

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

7 February 2017

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**PETITION – REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN SPEED LIMIT TO 30MPH – A6
BUXTON ROAD, NEW MILLS**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To consider a petition requesting a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on a section of the A6 Buxton Road, New Mills, and to recommend that the speed limit remains as at present.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 1 March 2016, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition signed by 57 persons, requesting a reduction to the speed limit on Buxton Road, New Mills (Minute No. 19/16 refers).

The subject heading of the petition reads as follows:

“Petition for the A6 to remain at 30mph:- We the undersigned, request that the speed limit on the A6 between New Mills and Furness Vale be reduced permanently to 30mph from 40mph.”

Officer Comment

Buxton Road (A6) is one of the main arterial roads in Derbyshire. The speed limit along the length of the road changes at intervals to reflect the surrounding environment in accordance with current national guidance. Generally speaking, speed limits are set having regard to the environment through which the road passes. For instance, a 30mph zone is seen as being built-up with development in depth on both sides of the road with frequent accesses and side roads. A 40 mph speed limit is provided on roads where the roadside development is much more sporadic or as in this particular case, associated with an area in between two much more urbanised and developed environments.

Through the residential section of Furness Vale where there are properties fronting the road on both sides, the speed limit is 30mph. Similarly, through the built-up section of Newtown, the speed limit is also 30mph. The section of road around the bend referred to as “Bank End Corner” where the road is semi-rural, is subject to a 40mph speed limit. This also enables 30mph terminal signs to be erected to create “gateways” at the entrance to the built-

up areas. If this whole section of road were to be subject to a 30mph speed limit, these signs would have to be removed and the important 30mph message would be lost where it is most needed on the entrance to the residential areas. There are already three vehicle activated signs on the A6 between Newtown and Bridgemont to help reinforce the 30mph message due to concerns about drivers contravening the speed limit.

Following interrogation of the Police's collision database, there have been no recorded injury collisions in the latest three year period to 31 May 2016 on the 40mph section of the A6, including Bank End Corner. Consultation has taken place with the Police about a change in this speed limit but, as the current speed limit accords with the national criteria for setting speed limits, they would not support a reduction of the speed limit to 30mph.

It is therefore recommended that the speed limit remains at 40mph.

Local Member Comment

Local Member Beth Atkins is also the lead petitioner and comments:

"Local Residents and Councillors, including myself, would like to see the speed limit on this stretch of the A6 set permanently at 30mph".

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

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 – Isobel Mulligan, extension 38677

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

7.1 The request for a reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the A6 at Buxton Road, New Mills be refused.

7.2 The Local Member, the Police and lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities