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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting

**Date:** 20th October 2009

**Subject:** 20mph speed limit  
Dunstable Road, Studham.

**Report of:** Basil Jackson

**Summary:** To consider a response

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**Contact Officer:** Caroline Almond  
[Caroline.almond@amey.co.uk](mailto:Caroline.almond@amey.co.uk)

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** Studham

**Function of:** Central Bedfordshire Council

**Reason for urgency (if appropriate)** To consider representations made on a consultation to implement a length of 20mph speed limit in Studham and to recommend a course of action

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**that the portfolio holder is requested to note the suggestion and objection. However, this report recommends implementing the length of the 20mph speed limit as advertised.**

**Background and Information.**

1. A petition with 190 signatures by local residents of Studham requesting a 20mph speed limit was received in April 2008. This petition was reported to the Development Control Committee of Bedfordshire County Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008.
2. The petition from Studham specifically requested that a 20mph speed limit be implemented between The Bell Public House and the village hall until an alternative speed restriction could be implemented.

3. Following the Committee meeting the request was assessed by Bedfordshire Highways as part of the review of speed limits being carried out at that time. As a result a design was prepared for consultation including a 100m length of 20mph speed limit.
4. The guidance for the implementation of 20mph speed limits without additional traffic calming is that a 20mph speed limit should be self enforcing i.e. 85% of vehicles should already be at or below 24mph. After assessing the speed data it was apparent that the only location where the current vehicle speeds were approximately 20mph was located at the 'pinch point' (see App 4). This was considered to be insufficient to support a 20mph speed limit. This was also the opinion of the police
5. After assessing the speed data (App 5) – Traffic Police office commented as follows:  
'As requested, I have looked at the supplied data, collected at three locations in Studham. It has been agreed that a successful 20 mph speed limit should generally be self-enforcing. The nature of the road, and available road space at data collection point 3, on Dunstable Road, Studham will cause the majority of motor vehicles to comply with the desired 20 mph speed restriction at that point. However where motor vehicle speeds are substantially higher than the proposal, as evidenced in the collected traffic data at points 1 and 2 on Dunstable Road, Studham, and the desired 20 mph speed restriction is unlikely to be complied with, unless accompanied by the introduction of suitable traffic calming measures. Currently, it would not be appropriate to lower the present 30 mph speed restriction to 20 mph, without engineering to cause motor vehicles to travel naturally at, or around 20 mph throughout the length of the desired speed restriction.'
6. As a result of this a report was presented to the Development Control Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> September 08 recommending that a 20mph limit not be implemented. The committee resolved that a 20mph speed limit be implemented against the advice.
7. A draft order to implement this was prepared and advertised for statutory consultation.
8. No specific objections were received. Three representations were received.
  - The police have formally noted that the restriction will not be enforceable.
  - One letter of support
  - One letter of support with a request for further restrictions.
9. There are no proposals for further restrictions at this time.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

10. Although the police are generally not in support of any 20mph restrictions that are not self enforcing it was felt by the members that considered the matter that the benefit to the community outweighed those considerations and that the implementation of then limit would send a strong message to drivers.

It is therefore intended to implement the restriction subject to finance being available within the forward work programme for 2010/11.  
It is not possible to extend the proposal without further statutory consultation and this is not proposed at this time.

### CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

**Council Priorities:**

To be considered for the 5 year programme such as an 'ad-hoc' speed review (see below for financial implications).

**Financial:**

The construction of this scheme is approximately £4,000.

**Legal:**

None as a result of this report.

**Risk Management:**

None as a result of this report.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

This report and recommendation does not have any implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

