



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

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	06 June 2022
Subject:	Saltfleetby, Main Road - Proposed 40mph Speed Limit

Summary:

This report considers objections to the proposed 40mph speed limit on Main Road, Saltfleetby

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee overrules the objections so that the Order, as advertised, may be introduced.

Background

Following a request from Saltfleetby Parish Council for the 30mph speed limit on Main Rd to be reviewed, an investigation took place into the mean speed of traffic at this location. Approximately 25 years ago a policy was introduced whereby a 30mph speed limit was introduced outside all statutory age schools in the county, regardless of the mean speed of traffic. This included the school on Main Rd, which has since closed.

Two sets of speed surveys have given mean speed results ranging from 38 to 41mph. In accordance with Table 4 of the speed limit policy, this correlates to a 40mph speed limit:

Mean Speed	Limit
< 33 mph	30 mph
33 – 43 mph	40 mph
>43 mph	50 mph

As this is the case, and there is no longer a school at this location, the 30mph limit in place is not compliant with the policy. It is therefore proposed to introduce a 40mph limit as shown at Appendix B, which will align it with the prevailing limit on Main Rd.

A number of objections and an online petition have been received in response to this proposal. There are concerns over the volume and speed of traffic and a belief that raising the limit here will result in a further rise in vehicle speeds and an increased risk of accidents.

Objectors request that the 30mph speed limit here is retained and that the prevailing 40mph speed limit is reduced to 30mph along its length. Reference is made to the Department of Transport's guidance on speed limit assessment which suggests that villages should be subject to a 30 or 20mph speed limit.

These concerns are noted. The DfT's advice on speed limits provides guidance for interpretation by individual Local Authorities to suit the characteristics of their area. The County Council's speed limit policy has been devised to apply a consistent approach to the varying conditions which are found across such a large county. The mean speed of traffic is an accurate reflection of the speed at which most drivers choose to drive given the surrounding environment. Limits set too low may lead to driver frustration and injudicious overtaking. This is because the resultant inconsistent vehicle speeds making it difficult to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles. It is for these reasons that the policy prescribes the various criteria needing to be met. Accident data for the last five years indicates that there have been no reported injury accidents within the vicinity of the proposed limit.

Conclusion

The proposed 40mph speed limit at this location has been tested against the speed limit policy and complies with the criteria for this level of limit. As there is no longer a school at this location a 30mph speed limit cannot be justified.

Consultation

The following were consulted with regards to this proposal: Cllr McNally, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, Lincolnshire Police, East Lindsey District Council, Saltfleetby Parish Council, Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue, East Midlands Ambulance Trust, Traffic Commissioners, Confederation of Public Transport, Stagecoach East Midlands, PC Coaches, Brylaine, Grayscroft, Road Haulage Association, Freight Transport Association and the National Farmers Union. The local Member supports the proposal.

An advertisement was placed in the Louth Leader on 24 September 2021 with objection period ending on 5 November 2021. The documents were also available on the County Council's website.

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

The local member is in support of this proposal.

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Site Location
Appendix B	Detail of proposed 40mph speed limit

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
Speed survey data: consultation documents: objection correspondence	Available on request

This report was written by Tina Featherstone, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or TRO@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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