

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Adrian Gray
Title:	Traffic Order Proposals: 40mph Speed Limit on River Lane, Titchfield / The Hampshire (River Lane and Funtley Road, Titchfield) (40 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Order 2025
Reference:	C689

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1. The decision:

1.1. That a traffic order be implemented under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA), the effects of which will be to:

- (i) Impose a 40 miles per hour speed limit (formerly National speed limit) on River Lane between its junction with Titchfield Lane / Fontley Road and its junction with Mayles Lane, an approximate distance of 415 metres.
- (ii) Funtley Road between its junction with Mayles Lane and its junction with Funtley Hill (an approximate distance of 1,050 metres) will become a restricted road by virtue of a system of streetlighting as per section 82(1)(a) of the Act. This stretch of road will be 30 miles per hour with no requirement for an Order.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. Hampshire County Council proposes to reduce the current National Speed Limit to 40 miles per hour along the length of River Lane and to 30mph by virtue of restricted road designation (by virtue of a system of streetlighting) on Funtley Road.

It was a condition of the planning agreement for the Fallow Close development, that a reduction in the speed limit past the development access on Funtley Road should be considered, and developer funds were secured for this purpose. Residents and other road users have previously raised concerns about the speed of traffic travelling along River Lane and Funtley Road and have requested the speed limit be reduced. In view of this, Hampshire County Council has reviewed traffic speeds through the section of road where the National Speed Limit is currently in force, and it has been determined that existing vehicle speeds support a reduced speed limit.

On Funtley Road it is intended to reduce the existing National Speed Limit to 30mph through Restricted Road designation, given the presence of street lighting throughout and to be compatible with the existing Restricted Road status eastwards along the remainder of the route. It is also intended to reduce the National Speed Limit to 40mph on River Lane to provide better transition for drivers into the new 30mph limit, and to complement the existing 40mph limit on Titchfield Lane / Fontley Road. Streetlighting will be introduced and will have the effect of 30mph restricted road designation. A continuous 30mph limit through the whole route is not appropriate, given the more rural character of River Lane.

- 2.2. 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).
- 2.3 The decision outlined in paragraph 2.3 (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:
 - the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises
 - the importance of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use the particular stretch of road
- 2.4 4 objections / representations were received during the period which took place between Friday 24th January 2025 and Friday 14th February 2025 - details of which are in the Appendix to this report.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. None

4. Scheme Funding:

- 4.1. Capital

5. Conflicts of interest:

- 5.1. None

6. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

- 6.1. None

7. Supporting information:

- 7.1. Local Members, Councillor Bryant, Councillor Latham and Councillor Stallard support the proposal
- 7.2. Executive Member for Universal Services, Councillor Bowerman supports the proposal

7.3. Police – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary do not support the proposal. Details of comments received from the police are in the appendix to this report

7.4. Draft Order and Plan

Approved by:

Date:

2025

Adrian Gray, Head of Highways (Traffic and Safety)