None as a result of this report

**Community Development/Safety:**

None as a result of this report

**Sustainability:**

None as a result of this report

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Location Plan

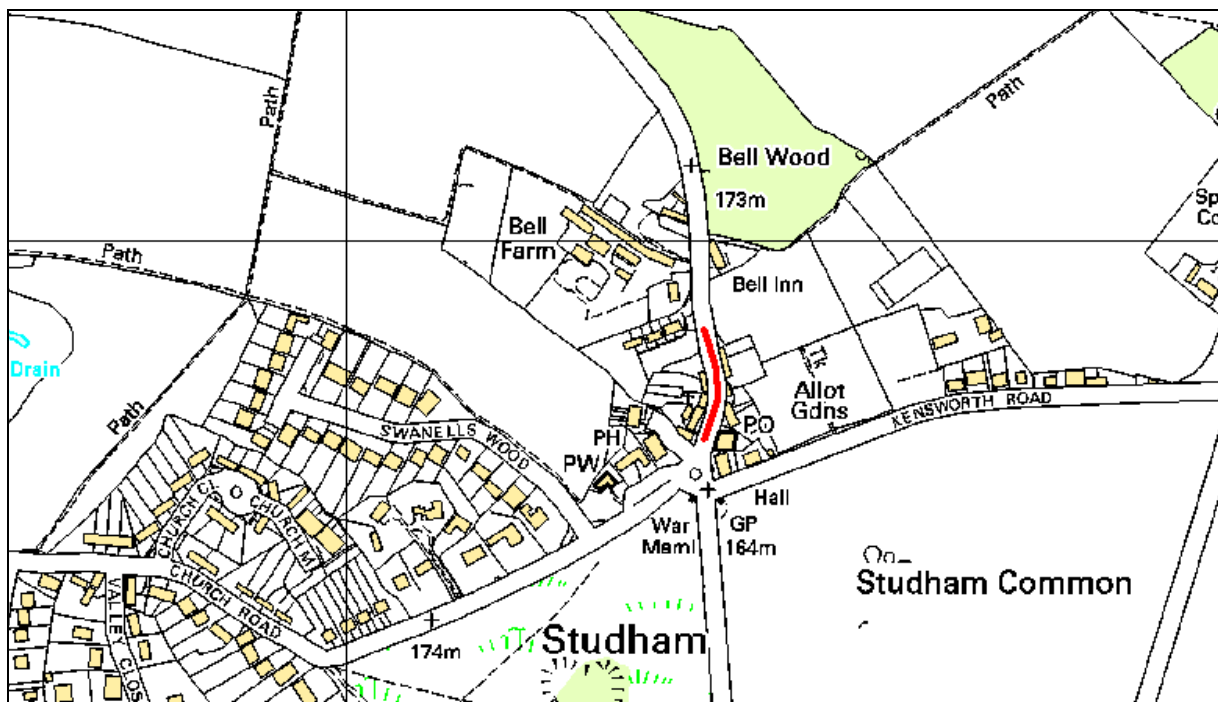
Appendix 2 – Public Consultation/ Correspondence

Appendix 3 – Suggestion Received

Appendix 4 – Support

Appendix 5 – Speed data and images

### Appendix 1 - Location Plan



## PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ON DUNSTABLE ROAD, STUDHAM AND CONSOLIDATE THE EXISTING 30MPH SPEED LIMIT ON DUNSTABLE ROAD AND CLEMENTS END ROAD, STUDHAM.

Reason for the proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety. The proposed 20mph speed limit is specifically aimed at reducing vehicle speeds through Studham, where pedestrian activity and road safety has been identified by the community as an issue.

Therefore, Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to make a Traffic Regulation Order as follows:

Effect of the Order:

**To introduce a 20mph speed limit on the following length of road:**

That Length of Dunstable Road, Studham (C225) which extends from the property boundary of Nos 4 and 4A Dunstable Road in a northerly direction for approx 100 metres a point approx 10 metres north of No 26 Dunstable Road (northern boundary).

**To consolidate the following lengths of the existing 30mph speed limit, either side of the proposed 20mph speed limit:**

1. That Length of Dunstable Road and Clements End Road, Studham (C225 and C220), which extend from the property boundary of Nos 4 and 4A Dunstable Road in a southerly direction for approx 220 metres.
2. That Length of Dunstable Road, Studham (C225) which extends from a point approx 10 metres north of No 26 Dunstable Road (northern boundary) in a northerly direction for approx 170 metres.

