

Central Bedfordshire Council

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING

18 DECEMBER 2018

Luton Road, Chalton – Proposal to Introduce a Change to the Speed Limit.

Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director, Highways
(Paul.Mason@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Responsible Officer(s): Charlotte Dunham, Senior Highways Officer, Highways
(Charlotte.Dunham3@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Purpose of this report

To rectify a speed limit that is not currently consistent with DTF guidance and rationalise for safety reasons and consistent movement of traffic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Traffic Management Meeting is asked to:

1. **To approve the implementation of the 40mph limit as advertised**
2. **To approve the implementation of the 30mph limit as advertised**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. This is not to be presented at Overview and Scrutiny.

Issues

Background Information

2. It was brought to our attention that the current speed limit on the B579 Luton Road, Chalton is inconsistent with other sites and there are issues with compliance and driver behaviour as a result.
3. The current speed limit is 30mph from Sundon Road, Chalton (new roundabout near railway bridge) to the Luton Borough Boundary. There is no development, although there is a newly installed system of street lighting. The area is to be developed, residential and commercial.
4. Due to the nature of the road which runs parallel to the M1 south bound and coupled with open fields, the area does not feel like a 30mph limit should apply.
5. Upon the opening of the M1/A5 link road this road was signed as a 30mph limit with the expectation that in future years there will be more activity and development and therefore future proofing the limit.
6. Due to concerns raised we have reviewed the site and propose a more consistent approach to setting the future limit of this section until such time if/when development of the surrounding area occurs.

Scheme Proposal

7. To install a 40mph limit from Sundon Road, Chalton to approximately 150m north of Baytree Park.
8. To install a 30mph limit from 150m north of Baytree Park in a southerly direction towards Luton County Boundary.

Statutory Consultation

9. This took place in October 2018 with all statutory consultees and site notices were displayed on site. There were no residents in the vicinity to notify by letter.
10. One member of the public formally raised this site as an official complaint regarding how this site has been revised and although the points are included in this report the complaint was dealt with separately as part of Central Bedfordshire Council's complaints procedure.
11. No other objections or concerns were raised, and Bedfordshire Police raised no concerns or objections.

Reason for urgency

12. To ensure a consistent approach across the county, as well as improve driver behavior and compliance and implement a more appropriate speed limit in this section of highway.

Council Priorities

13. Improved Safety and expedient movement of traffic on the highway.

Corporate Implications

14. None

Legal Implications

15. The Traffic Regulation Order will need sealing before enforcement on site can commence.

Financial and Risk Implications

16. Works to be funded out of the Integrated Transport Capital Works Programme 2018/19 and expected delivery is 2018/19.

Equalities Implications

17. Statutory consultation took place, site notices were displayed on site where all are invited to comment.

Conclusion and next Steps

18. Should the scheme be approved we will proceed to rectify on site.

Appendices

Appendix A: Public Notice

Appendix B: Police Response

Appendix C: Representations

Background Papers

None

Report Author:

Charlotte Dunham – Senior Highways Officer, Highways
Charlotte.Dunham3@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A 30MPH AND 40MPH SPEED LIMIT IN B579 LUTON ROAD, CHALTON

Reason for proposal: The speed limit is being proposed in order to improve traffic management of the road near to the M1 junction 11a as well as reducing traffic speed entering and leaving a built-up area of both residential and commercial with future growth and traffic numbers in both sectors.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce a 30mph Speed Limit on the following lengths of road in Chalton:-

1. B579 Luton Road, from a point approximately 150 metres northwest of a point in line with the most northerly kerbline of the access to Baytree Park, Luton Road extending in a generally south-easterly direction to a point approximately 30 metres north-west of the centre of the B579 Toddington Road/Coverdale roundabout, Luton.

To introduce a 40mph Speed Limit on the following lengths of road in Chalton:-

1. B579 Luton Road, from its roundabout junction with Sundon Road M1 overbridge located east of the M1 motorway extending in a generally south-easterly direction to a point approximately 150 metres northwest of a point in line with the most northerly kerbline of the access to Baytree Park, Luton Road.

Further Details may be viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team via e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 18th October 2018. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made.

Order Title If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (B579 Luton Road, Chalton) (30mph and 40mph Speed Limit) Order 201**"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

27th September 2018

Appendix B



Proposed Speed Limit – B579 Luton Road, Chalton

<p>This Authority has considered the proposals as outlined in your e-mail and offer the following comments for further consideration.</p> <p>Comments</p>	
<p>This Authority has considered the proposals as outlined in your e-mail, together with the reason(s) given, is accepted by this authority, therefore no objection with be offered.</p>	<p>X</p>

Name: - ...John Loughlin.....

Address ...Bedfordshire Police.....

.....Traffic Management.....

.....

Signed:-John Loughlin.....

