**Hampshire County Council** 

Report to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

September 2019

Traffic Order Proposal – New Odiham Road, Alton 30mph Speed Limit

Contact: lan Janes. Tel: 01962 832284. E-mail: ian.janes@hants.gov.uk.

# 1. Summary

1.1 The following decision is sought:

That a Traffic Order be made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("RTRA 1984"), the effect of which will be to introduce a 30mph speed limit between a point 16 metres north of its junction with the B3349 Basingstoke Road and a point 110 metres north of its junction with The Goldings.

1.2 In addition, the Traffic Order shall contain the same provisions as set out in The Hampshire (Various Roads, Alton) (Restricted Road, 30 and 40 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Order 2018 except for any changes described above and shall revoke that Order in its entirety.

# 2. Background

- 2.1 The proposed 30mph speed limit in New Odiham Road relates to the nearby Hopfield Place development. This development includes the construction of:
  - new housing on the west side of New Odiham Road to the north of Basingstoke Road (currently, there is housing on the east side of the road only).
  - (ii) a new roundabout in New Odiham Road at the junction with Greenfields Avenue and the newly constructed Hopfield Place access road (previously, New Odiham Road/Greenfields Avenue was a T-junction).
- 2.2 A key factor in setting lower speed limits (such as 30mph and 40mph) is the character of the road under consideration in terms of (a) its alignment, width & frequency of junctions/accesses, (b) the extent of its roadside development and (c) the volume & composition of traffic using the road. Past experience indicates that the majority of reasonable motorists vary their speed according to the factors outlined in (a), (b) and (c) above. The more these factors limit motorists' speed, the lower the speed limit that can realistically be set. As a result of changes in the road character brought about by the

Hopfield Place development (particularly in terms of (a) and (b) above), a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph is considered to be appropriate on this occasion.

- 2.3 Typically, lower speed limits (such as 30mph) start/finish adjacent to the edge of the developed area of the town/village under consideration. The combined effect of the change of road character and the reduction in speed limit serves to encourage motorists to drive at slower speeds through the developed area.
- 2.4 Due consideration has been given to RTRA 1984 sections 122(1) and 122(2) and any other relevant legislation. In this case the Decision Maker acting on behalf of the Local Authority considers this TRO expeditious, for the convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians).
- 2.5 The decision outlined in paragraph 2.4 (above) to exercise the functions of the Local Authority under RTRA 1984 sections 122(1) and 122(2) has been reached on the basis of what is reasonably practicable after due regard has been given to any matters appearing to the authority to be relevant.
- 2.6 The scheme supports the corporate strategies outlined in this report.
- 3. Other Options Considered and Rejected
- 3.1 Other options have been considered see paragraphs 12. to 18. of the main report below.
- 4. Conflicts of Interest Declared by the Decision Maker or Other Executive Member Consulted None.
- 5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel None.
- 6. Reason(s) for the Matter being dealt with if Urgent None.

Approved by:

Date:

30/9/19

Stuart Jarvis

Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

**Hampshire County Council** 

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Contact: lan Janes. Tel: 01962 832284. E-mail: ian.janes@hants.gov.uk.

### Introduction

1. This report considers the reduction of the speed limit at New Odiham Road in Alton from 40mph to 30mph.

#### Recommendations

- 2. That a Traffic Order be made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("RTRA 1984"), the effect of which will be to introduce a 30mph speed limit between a point 16 metres north of its junction with the B3349 Basingstoke Road and a point 110 metres north of its junction with The Goldings.
- 3. In addition, the Traffic Order shall contain the same provisions as set out in The Hampshire (Various Roads, Alton) (Restricted Road, 30 and 40 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Order 2018 except for any changes described above and shall revoke that Order in its entirety.

# **Background**

- 4. The proposed 30mph speed limit in New Odiham Road relates to the nearby Hopfield Place development. This development includes the construction of:
  - new housing on the west side of New Odiham Road to the north of Basingstoke Road (currently, there is housing on the east side of the road only).
  - (ii) a new roundabout in New Odiham Road at the junction with Greenfields Avenue and the newly constructed Hopfield Place access road (previously, New Odiham Road/Greenfields Avenue was a T-junction).
- 5. A key factor in setting lower speed limits (such as 30mph and 40mph) is the character of the road under consideration in terms of (a) its alignment, width & frequency of junctions/accesses, (b) the extent of its roadside development and (c) the volume & composition of traffic using the road. Past experience indicates that the majority of reasonable motorists vary their speed according to the factors

outlined in (a), (b) and (c) above. The more these factors limit motorists' speed, the lower the speed limit that can realistically be set. As a result of changes in the road character brought about by the Hopfield Place development (particularly in terms of (a) and (b) above), a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph is considered to be appropriate on this occasion.