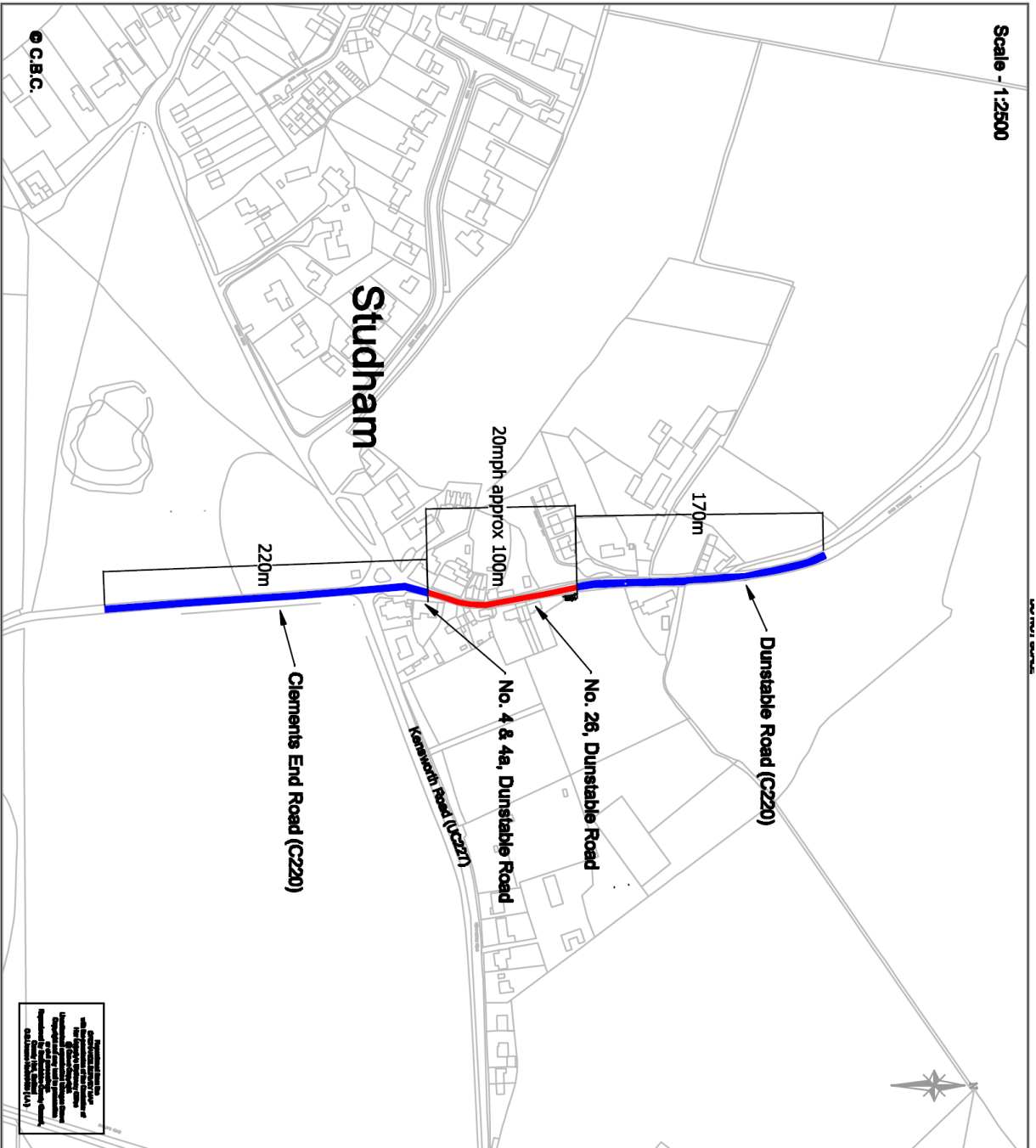
Order to be revoked: If implemented the previous speed limits on the above lengths of road will be revoked.

Further Details: of the proposed Order, a plan and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours at the Customer Service Centre, Central Bedfordshire Council, High Street North, Dunstable and normal opening hours at Dunstable Library, Vernon Place, Dunstable. These details will be placed on deposit until 6 weeks after the Order is made or until it is decided not to continue with the proposal. Telephone Caroline Almond on 0845 3656057 for further advice on this proposal.

Objections: should be sent in writing to the Orders & Commons Registration Officer, Countryside Access Service, PO Box 1395, Bedford MK42 5AN, stating the grounds on which they are made by 9th September 2009.

