



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Highways Report

Report of: Executive Director, Place

Date: 14 March 2013

Subject: Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy:
Objections to proposed 20mph speed limits in High Green, north of Wortley Road

Author of Report: Simon Nelson, 2736176

Summary:

To report the receipt of objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limits in the High Green area, north of Wortley Road and set out the Council's response.

Reasons for Recommendations:

Reducing the speed of traffic in residential areas will, in the long term, reduce the number and severity of accidents, reduce the fear of accidents, encourage sustainable modes of travel and contribute towards the creation of a more pleasant, cohesive environment.

The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in this area would be in-keeping with the City's approved 20mph Speed Limit Strategy.

Recommendations:

Having considered the objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in High Green, north of Wortley Road, Cabinet Highways Committee determines that the reasons set out in this report for making the Speed Limit Order outweigh the objections and that the Speed Limit Order should be made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Inform the objectors accordingly.

Introduce the proposed 20mph speed limit.

Background Papers: NONE

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Matthew Bullock
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Deborah Eaton
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Ian Oldershaw
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
Northern Community Assembly
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Leigh Bramall
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Economic and Environmental Wellbeing
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
YES

SHEFFIELD 20MPH SPEED LIMIT STRATEGY:
OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT IN HIGH GREEN,
NORTH OF WORTLEY ROAD

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 To report the receipt of objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the High Green area, north of Wortley Road and set out the Council's response.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE?

2.1 Reducing the average speed of drivers in residential areas would, over time, bring about a reduction in the number and severity of traffic accidents, thus helping to create *safe and secure communities*. Implementing the schemes described in this report together with an ongoing programme of publicity and driver education would contribute to the creation of a safer residential environment and a *Great Place to Live*.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 The High Green scheme represents a step towards influencing driver behaviour and establishing 20mph as the default maximum appropriate speed in residential areas. This will contribute to the delivery of:

- the '*sustainable and safe transport*' objective of the Corporate Plan;
- Policy W of the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2011-2026 (*To encourage safer road use and reduce casualties on our roads*);
- the Council's Vision For Excellent Transport In Sheffield (*a better environment; a culture where the car is not always the first choice*); and
- the Fairness Commission's recommendation for a 20mph speed limit on all residential roads in Sheffield.

4.0 REPORT

Introduction

4.1 On 8th March 2012 Cabinet Highways Committee approved the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy, the long-term aim of which is to establish 20mph as the maximum appropriate speed in residential areas of Sheffield¹. It was agreed that the first stage of implementation of the strategy would be the introduction of seven 20mph speed limit areas, one within each Community Assembly, during the financial years

¹ [Cabinet Highways Committee report, 8th March 2012: Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy](#)

2012/13 and 2013/14. The new speed limits would be indicated by traffic signs and road markings only, that is, they would not include any additional 'physical' traffic calming measures such as road humps.

- 4.2 It was also agreed that officers would assist any Community Assembly that wished to pursue the introduction of a 20mph speed limit from its own Local Transport Plan allocation and/or discretionary budget, in-keeping with the principles of the strategy.
- 4.3 At its meeting on 11th December 2012 Northern Community Assembly decided to allocate part of its highway budget for 2012/13 to fund the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in part of the High Green area, north of Wortley Road.
- 4.4 The introduction of the new speed limit would be co-ordinated with Streets Ahead work in the area, currently programmed for July to September 2013.

Consultation

- 4.5 Approximately 680 households within High Green (north) have received leaflets providing information and inviting comments or objections to the introduction of the 20mph Speed Limit Order (see [Appendix A](#)). Five people have responded to express their support for the new speed limit. However there have been five objections.
- 4.6 Four of the objectors feel that there is no need for the new limit because they consider speeds to be low already. The fifth supports the introduction of the limit on estate roads, the bulk of the area, but feels it would be inappropriate on Westwood Road which cuts through the estate.
- 4.7 The Head of the Road Policing Group has issued the following statement on behalf of South Yorkshire Police:

"The South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership has worked hard to achieve significant reductions in the numbers of collisions on our local roads. We have achieved all our agreed targets in reducing the number of people who are killed or seriously injured over the last few years however, we know that this success brings little comfort to the individuals, friends and families of those who are victims of such collisions.

It is well known that speed is a primary cause of collisions that result in death or serious injury and pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable road users when in the presence of speeding vehicles. Within our local residential areas we know that the collision rates, when these factors come into play, are too high and need to be addressed.

South Yorkshire Police working alongside their colleagues in the Safer Roads partnership share the clear commitment to address the causes of

collisions and support new initiatives that help to achieve this goal.”

- 4.8 No response has been received from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service or the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

Ward Members

- 4.9 The local ward Members have been informed of the consultation responses in accordance with the procedure agreed between the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development and the Director of Development Services. They have confirmed their support for the introduction of the new speed limit and their desire for the objections to be overruled.

Discussion

- 4.10 The ‘Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy’ notes that assistance will be given to any Community Assembly that wishes to fund the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in a residential area.
- 4.11 Whilst acknowledging that speeds on the majority of roads in the area are already low and that there have been no reported injury accidents during the five years to March 2012, officers are of the opinion that the High Green area north of Wortley Road is suited to a 20mph limit. This includes Westwood Road, an unclassified residential road.
- 4.12 The introduction of the scheme would meet local Member priorities whilst complementing the roll out of the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy.

