

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Interim Executive Director for Environment
Date: 11 November 2013

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Ribble Valley South West

Proposed Part-Time Advisory 20mph Speed Limit for St Leonards C of E Primary School, Commons Lane, Balderstone, Ribble Valley Borough
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

Approval is sought for the introduction of a part-time advisory 20mph speed limit for St Leonards C of E Primary School, Commons Lane, Balderstone, Ribble Valley Borough following the receipt of objections during the period of public consultation.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to give approval for the introduction of an advisory 20mph speed limit for St Leonards C of E Primary School, Commons Lane, Balderstone, Ribble Valley Borough as set out in the report, in the schedule attached at Appendix 'A' and shown on the attached plan (Appendix 'B').

Background and Advice

The Local Transport Plan 2011/21 identifies investment in the safety of our children and young people to reduce the numbers involved in accidents on our streets, particularly in our disadvantaged communities, as amongst the top priorities of the Plan. The roll out of 20mph schemes across residential areas in Lancashire where these speed reduction measures can be accommodated and consistent with the free movement of traffic on the highway network is a key proposal within the Plan. In addition there are a number of schools outside main residential areas which will have an advisory 20mph speed limit.

This scheme proposes the creation of a part-time advisory 20mph speed limit for St Leonards C of E Primary School, Commons Lane, Balderstone, Ribble Valley Borough. A schedule setting out those streets that will be subject to the proposed advisory 20mph limit is attached at Appendix 'A' and is also shown on the attached plan (Appendix 'B').

Consultations

The proposal was advertised between 1 July 2013 and 22 July 2013.

Ribble Valley Borough Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Ambulance Service, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Local Cycling Representatives, Local Schools, Local Parish Councils and Local County Councillors have been consulted and have no objections to the proposal.

In addition, local residents living in vicinity of the proposed advisory 20mph speed limit area were also sent leaflets notifying them of the proposal.

The County Councillor for Ribble Valley South West has expressed support for the proposal.

No adverse comments were received from the Head Teacher of St Leonards C of E Primary School or from Balderstone Parish Council.

Comments Received

An email was received from a local resident making the point that in order to be effective, the proposal will need either police or traffic officers to make sure the speed limit is observed. They have noticed that farm traffic as well as cars and lorries do not always observe speed restrictions now and the respondent feels that a little monitoring during the early stages would be helpful.

Once the advisory part time speed limit has been introduced, the County Council will endeavour to work with the school in order to embed the new limit and also raise awareness amongst parents, pupils and the wider community. It will also be working alongside Lancashire Constabulary in order to carry out enforcement type activities such as School Roadwatch, where pupils work alongside police to monitor and record speeds of vehicles.

During the consultation period, one objection was also received.

Objection Received

The objector would question the logic in incurring further substantial expense of signage and electrical installation for an advisory 20mph limit when the recently implemented 30mph mandatory limit is not adhered to by many local road users including some parents of children at the school.

County Council's Response

This has been answered in part in the response to the comment raised by another local resident. Once introduced, the County Council will endeavour to work with the school and Lancashire Constabulary to embed this proposal.

The objector's concerns regarding speeding within the 30mph speed limit have been forwarded onto the County Council's Speed Tasking Group for their consideration, and follow up action may be taken if appropriate.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Although there can be no guarantee that all vehicles will travel at or below 20mph, it is anticipated that a reduction in the speed limit would influence the speed of the majority of vehicles and enhance road safety.

The 20mph speed limit programme is sign only and in order to embed the principle of driving at no more than 20mph in residential areas and outside all schools as normal behaviour a multi-agency approach is required to engage with communities through a range of activities, including:

- Undertaking speed surveys
- Liaison with Lancashire Constabulary regarding School RoadWatch:
 - With the aim of establishing working partnerships between Lancashire Constabulary and local communities to address road safety concerns and reduce road casualties.
 - The School RoadWatch activity is designated as an educational activity and not as police enforcement.
 - School RoadWatch primary focuses on drivers exceeding the speed limit but also targets drivers using mobile phones and drivers and passengers failing to wear seat belts and/or child restraints.
- Promotion of 20mph speed limits through school based activities,
- Police and Communities Together (PaCT) meetings,
- Parish Council meetings to understand community concerns and develop responses appropriate to that area,
- Support for the Healthy Streets initiative,
- Liaison with Public Realm Teams regarding the deployment of Speed Indicator Display Signs (SpIDS)

Financial

The scheme would be funded from the resources set aside in the Directorate's 2013/14 Capital Programme for 20mph Areas at an estimated cost of £4,000.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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Nil.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.