Appendix C

Good morning

I would like to object to Central Bedfordshire council's proposal to introduce a 30 mph & 40 mph speed limit in B579 Luton road, Charlton

I wish to object on the following grounds:-

1/ You have failed to carry out the required consultation in a timely manner - Your consultation started in September 2018 however you have already unlawfully reduced speed limits along this road back in 2017. How can you hold a timely consultation if you have already reduced the speed limits before the consultation took place?

2/ you have failed to carry out fair consultation - because you have already deliberately & unlawfully changed the speed limit signs from national speed limit down to 30 mph along this stretch of road in 2017, a matter which I brought to the attention of your department at the start of August 2018 and the fact that since I brought this matter to your attention you have still failed to change these signs to signs which comply with the law, despite advising me you would, & promising me this would be done by 15 October 2018, you have demonstrated that instead of carrying out a fair and legal consultation you have already made your minds up that the speed limit along this stretch of road is to be reduced, therefore making the result of this consultation unlawfully biased by already making your minds up before the consultation has taken place

3/ you have failed to carry out fair consultation - Your consultation started in September 2018 however you have already unlawfully reduced speed limits along this road back in 2017. How can you hold a fair consultation if you have already reduced the speed limits before the consultation took. In fact because you have unlawfully reduced the speed limit along the entire length of the road to 30 mph and are now proposing to increase this limit to 40 mph when compared to the current unlawfully displayed speed limit signs of 30 mph you have misled any consultation into believing you are actually increasing the speed limit, when in fact you are reducing it from a national speed limit to 40 mph

4/ you have failed to carry out adequate consultation - you have failed to display the necessary Public notices along the route in concern. you have only placed 1 public consultation notice along the entire length of road in question. this single notice has been displayed facing traffic by the entrance to the Vauxhall plant. you have failed in your duty to display public consultation notices along the whole length of the road in question including at the start of the road and at either end of the road

5/ you have failed to carry out adequate consultation - you have failed to display any signage that could be seen by motorists or other road users along any of the length of the road preventing road users from taking part in the consultation

6/ you have failed to carry out adequate consultation - You have failed to carry out your duty of contacting local residents to give them a copy of or advise them of the public consultation. I know this as I am a local resident and have not been notified of the consultation by letter. the only reason I know of this consultation is because I stumbled across when searching through your website

7/ you have failed to carry out adequate consultation - you have failed to carry out the necessary consultation with the following services as required by law in this type of consultation:- the police; the fire brigade; the ambulance service; local road traffic organisation such as the AA, the RAC etc. I know this as I have contacted them myself to ask

8/ The speed limit on this section of road is already adequately set at the national speed limit and does not require changing - The national speed limit currently in force along this stretch of road already meets the guidelines as laid down in law and no changes have been made to this road that warrant any change to the speed limit.

9/ The speed limit on this section of road is already adequately set at the national speed limit and does not require changing - This road is perfectly safe to travel along at the national speed limit. there has only been

zero reported incidents along this stretch of road in the past 5 years and only 2 'slight' accidents reported in the last 10 years, the first on the 19/9/2013 which resulted in zero casualties and the second being on 15/4/2009 which again resulted in no casualties. this information was taken from 'crashmap.co.uk'

10/ The speed limit on this section of road is already adequately set at the national speed limit and does not require changing - there is only 1 junction along the entire length of this road. this junction is the entrance to the Vauxhall plant. this junction has excellent viability in either direction and poses no danger

11/ you have failed to lay out any meaningful reason for the reduction of the speed limit along this stretch of road - you claim the reduced speed limit is being proposed in order to improve traffic management however the road in question already runs adequately with little traffic, no traffic queues, no traffic jams and no traffic incidents recorded over the last 5 years

12/ you have failed to lay out any meaningful reason for the reduction of the speed limit along this stretch of road - you claim the reduced speed limit is being proposed in order to reduce traffic speed entering and leaving a built up area however this is unnecessary because there is already adequate means of doing this on the form of a roundabout at the junction where this road meets any built-up areas which slows traffic down before entering the built-up areas. the traffic in the built up areas already runs at adequate speed and no speeding has ever been observed in the built-up areas in question

13/ you have failed to lay out any meaningful reason for the reduction of the speed limit along this stretch of road - you claim the reduced speed limit is being proposed due to future growth of traffic numbers however according to the guidelines set out in law this is not a factor that should be considered when changing a speed limit

14/ you have failed to lay out any meaningful reason for the reduction of the speed limit along this stretch of road - you claim the reduced speed limit is being proposed due to future growth of traffic numbers however no future growth has been observed on this stretch of road and there are currently no developments in place which would cause future growth of traffic along this road

15/ you have failed to lay out any meaningful reason for the reduction of the speed limit along this stretch of road - you claim the reduced speed limit is being proposed due to future growth of traffic numbers however there is currently no need for this. Should this change in the future then that would be the suitable time to hold a consultation into changing the speed limit along this stretch of road