Order Title: if made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (20mph and 30mph Speed Limits) (Dunstable Road and Clements End Road, Studham) Order 200\*"

Scale - 1:2500



**AMENDMENT TO THE**  
**TRAFFIC REGULATIONS FOR ENGLAND**  
**AND WALES 2002**  
**IN CONNECTION WITH THE**  
**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ORDER**  
**FOR THE STUDHAM**  
**ROADS**  
**IN THE DISTRICT OF**  
**STUDHAM**  
**IN THE COUNTY OF**  
**WILTSHIRE**  
**AS AMENDED (2009/14)**

- Notes:**
- █ Proposed 20mph Speed Limit (Approx 100m)
  - █ Amended 30mph speed limit
- Note - The extent of this speed limit is not changing, the new traffic management order will only be amended due to the 20mph speed limit**



<p><b>Project Title:</b>          COUNTY WIDE          SPEED LIMIT REVIEW          1 OF 1</p>	
<p><b>Drawing Title:</b>          20MPH AND 30MPH SPEED LIMIT          DUNSTABLE ROAD          STUDHAM</p>	
<p><b>Contractor Ref:</b> CA</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> 28/04/08</p>
<p><b>Design Ref:</b> CA</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> 28/07/08</p>
<p><b>Checked Ref:</b> NOTL</p>	<p><b>Date:</b></p>
<p><b>Approved Ref:</b> NC</p>	<p><b>Date:</b></p>
<p><b>Drawing Number:</b>          BH/300070/DR/1200/04/002</p>	
<p><b>Drawn By:</b> NTS</p>	<p><b>Drawn At:</b> INPD</p>

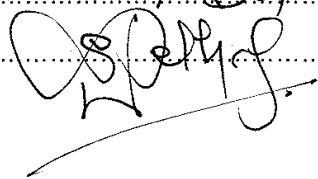
© C.B.C.

Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – 20mph speed limit - Dunstable Road, Studham

<p>This Authority has considered the proposed Traffic Regulation Order as outlined in your letter dated <u>4.8.09</u> and offer the following comments for further consideration.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The guidelines issued for speed enforcement indicate that enforcement locations will not normally be located less than 300 metres from the speed restriction signs.</p> <p>The proposal to introduce a twenty mph speed limit of approximately 100 metres on Dunstable Road, Studham will divide the current thirty mph speed restriction creating three areas of speed limits, all of which are less than 300 metres, therefore all are unenforceable.</p>	
<p>This Authority has considered the proposed Traffic Regulation Order as outlined in your letter, together with the reason(s) given, is accepted by this authority, therefore no objection will be offered.</p>	

Name: - S. P. WELHAM

Address BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT  
BEDFORD HEIGHTS  
MANTON LANE, BEDFORD MK41 7PH

Signed: 

## Appendix 3 – 1 Suggestion

**Re: County Wide Speed Limit Review 20 / 30 mph on Dunstable Rd, Studham, Beds.**  
**Ref: BH/300070/DR/1200/044/002**

I am writing with reference to the matter above. I notice from your diagrams that the 20 MPH proposal starts at number 26 Dunstable Rd. I believe it should be extended northwards up to the Bell and the Bell Cottages for the following reasons:

1. Traffic comes into Studham very fast and the first point of call upon arrival is the residential cottages opposite the Bell and then the Bell itself.
2. As well as the cottages, our car park is opposite and there is frequently people crossing this 'fast' road and often the elderly find it hazardous that as soon as they step out, a car appears at great speed.
3. Within yards of each other there are 4 exits/entrances: Southern Way, Harpers Fine Meats, Our Car Park and our small parking area alongside The Bell, as well as the Bus Stop. I know from experience it can be tricky to pull out due to fast moving vehicles.
4. The small parking area next to The Bell, we often allocate to the elderly / disabled so they don't have to walk too far, however this means they have to reverse back onto the Dunstable road, where visibility is poor and oncoming traffic too fast.

I am pleased that a 20MPH speed limit is to be implemented but I believe with respect to the points above to extend northward to include Southern Way, Harpers, The Bell, and The Bell Cottages would be beneficial and safety conscious.

