

Objections

Following formal consultation four responses were received objecting to the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Lea Lane from 40mph to 30mph. The concerns that the objectors raised are as follows:

- That the road is an arterial road for traffic using the Preston Western Distributor Road and traffic needs to be kept moving swiftly;
- That a reduction to the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph would cause congestion and delays on an already popular road;
- That the road is not used as a cut through for the motorway as people have implied;
- That there are no housing estates, schools, paths or dangerous junctions on Lea Lane;
- That the road is no busier than it was before the new bypass and therefore the objectors believe that the speed limit does not need to change;
- That not long ago the road was national speed limit and then it was reduced to a 30mph and 40mph limit.

The objectors question the basis for suggesting that 40mph is now unsafe for this road and fail to see the rationale as to why the speed limit is being reduced.

Officer Response

The objectors' comments have been noted; however this proposal does not affect the main sections of Lea Lane, which are part of the arterial roads for traffic using the Preston Western Distributor Road.

A Speed Limit Order was made in 2023 primarily to set the speed limits for several new roads, constructed as part of the Preston Western Distributor Road scheme.

It was originally proposed that Preston Western Distributor (Edith Rigby Way) would be 70mph with the sections of the realigned Lea Lane as 30mph. The proposal was modified to lower the speed limit of Edith Rigby Way to 50mph for the safety of road users. This was due to the expected increase in urban development alongside and in the vicinity of the road increasing the scope of pedestrian interface with vehicular traffic; and also because of the inclusion of an additional roundabout junction that was proposed during the period of the scheme's construction.

These speed limits were set to correspond to the design standards of the new roads and engineered to safely accommodate traffic.

Consultation and formal advertising of the proposals was undertaken with the Order being approved at Cabinet on the 7 September-2023 and the speed limits coming into force on the 16 October-2023.

As a result of the construction of the Preston Western Distributor Road (Edith Rigby Way) and realignment of Lea Lane, a small section of the old Lea Lane with residential dwellings remained as a dead-end road. This section remained with a 40mph speed limit.

Due to the nature of the road and residential dwellings on the remaining section of Lea Lane (now referred to as Lea Lane U4584), it was considered that a 40mph speed limit is no longer a safe or appropriate limit for the road. Therefore, in the interests of safety for all highway users, this proposal is to reduce the 40mph to 30mph to tie in with the existing speed limits on the adjoining road.

Officer Recommendations

After considering the comments relating to the proposal officers recommend that in the interests of safety for all highway users the proposed speed limit changes are implemented as advertised.