- 6. Due consideration has been given to RTRA 1984 sections 122(1) and 122(2) and any other relevant legislation. In this case the Decision Maker acting on behalf of the Local Authority considers this TRO expeditious, for the convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians).
- 7. The decision outlined in paragraph 6. (above) to exercise the functions of the Local Authority under RTRA 1984 sections 122(1) and 122(2) has been reached on the basis of what is reasonably practicable after due regard has been given to any matters appearing to the authority to be relevant.
- 8. Typically, lower speed limits (such as 30mph) start/finish adjacent to the edge of the developed area of the town/village under consideration. The combined effect of the change of road character and the reduction in speed limit serves to encourage motorists to drive at slower speeds through the developed area.
- 9. The scheme supports the corporate strategies outlined in this report.
- 10. During the five-year period ending 31 March 2019, there have been no speed-related injury accidents at New Odiham Road in Alton.
- 11. Attached are:
  - (i) the traffic order.
  - (ii) a location plan.
  - (iii) a descriptive plan.

#### Consultation

- 12. Formal consultations with the local County Councillor, Andrew Joy, and the Police were carried out during the winter of 2018/2019. The original proposals consisted of (i) a new 30mph speed limit between the Basingstoke Road roundabout & the edge of the developed area in New Odiham Road and (ii) a new 50mph speed limit for a distance of approximately 400 metres north of the developed area. Please note that current speed limit guidance recommends minimum speed limit lengths of 400 metres in these circumstances.
- 13. The Police did not support the original proposals. Councillor Joy supported the proposed 30mph speed limit, but not the proposed 50mph speed limit.

- 14. As a result of Councillor Joy's and the Police's responses to the original proposals, these proposals were reviewed and, for the reasons outlined in paragraph 5. above, it was decided to retain the proposed 30mph speed limit between the Basingstoke Road roundabout & the edge of the developed area in New Odiham Road.
- 15. To the north of the developed area, three options were considered:
  - (i) continue to progress the proposed 400 metre length of 50mph speed limit.
  - (ii) progress a 400 metre length of 40mph speed limit.
  - (iii) progress a shorter length of 30mph speed limit.
- 16. Councillor Joy supported option (iii) above. The need to consider an additional speed limit to the north of the developed area arose from concern about inadequate visibility of the proposed 30mph terminal signs when positioned at the edge of the developed area. A short northward extension of the proposed 30mph speed limit by approximately 50 metres would ensure that there would be adequate visibility of the terminal signs without these signs being too far from the developed area to the extent that they would lose their effectiveness with motorists no longer relating the start of the lower speed limit to the start of the developed area.
- The public advertisement of the revised proposals was carried out from
   to 30 April 2019 one representation was received:

# Representation from

Tony Ransley
32 Medstead Road,
Beech,
Alton,
Hampshire,
GU34 4AD

# Details of Representation

I wish to express my agreement with the 30mph limit, though given the underlying inclination of the road (downward towards Alton) I would take it further back towards Odiham, however I understand there might be legal limits as to how far the 30mph speed limit can stretch into the 'countryside'.

Similarly, the new 50mph limit (Not mentioned in your proposal) should be taken back to the track that leads towards Shalden by Todd's farm. If you are doing 50mph in the direction of Alton at that point and take your foot off the accelerator you will still be doing 40 mph when you reach the 30 mph sign as currently proposed. The reason for this being that, though it does not appear as such, there

is a significant downward slope into Alton from that junction onwards.

# Response to Representation

As per paragraphs 10. to 14. above, the original proposals consisted of (i) a new 30mph speed limit between the Basingstoke Road roundabout & the edge of the developed area in New Odiham Road and (ii) a new 50mph speed limit for a distance of approximately 400 metres north of the developed area. As a result of Councillor Joy's and the Police's responses to the original proposals, these proposals were reviewed and it was decided to retain the proposed 30mph speed limit. To the north of the developed area, the preferred option is to progress a short northward extension of the proposed 30mph speed limit. Such an extension would ensure that there would be adequate visibility of the terminal signs without these signs losing their effectiveness with motorists no longer relating the start of the lower speed limit to the start of the developed area.