Relevant Implications

- 4.13 The 20mph area described in this report would be wholly funded from the Northern Community Assembly’s allocation from the 2012/13 Local Transport Plan (LTP). Publicity to promote the benefits of lower speeds in residential areas would be funded from the LTP programme in accordance with the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy.
- 4.14 The Council has a statutory duty to promote road safety and to ensure that any measures it promotes and implements are reasonably safe for all users. In making decisions of this nature the Council must be satisfied that the measures are necessary to avoid danger to pedestrians and other road users or for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. Providing that the Council is so satisfied then it is acting lawfully and within its powers.
- 4.15 An Equality Impact Assessment was conducted for the September 2012 report and concluded that safer roads and reduced numbers of accidents involving traffic and pedestrians would fundamentally be positive for all local people regardless of age, sex, race, faith, disability, sexuality, etc. However, the most vulnerable members of society (i.e.

the young, elderly, disabled and carers) would particularly benefit from this initiative. No negative equality impacts were identified.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The objections relate to the principle of introducing sign-only 20mph speed limits into residential areas, and therefore the recently approved Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy. As such, no alternative options have been considered.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Reducing the speed of traffic in residential areas will, in the long term, reduce the number and severity of accidents, reduce the fear of accidents, encourage sustainable modes of travel and contribute towards the creation of a more pleasant, cohesive environment.

6.2 The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in this area would be in-keeping with the City's approved 20mph Speed Limit Strategy.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Having considered the objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in High Green, north of Wortley Road, Cabinet Highways Committee determines that the reasons set out in this report for making the Speed Limit Order outweigh the objections and that the Speed Limit Order should be made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.



7.2 Inform the objectors accordingly.

7.3 Introduce the proposed 20mph speed limit.

Simon Green
Executive Director, Place

14 March 2013

APPENDIX A

Why are we doing this?
Reducing the speed limit to 20 mph will mean:

- There are likely to be fewer accidents.
- Anyone involved in a collision is less likely to be seriously injured. You are far less likely to be seriously injured if struck by a vehicle travelling at 20 mph than at 30 mph.
- People are more likely to cycle and walk.


What happens next?
We plan to start the new speed limit in Summer 2013.

Have your say
If you have any questions or comments please contact:
Simon Nelson, telephone: 0114 273 6176
email: simon.nelson@sheffield.gov.uk

If you wish to object, please put this in writing to:
Transport, Traffic & Parking Services
2-10 Carbrook Hall Road
Sheffield S9 2DB

Formal objections must be received by Friday 4 January 2013

This document can be supplied in alternative formats, please contact 0114 273 6176
Sheffield City Council
www.sheffield.gov.uk/20mph




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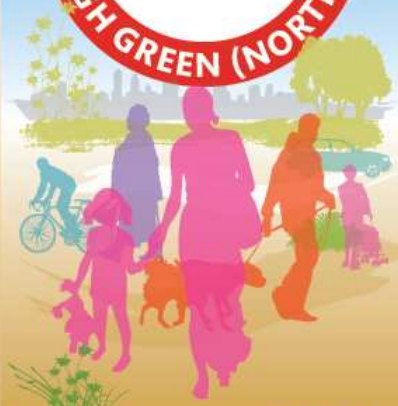

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Help us make our roads safer!



We want to reduce the speed limit to 20mph from 30mph in High Green (North)

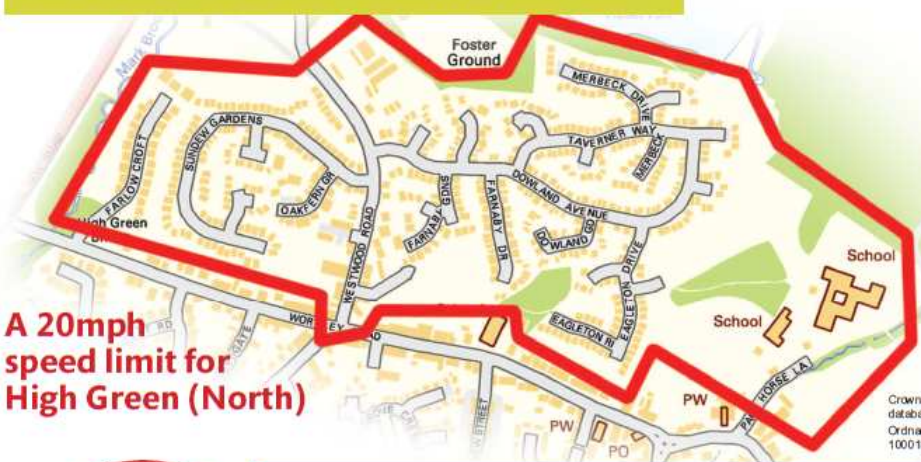



We really want to reduce the number of accidents on our roads in Sheffield.


To help us do this we want to reduce the speed limit to **20mph** from 30mph in **High Green (North)**.

Lower speeds will help to make your neighbourhood a safer, more pleasant place for local people to live, particularly for our children and elderly. We are also looking at a number of ways to improve child safety in areas around schools.

The boundary of the High Green (North) 20mph speed limit is outlined in red on the map below.



A 20mph speed limit for High Green (North)



What will the new 20mph areas look like?

The entrance to the new area will have speed limit signs to let drivers know the new speed limit. The area will also have small signs mounted on lamp posts to remind drivers of the new lower limit. There will be no traffic calming measures such as road humps, as we don't have the funding available for these.

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