Hoping that this is given due consideration and thank you for taking the time to read my letter,



## Appendix 4 – Support

Dear Sir

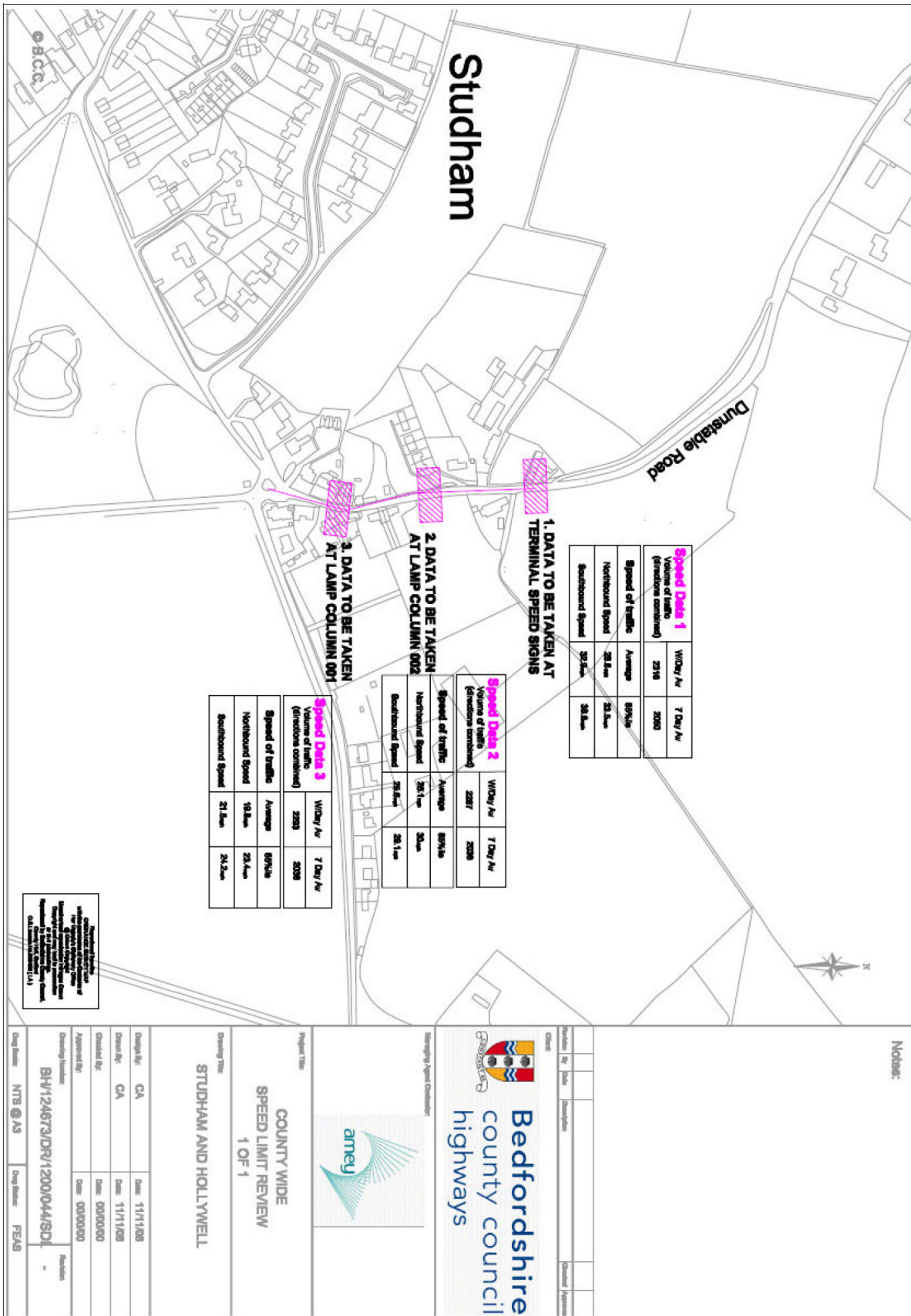
**Re: Proposed 20mph Speed Limit – Studham**

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the proposed 20mph Speed Limit in Studham.

I am fully in agreement with this proposal. I live at number 13 Dunstable Road and have witnessed a large number of accidents on the bend and its vicinity and am still amazed that to date there have been no fatalities.

