



**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place**

Report to:	<b>Planning and Regulation Committee</b>
Date:	<b>15 February 2021</b>
Subject:	<b>A631 Market Rasen to Louth, Proposed Speed Limit Alterations</b>

**Summary:**

This report considers an objection to the lengths of new 50mph speed limit proposed along the sections of the A631 (shown at Appendices B and C), and a request for the proposed 30mph speed limit extension outside De Aston School to be extended further (see Appendix A) into the existing 40mph limit.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Committee rejects the request to extend the proposed 30mph speed limit and overrules the objection to the proposed 50mph speed limits, so that they may be advertised and introduced as consulted upon, subject to the consideration of any further objections received.

**Background**

In November 2016, the Secretary of State for Transport announced a new Safer Roads Fund of £175m. The Fund is specifically targeted at delivering road upgrades and improvements to reduce the number and severity of fatal and serious injury collisions on the 50 highest risk road sections, based on the Road Safety Foundation's analysis published in 2016.

Lincolnshire County Council submitted bids for a number of schemes, one being for improvements to the A631 between Louth and Market Rasen where there is a history of reported injury collisions. The bid was successful and the funding provides for general road safety measures such as improvements to road surfaces, signing and markings, lower speed limits and junction improvements.

**Existing Conditions**

The A631 between Market Rasen and Louth passes through a number of villages. It is subject to the national speed limit save for the villages of North Willingham and South Elkington where a 40mph limit applies and a 30mph speed limit in Ludford.

## **Proposals**

Analysis of the accident rate along this stretch of the A631 and mean speed of traffic indicates that the criteria in the speed limit policy are met for new 50mph limits to be introduced along those lengths shown at Appendices B and C. These will form part of the speed management aims of the overall accident reduction scheme.

We have taken the opportunity also to extend the existing 30mph speed limit at the request of Market Rasen Town Council and a local District Councillor as illustrated at Appendix A.

Statutory consultation on these proposals took place from 23<sup>rd</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## **Objection**

An objection relating to the sections of proposed 50mph speed limits considers these to be without justification on the basis that the current level of limit is appropriate and drivers will ignore any reduction. It is suggested that the funding available should be directed towards enforcement measures instead.

The objection to the proposed 30mph speed limit extension on A631 outside De Aston School takes the form of a request for this to be extended to a point east of the access to Glebe Farm, in order to include potential new development in this area.

## **Comments**

Reducing the speed limit to 50mph on the sections between Market Rasen and North Willingham, North Willingham and Ludford and on the approach to South Elkington will assist in the reduction of personal injury accidents in these areas, as has been evidenced by similar schemes of this nature. The proposals have been justified against the policy criteria on the basis of the collision history on the A631 and the mean speed of traffic. Safety will be further enhanced at some point in the future with the introduction of average speed cameras on the proposed 50mph limit between Market Rasen and North Willingham.

The extent of the additional length of 30mph speed limit proposed outside De Aston School is in line with the policy whereby this level of limit may be introduced up to 250 metres either side of a school entrance. The terminal point currently lies 150m to the east of the entrance so the policy allows it to be extended a further 100m as is proposed. Any further extension cannot be justified against the policy at this time.

The extension as proposed will slow traffic down well in advance of the school and retaining the 40 limit will act as a buffer between this and the new 50mph limit proposed.

## **Conclusion**

Both the proposed 30mph speed limit extension and 50mph limits comply with the criteria set out in the Council's speed limit policy, and, along with other measures, will enhance road safety along this section of the A631.

## **Consultation**

The following have been consulted on these proposals: Lincolnshire Police; Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue; EMAS; RHA; FTA; ELDC; WLDC; Market Rasen Town Council; Tealby Parish Council; Ludford Parish Council; CallConnect.

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

None carried out

### **Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Proposed 30mph speed limit extension
Appendix B	Proposed 50mph speed limit (Market Rasen - Ludford)
Appendix C	Proposed 50mph speed limit (South Elkington)

### **Background Papers**

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
None	None

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