

Highways Committee

19 November 2009

B6278 and B6306, Edmundbyers

Proposed Amendment of a Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order



Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of an objection to the proposed speed limit review on the B6278 Edmundbyers in the vicinity of the Sewage Works (see attached plan).
- 1.2 This report requests that Members endorse the proposal for the setting aside of the objection and allow the scheme to be introduced.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 To make a Traffic Regulation Order to de-restrict a section of street lighting on the B6278 between The Fell Road and Church Lane, Edmundbyers.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Following the release of a new guidance document by the Department of Transport (DfT) known as Circular 1/06 'Setting Credible Speed Limits', Highway Authorities nationally have been tasked to review both their 'A' and 'B' classification road networks.
- 3.2 The County Council have incorporated this DfT document into 'The County Durham and Darlington Speed Management Strategy 2006 - 2011 ensuring good practice is maintained countywide.

4.0 Statutory Consultation

- 4.1 The B6278 and B6306 speed limit review covered all routes through Edmundbyers. The Traffic Regulation Order was drafted and advertised as per the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 with the objection period ending 9 October 2009.

- 4.2 It should be noted that the position of the 30mph terminal signs on all approach roads into Edmundbyers remain unchanged by this speed limit review. The review has been carried out to ensure that the current speed limit order is fully enforceable.
- 4.3 The statutory consultation with the Statutory Authorities and other interested parties resulted in one objection being forthcoming from a resident of Edmundbyers.

5.0 Objection

- 5.1 A resident of Edmundbyers has objected to the positioning of a national speed limit repeater sign which has been erected in the vicinity of the first lamp column as you approach Edmundbyers from the Fell Road.
- 5.2 The objector claims that the erection of this sign will encourage motorists to drive around the bends at speed until they reach the 30mph restricted area.
- 5.3 The objector also notes that there is no footpath around these bends therefore pedestrians have to walk on the carriageway.

6.0 Response

- 6.1 *A road subject to a national speed limit does not require repeater signs except when it has a system of street lighting. The purpose of the sign is to remind drivers that the road is not a restricted road. At the point where street lighting commences on a road subject to the national speed limit, the first repeater sign should be placed in line with the first lamp column (as detailed in the Traffic Signs Manual, Regulatory Signs 2008 section 14.23).*
- 6.2 *A repeater sign is required to ensure that the speed limit is fully enforceable. Without such a sign the speed limit is likely to be unenforceable.*
- 6.3 *It is considered unlikely that the erection of this sign which is simply a formality to legal compliance of the traffic order will change any driver behaviour around the bends.*
- 6.4 *Consideration has been made with regards to the provision of a footpath around the bends but the lack of road side verge and minimal road width means a footway cannot be constructed.*

7.0 Local Member Consultation

- 7.1 The Local Members, Councillors Shuttleworth and Savory, were both consulted and offered no objection to the proposal.

8.0 Recommendations and Reasons

- 8.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee endorse the proposal to set aside the objection and proceed with the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order.

Background Papers

Correspondence on Office File

Circular 1/06 'Setting Credible Speed Limits'

Copies of correspondence have been placed in the Members' Resource Centre.

Contact: Stephen Jones

Tel: 01388 602028

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The scheme is to be funded using the Speed Management Budget.

Staffing

None

Equalities and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Sustainability