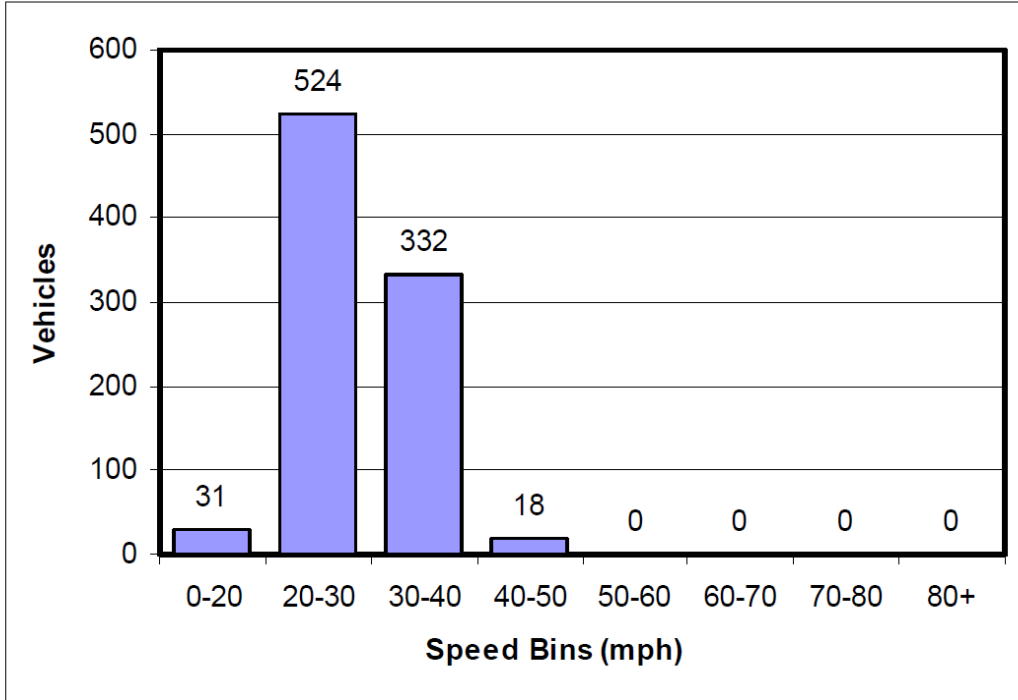
The only point I would make is that I believe the proposed distance from the very sharp bend is not sufficient to encourage drivers to slow down sufficiently to safely negotiate the bend. I would advocate that the 20mph speed limit should extend in a southerly direction from The Bell Public House to the cross roads of Dunstable Road with Kensworth Road/Church Road and Clements End Road.

Appendix 5 – Speed data and images  
 Speed data taken for 7 days on the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

