

## Highways Committee

19th April 2011

### B6277 Speed Limit Review



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## Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic Environment and Leisure

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### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To advise Members of representations received in respect of the proposed speed limits on the B6277 Middleton-in-Teesdale and the B6277, C162 and C163, Cotherstone
- 2 It is recommended that, having considered the objections, the Committee endorses the proposal and proceeds with the implementation of the proposed speed limits on the B6277.

### Background

- 3 The speed limit review has been completed in accordance with current best practice guidance produced by the Department for Transport (DfT), known as Circular 1/06 `Setting Local Speed Limits`.
- 4 The County Council has adopted this guidance and incorporated this DfT document into `The County Durham and Darlington Speed Management Strategy 2006-2011` ensuring good practice is maintained countywide.
- 5 Research and experience gained at other locations within the County have proven that the installation of speed limits which are credible with the environment through which the motorist is travelling results in improved driver compliance.
- 6 De-restricted speed limit orders are to be created for the sections of highway covered by street lighting which are not subject to a 30mph speed limit. In addition 30mph speed limit orders are to be created for the sections of non-street lit areas which are to be subject to a 30mph speed limit.

- 7 The B6277 forms a route linking the A66 transpennine road to the county boundary at Langdon Beck near Alston, Cumbria. It is therefore a key strategic route through Teesdale. The B6277 travels through a number of villages such as Startforth, Lartington, Cotherstone, Romalldkirk, Mickleton and Middleton in Teesdale. See route map in Appendix 2.

### **Proposal**

- 8 To make a Traffic Regulation Order to regulate speed limits on the B6277 and adjoining roads between Startforth and Langdon Beck.
- 9 The order will formalise the existing speed limits on the majority of roads included in this speed limit review. There are 2 amendments to the current situation. These are (a) at the C162 Briscoe Lane, Cotherstone and (b) the C163 Clint Lane, 'Lancelands', Cotherstone. In relation to (a) it is proposed that the 30mph speed limit on Briscoe Lane be relocated 50 metres in a westerly direction so that it is in line with the western most street light. In relation to (b) it is also proposed that a de-restriction order be raised to cover the street lit section to the south west of the 30mph zone on the C163 Clint Lane.

### **Statutory Consultation**

- 10 The Traffic Regulation Order was drafted and advertised as per the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 with the objection period ending 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.
- 11 The extent of the proposed speed limit was agreed with Durham Constabulary and identified so that it complies with the best practice guidance.
- 12 Local members, Councillors Bell and Harrison, were both consulted and offered no objection to the proposal.
- 13 The consultation exercise resulted in 8 objections/representations being received. 5 objections were from residents of Cotherstone, 1 objection was from Middleton-in-Teesdale & Newbiggin Parish Council and 2 representations were made by Cotherstone Parish Council.
- 14 An amendment was made to the initial draft speed limit proposal for the C162 Briscoe Lane, Cotherstone. The proposed de-restriction zone was removed from the order and this resulted in 4 residents retracting their objections. In removing the proposed de-restriction order, the 30mph zone will, by default, commence at the start of the streetlighting.

- 15 There now remain 4 objections/representations - 1 objection from a Cotherstone resident, 2 representations from Cotherstone Parish Council and 1 objection from Middleton-in-Teesdale & Newbiggin Parish Council.

### **Objections / Representations and Responses**

16 **Objection**

Middleton-in-Teesdale Parish Council request that consideration be given to moving the 30 mph signs further out of the village on the northbound approach. See plan in Appendix 3.

17 **Response**

*The 30 mph speed limit at this location commences at a point just to the north of Middleton Bridge. This location is compliant with current best practice guidance produced by the Department for Transport (DfT) known as Circular 1/06 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. Compliance would not be met should the speed limits be moved southwards outside of the built up area. It is felt that locating the signage further to the south where there is limited frontage development would send a confusing message to any motorists.*

18 **Representation**

Cotherstone Parish Council request that the 30mph signage on the B6277 south of Fitzhugh Court be relocated further south so that it commences at the site of the existing village nameplate signage. See plan in Appendix 4.

19 **Response**

*It is not proposed to amend the location of the existing speed limit signage at this location. This location is compliant with current best practice guidance produced by the Department for Transport (DfT) known as Circular 1/06 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. Compliance would not be met should the speed limits be moved southwards outside of the built up area and this may result in higher vehicle speed being recorded within the village itself. Again, as mentioned previously, it is considered that the positioning of the 30mph signs in an area of no frontage development would send a confusing message to the motorist.*

20 **Representation**

Cotherstone Parish Council request that the 30mph signage on the C162 Briscoe Lane is moved further west so that it commences to the west of the property named 'Baldercroft'. See plan in Appendix 5.

21 **Response**

*The speed limits at this location are to be positioned so that they are in line with the westernmost street light. This location is compliant with current best practice guidance produced by the Department for Transport*

*(DfT) known as Circular 1/06 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. Compliance would not be met should the speed limits be moved westwards outside of the built up area.*

22 **Objection**

A resident of 'Lancelands', Cotherstone, requests that the 30mph signage on the C165 Lancelands approach be moved southwest beyond the Lancelands entrance to a location beyond 'Pinner's Cottage'. See plan in Appendix 6.

23 **Response**

*Consideration was made when determining the extent of the speed limit that the terminal signs were located so that they best met with the DfT advice. It is not proposed to relocate the signs at this location as it is considered that they are located at the start of the village frontage development. It was felt that locating the signage further to the southeast where there is only sporadic frontage development would send a confusing message to any motorists.*

**Recommendation**

- 23 It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee endorses the proposal to set aside the objections and proceed with the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order.

**Background Papers**

Area Traffic Office Scheme File  
Department of Transport Circular 1/06 – Setting Local Speed Limits  
The County Durham and Darlington Speed Management Strategy 2006-2011

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**Appendix 1: Implications**

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**1 Finance**

The scheme is being funded using the LTP2 'Speed Management' budget

**2 Staffing - None****3 Equality and Diversity - None****4 Accommodation - None****5 Crime and Disorder - None****6 Human Rights - None****7 Consultation**

Consultation undertaken in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

**8 Procurement - None****9 Disability Discrimination Act - None****10 Legal Implications - None**