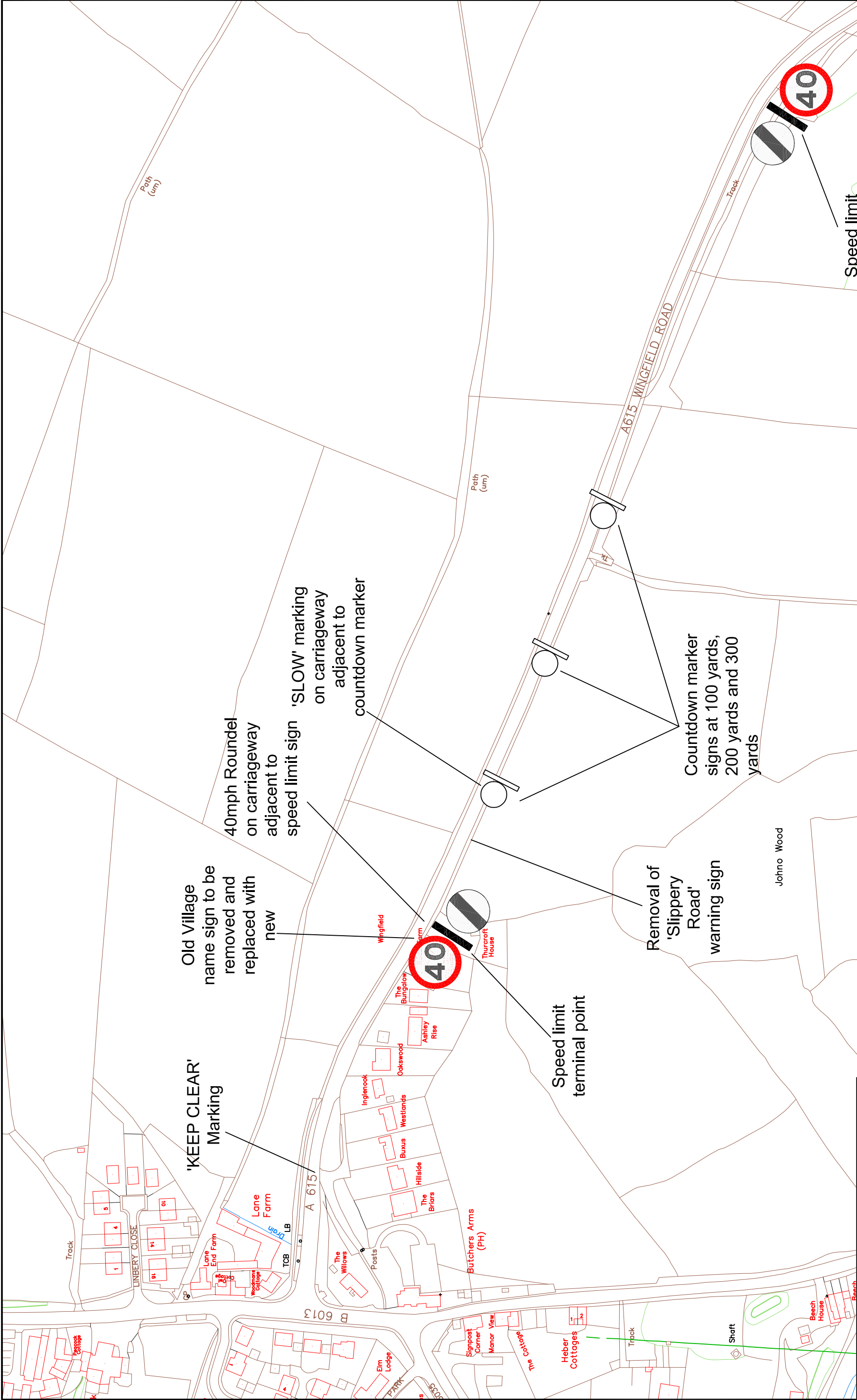
(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Mark Sloan, extension 38687.

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

- 7.1 The request for a reduced speed limit on A615 Wingfield Road, Oakerthorpe be refused.
- 7.2 The signs and lining works that are detailed on the attached drawing number HMT/RS/79/17 be installed.
- 7.3 The Local Member and lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities**



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PROJECT TITLE  A615 Wingfield Road Oakerthorpe										DRAWN R Straw		CHECKED M Sloan		APPROVED R Handbury					
										Date 10/02/2017		Date 10/02/2017		Date 10/02/2017					
										DRAWING TITLE  Proposed Signing and Lining Scheme						Project / Confirm Reference No.		Drawing Number HMT/RS/79/17	
DRAWING TITLE  Proposed Signing and Lining Scheme						Project / Confirm Reference No.		SCALE											
								BY		CHKD		APVD		DATE		NO.			
AMENDMENT DETAILS																			
MIKE ASHWORTH Senior Survey Engineer, Transport and Environment																			