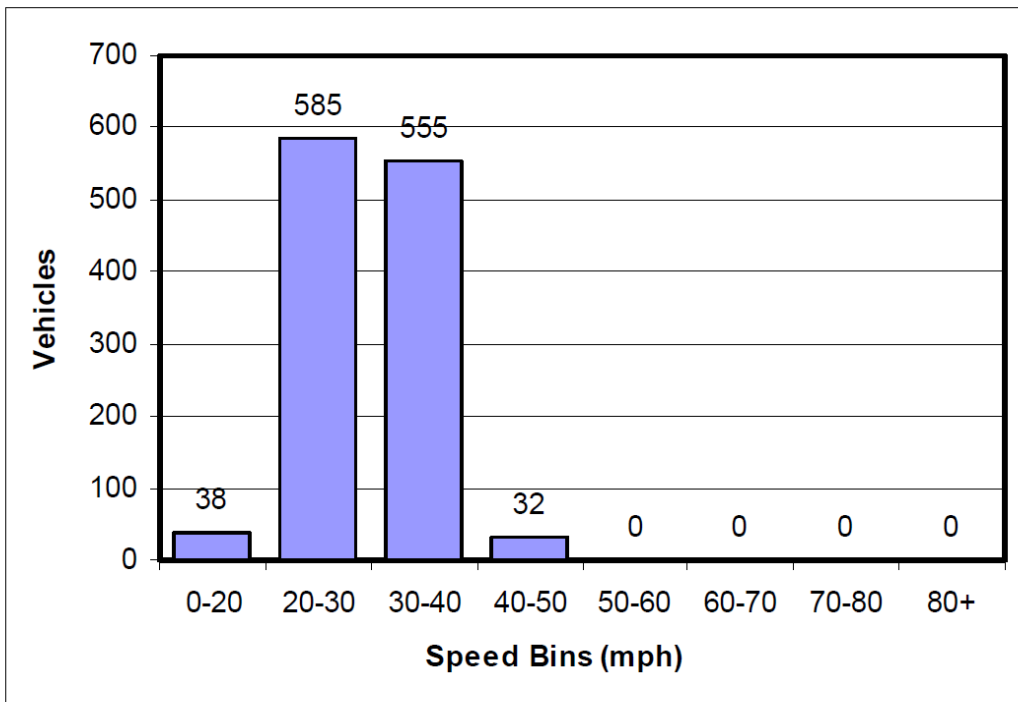


## Speed Bins

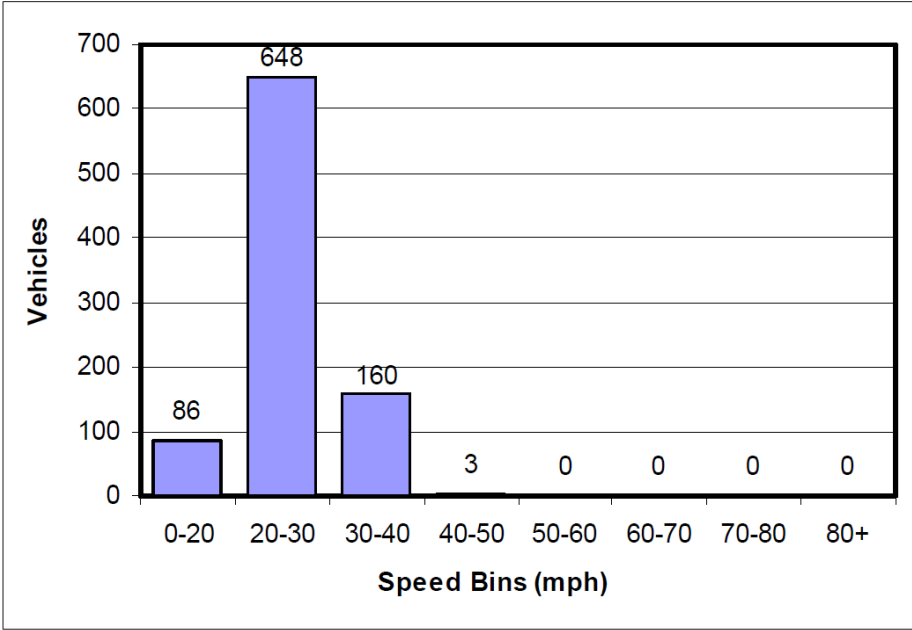
**Speed data 1** – Taken at terminal 30mph/de-restrict speed signs.  
(Northbound)



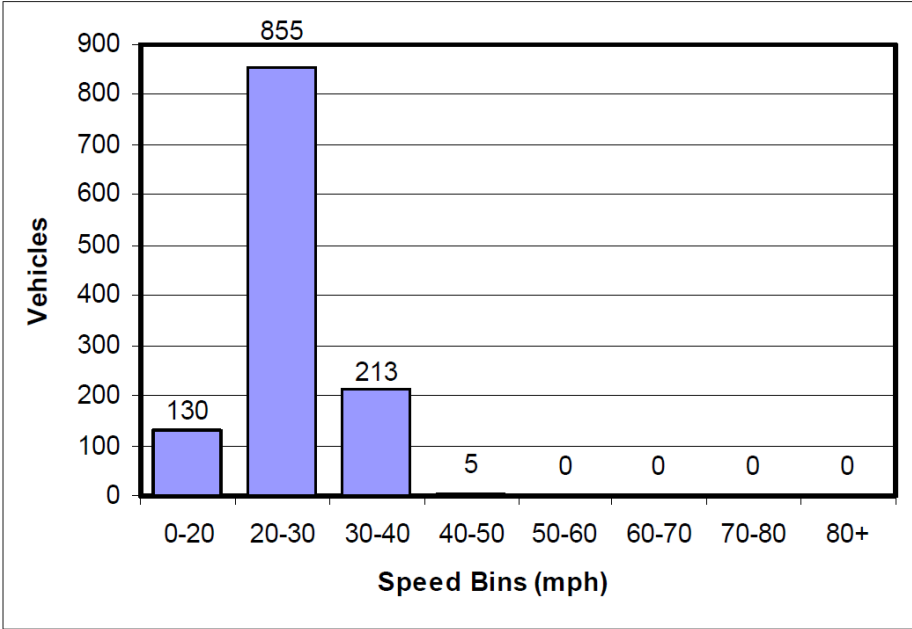
(Southbound)