None

Human Rights

None

Localities and Rurality

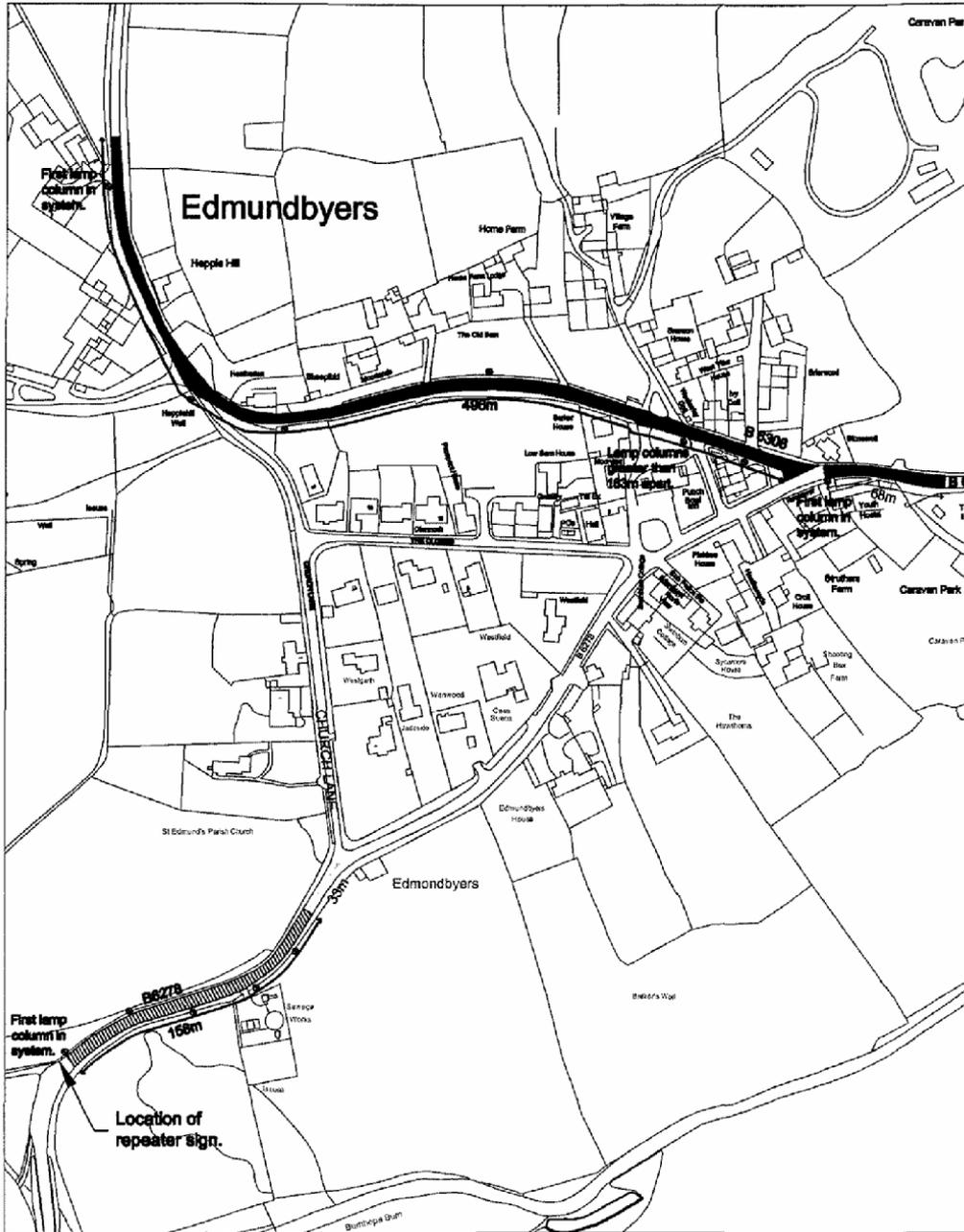
As detailed in report.

Young People

None

Consultation

Completed in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.



<p> Imposition of 30mph speed limit</p> <p> Densification</p>	<p>Durham</p> <p>Southern Area Office</p> <p>Terry Collins Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services County Hall Durham DH1 1BA</p>	<p>Project B6276 & B6306 Edmundbyers</p> <p>Ordering Speed Limit Order</p> <p>All Periods Issue NTS</p> <p>Project/Ordering Ref. S1/TRC/EdmundbyersOrder/001</p>
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