 Councillor Joy and the Police were notified of the public advertisement, together with East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council.

### Local Member's View

19. Councillor Joy supports the implementation of the proposed 30mph speed limit at New Odiham Road as advertised. As per normal practice with larger scale traffic management schemes, the proposed speed limit and accompanying measures will be monitored for an appropriate period of time before being reviewed.

#### Cost

20. The cost of implementation will be met from developer funding from the nearby Hopfield Place development.

#### Conclusion

21. The proposed 30mph speed limit at New Odiham Road should be implemented as advertised.

# REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

# Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

# Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	Location
Schemes files.	Economy, Transport & Environment Department, Hampshire County Council, Elizabeth II Court West, The Castle, Winchester,
	Hampshire,
	SO23 8UD.

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

# THE HAMPSHIRE (VARIOUS ROADS, ALTON) (RESTRICTED ROAD, 30 AND 40 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2019

Hampshire County Council in exercise of its powers and duties under Sections 82, 83, 84 and 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Act and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby makes the following Order:

1. In this Order, and the preamble and schedule hereto:

"the Act" means the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;
"mph" means miles per hour; and
"road" means any length of highway or any other length of road to which the public has access and includes bridges over which a road passes
"special forces" has the same meaning as defined in The Road Traffic Exemptions (Special Forces) (Variation and Amendment) Regulations 2011

- 2. The lengths of road specified in Schedule I to this Order shall be restricted roads for the purpose of Section 81 of the Act.
- 3. No person shall drive any vehicle at a speed exceeding 30 mph on any of the roads specified in the Schedule II to this Order.
- 4. No person shall drive any vehicle at a speed exceeding 40 mph on the roads specified in the Schedule III to this Order.
- 5. The Hampshire (Various Roads, Alton) (Restricted Road, 30 and 40 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Order 2018 is hereby revoked in its entirety.
- 6. No speed limit imposed by this order applies to vehicles falling within regulation 3(4) of the Road Traffic Exemptions (Special Forces) (Variation and Amendment) Regulations 2011 when used in accordance with regulation 3(5) of those Regulations.
- 7. This order shall come into operation on 2019 and may be cited as "The Hampshire (Various Roads, Alton) (Restricted Road, 30 and 40 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Order 2019."

THE COMMON SEAL of HAMPSHIRE	1
COUNTY COUNCIL was hereunto affixed	1
n the presence of:	1

Authorised Signatory

### SCHEDULE I

# Lengths of road at Alton in the District of East Hampshire Restricted Road (30 mph Speed Limit)

- (i) A339 Whitedown Lane / Selborne Road between a point 268 metres south-east of its junction with A339 Basingstoke Road and a point on A339 Selborne Road 177 metres south-east of its roundabout junction with the U230 Winchester Road, an approximate distance of 958 metres.
- (ii) A339 / B3349 Basingstoke Road between a point 28 metres west of its junction with A339 Pertuis Avenue / Whitedown Lane and a point 16 metres east of its junction with B3349 New Odiham Road, an approximate distance of 845 metres.
- (iii) B3349 New Odiham Road between its junction with B3349 Basingstoke Road and a point 399 metres north-west thereof.

#### SCHEDULE II

# Lengths of road at Alton in the District of East Hampshire 30mph Speed Limit

- (i) A339 Pertuis Avenue / Whitedown Lane between its junction with A339 Basingstoke Road and a point 268 metres south-east thereof.
- (ii) Basingstoke Road Service Road (the cul-de-sac located opposite Brick Kiln Lane and adjacent to the northern end of Highridge), for its entire length, an approximate distance of 108 metres.
- (iii) B3349 New Odiham Road between a point 399 metres north-west of its junction with B3349 Basingstoke Road and a point 37 metres north-west thereof.

### **SCHEDULE III**

# Lengths of road at Alton in the District of East Hampshire 40mph Speed Limit

- (i) A339 Basingstoke Road between a point 356 metres north-west of its junction with C26 Medstead Road and a point 28 metres west of its junction with A339 Pertuis Avenue /Whitedown Lane, an approximate distance of 895 metres.
- (ii) C26 Medstead Road between its junction with A339 Basingstoke Road and a point 25 metres north-east of its junction with Snode Hill, an approximate distance of 130 metres.