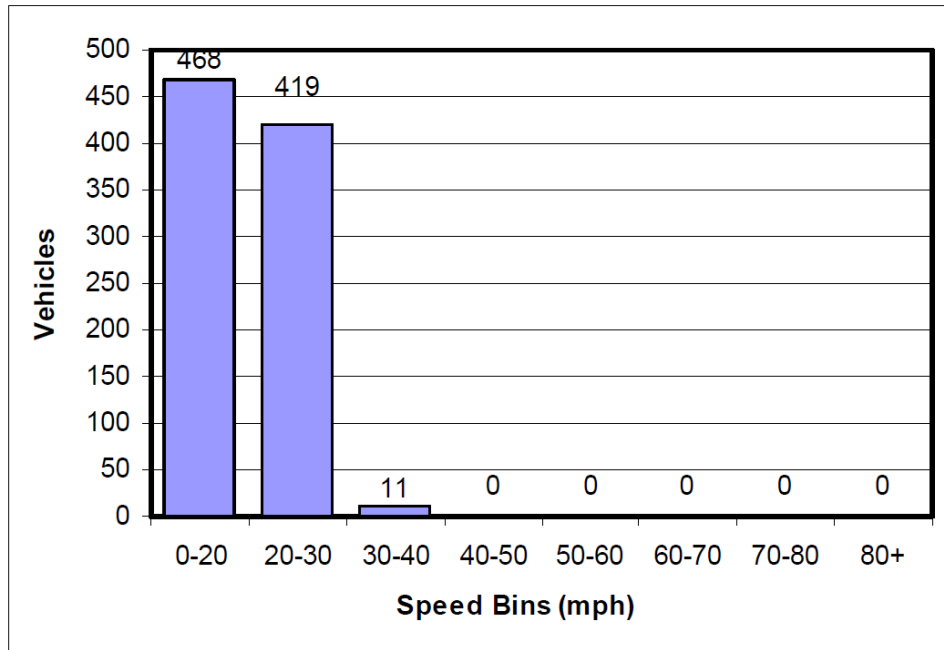
**Speed data 2 – Taken at lamp column 002  
(Northbound)**



**(Southbound)**



**Speed data 3** – Taken from lamp column 001.  
(Northbound)



(Southbound)

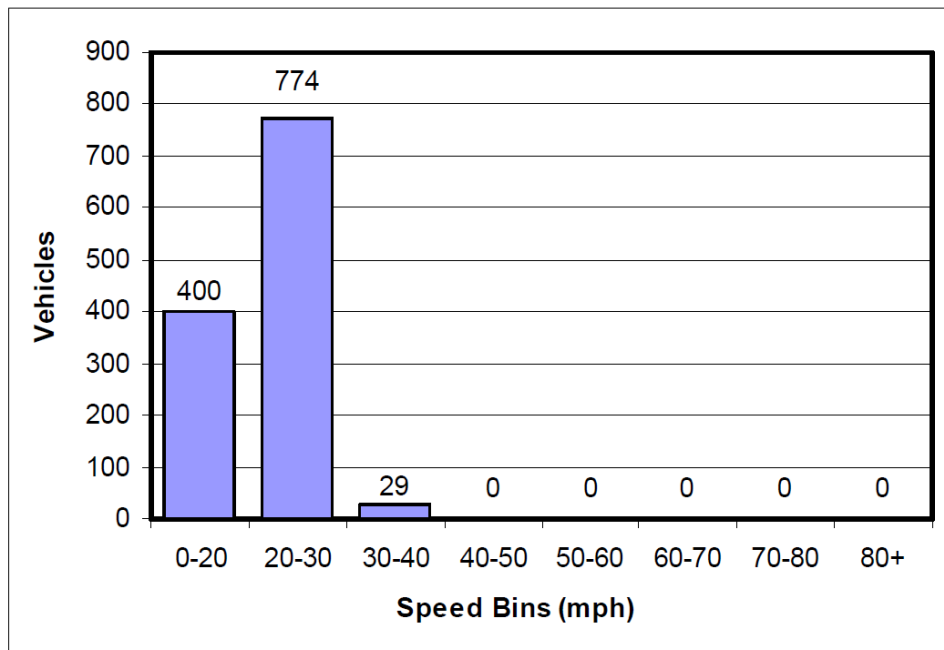




Image 1 - The 'pinch point' on Dunstable Road, Studham