On behalf of the Director of Universal Services

APPENDIX

Objector Name	Officer Response
Objection	
Jo Satherley, Unknown – Objection	
<p>Why isn't the road being made 30 miles an hour on river lane as I have had a few close calls on the bridge and the blind corner near Mayles Lane where people where on the wrongside of the road.</p> <p>This would give a consistent speed limit through Funtley to Fontley and Tichfield Lane.</p>	<p>Consideration was given to the option of extending the 30mph speed limit restriction further north along River Lane; however, the police did not support this due to the rural character of the road and the lack of any reported traffic collisions.</p> <p>Establishing speed limits that are a suitable level for the road and ensuring adherence to these limits are crucial for enhancing greater safety for all road users. As such, speed limits should not be employed as a means to address specific hazards, such as an individual road junction or limited forward visibility at a bend.</p>
Philip Couch, Funtley Road – Objection	
<p>In relation to the above referenced Traffic Order Proposal, C689/KK, I would like to express a concern. Being as we (my partner and myself) live at number 182 Funtley Road, just past the junction of River Lane and Mayles Lane, I should like to propose that -</p> <p>The "National speed limit applies" signage be replaced with a "30 miles an hour" sign, just after the railway bridge in Funtley, on Funtley Road, heading towards River Lane. And a similar sign be erected at the start/end of Funtley Road at the intersection of River Lane, makes Lane and Funtley Road.</p> <p>My reasons for this are -</p> <p>During our 17 years living here we have not encountered anyone that understands that the road is a 30 miles an hour limit due to the street lights. Most assume that being a rural area, the speed limit is either 40 or 60. I would encourage you to survey this area for yourselves and see the increased acceleration of vehicles passing the National speed limit sign. Nearly all vehicles that pass on this stretch of road are travelling above the speed limit due to the belief that the roads speed limit is higher than 30. Even satellite navigation equipment gives this road as 40 or 60. There have been multiple crashes here and numerous attempts for speed limiting measures to be introduced over the years.</p>	<p>The speed reduction that has been proposed will reduce the speed limit up to the Mayles Lane junction with River Lane (from Funtley Road) to 30mph. Once this Traffic Regulation Order is implemented the speed limit signage will be changed to reflect the change.</p> <p>Due to the presence of street lighting, we are unable to provide any 30mph repeater signs on this section of road.</p>
Lily Blakeledge, Unknown – Objection	
<p>I have been made aware of the proposed order "The Hampshire (River Lane and Funtley Road, Titchfield) (40 miles Per Hour) Order 2025."</p> <p>Having contacted the council on several occasions about the dangers of this stretch given its numerous uses by pedestrians and other vulnerable road users and the current 60mph speed limit I am pleased to hear of this.</p> <p>However I do not think that 40mph is low enough.</p> <p>It needs to be 30mph with a speed camera to prevent the speed that drivers currently take the blind bend.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, I am happy to provide you with ample video evidence of the ludicrous speed that the public go down this road.</p>	<p>Consideration was given to the option of extending the 30mph speed limit restriction further north along River Lane; however, the police did not support this due to the rural character of the road and the lack of any reported traffic collisions.</p> <p>Establishing speed limits that are a suitable level for the road and ensuring adherence to these limits are crucial for enhancing greater safety for all road users. As such, speed limits should not be employed as a means to address specific hazards, such as an individual road junction or limited forward visibility at a bend.</p>

	<p>Speed cameras are the responsibility of the police, but they generally target high risk casualty routes.</p>
<p>Vanessa Taylor, Unknown – Objection</p>	
<p>I have been made aware of the proposed order “The Hampshire (River Lane and Funtley Road, Titchfield) (40 miles Per Hour) Order 2025.”</p> <p>Having contacted the council on several occasions about the dangers of this stretch given its numerous uses by pedestrians and other vulnerable road users and the current 60mph speed limit I am pleased to hear of this. However I do not think that 40mph is low enough. It needs to be 30mph with a speed camera to prevent the speed that drivers currently take the blind bend. Putting other road users in danger especially in bad weather conditions Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>Consideration was given to the option of extending the 30mph speed limit restriction further north along River Lane; however, the police did not support this due to the rural character of the road and the lack of any reported traffic collisions.</p> <p>Establishing speed limits that are a suitable level for the road and ensuring adherence to these limits are crucial for enhancing greater safety for all road users. As such, speed limits should not be employed as a means to address specific hazards, such as an individual road junction or limited forward visibility at a bend.</p> <p>Speed cameras are the responsibility of the police, but they generally target high risk casualty routes.</p>
<p>Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary</p>	
<p>As you know the police do not support this reduction in the speed limit primarily because there are no recorded accidents along this length of road and therefore any change in the speed limit can only have a detrimental effect on road safety.</p> <p>There can be no expectation that the police will enforce this limit beyond routine patrol.</p>	<p>Comments are noted. As previously discussed, this proposal is partly linked to planning conditions for the Fallow Close development and developer funding was secured to reduce the speed limit past the new site access.</p> <p>Funtley Road and River Lane generate regular complaints about traffic speeds and road safety. With additional developer funding also made available, this was an opportunity to rationalise speed limits through the whole route and Police views were acknowledged in respect of River Lane where it is now intended to introduce a 40mph speed limit, rather than the continuous 30mph speed limit through the whole route.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that routine Police enforcement is unlikely. However, as previously explained traffic speed surveys show existing speeds are already well below 40mph on River Lane.</p>