
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 1st March 2011
Subject: Introduction of 20mph Speed Limit in King Street area, Leighton Buzzard
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in King Street area, Leighton Buzzard following a public consultation and receipt of an objection.

Contact Officer: Estera Twardowska
estera.twardowska@amey.co.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Leighton Linslade Central
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve road safety and promote cycling and walking.

Financial:

The cost of introducing a 20mph speed limit will be approximately £6,500. The scheme is externally funded from a Highways Act Section 106 agreement.

Legal:

None from this report

Risk Management:

None from this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

The proposal will reduce speed and improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians

Sustainability:

Implementation of this scheme may encourage people to walk or cycle instead of using less sustainable forms of transport.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That the proposal to introduce a 20mph Speed Limit on various roads in the King Street area be implemented as advertised.**

Background and Information

1. The enhancement scheme came about as a result of obtaining Highways Act Section 106 funding in relation to a planning application for a new housing development located at the corner of King Street and Queen Street in Leighton Buzzard. The developer made a contribution towards transportation measures in the vicinity of the site relating to pedestrian and cycle way infrastructure. The proposed speed limit is a part of the King Street area scheme which includes footway and carriageway resurfacing, provision of uncontrolled crossings in various locations and improvements around Mary Bassett Lower School.
2. The King Street area has been identified as an important route for cyclists and pedestrians. This is due to a number of public places located within that area. Local destinations for cyclists and pedestrians include Mary Bassett Lower School, Ambulance Station, Doctors Surgery and Child Welfare Clinic. A number of factories/companies are also located within the King Street area making this residential area busy with a high volume of traffic.
3. The roads within the King Street area are narrow and cramped with a high level of on street parking. Also the footways are narrow, especially the section on Bassett Road outside Mary Bassett Lower School where a narrow footway has been provided only on the western side of carriageway. A high percentage of pedestrians are school pupils or elderly residents who walk to the surgery or town centre.
4. The Leighton-Linslade Town Council has a policy of promoting safer routes to school, which seeks to encourage more pupils to walk or travel to school by sustainable modes of transport. The aim of the Leighton Linslade Big Plan is to provide a 20mph speed limit in the residential areas to promote walking and cycling.
5. The existing speed limit in the King Street area is 30mph. The speed and volume survey was carried out in June 2010. The data was collected on King Street, Queen Street, Ashwell Street, Mill Road, Doggett Street (2 locations), Baker Street and Bassett Road (2 locations). The speed data shows the 85th percentile speeds of traffic on all those roads were below 30mph. The 85th percentile speeds of traffic on King Street, Ashwell Street and Doggett Street were below 25mph. On Queen Street, Mill Road, Baker Street and Bassett Road those speeds were between 26.7mph and 28.8mph.

6. The consultation on the proposed 20mph speed limit within Bassett Road area was previously advertised on 5th August 2010 together with associated traffic calming along Queen Street and Bassett Road and a proposed one way section on Bassett Road. Due to a high number of objections received, on 17th August 2010 the decisions was made by the local elected members and Leighton Linlade Town Council representatives to withdrawn the proposal and re-design the 20mph speed limit area without the provision of any vertical traffic calming measures.
7. The proposed 20mph speed limit in the King Street area was formally advertised by public notice in December 2010/January 2011. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Leighton-Linslade Town Council and Elected Members. Local residents have also been given an opportunity to make formal representations on the proposal.
8. Bedfordshire Police accepted the proposal and have raised no objections. No other representations have been received.

Objections

9. One objection (representing a resident that lives on Bassett Road) has been received. He raises a number of points which can be summarised as follows:-

The resident is in favour of the 20mph speed limit and has campaigned for the reduction in the speed limit for the last three years. However, he objects to the 20mph speed limit without any traffic calming measures. He believes that only the use of traffic humps and raised junctions will slow traffic down and improve safety, especially along the narrow stretch of road from 1 to 15 Bassett Road. The 20mph speed limit will not be enforceable without vertical traffic calming measures.

Conclusion and the Way Forward

10. In response to the objectors' comments:-
It is accepted that vertical traffic calming features would help to slow traffic down. However the speed survey carried out on roads within the proposed 20mph speed limit area shows that the 85th percentile speeds of traffic on all those roads are below the existing 30mph speed limit and often below 25mph. The roads are generally narrow with a high level of on-street parking which naturally keeps the speeds low. It is also anticipated, based on previous experiences, that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit together with road markings and regular repeater signs will lower the traffic speed by a few mph. Therefore the proposed speed limit should be mostly self enforcing.
11. In summary, it is felt that the advertised restriction is appropriate and so it is requested that the proposal is approved for implementation as advertised.

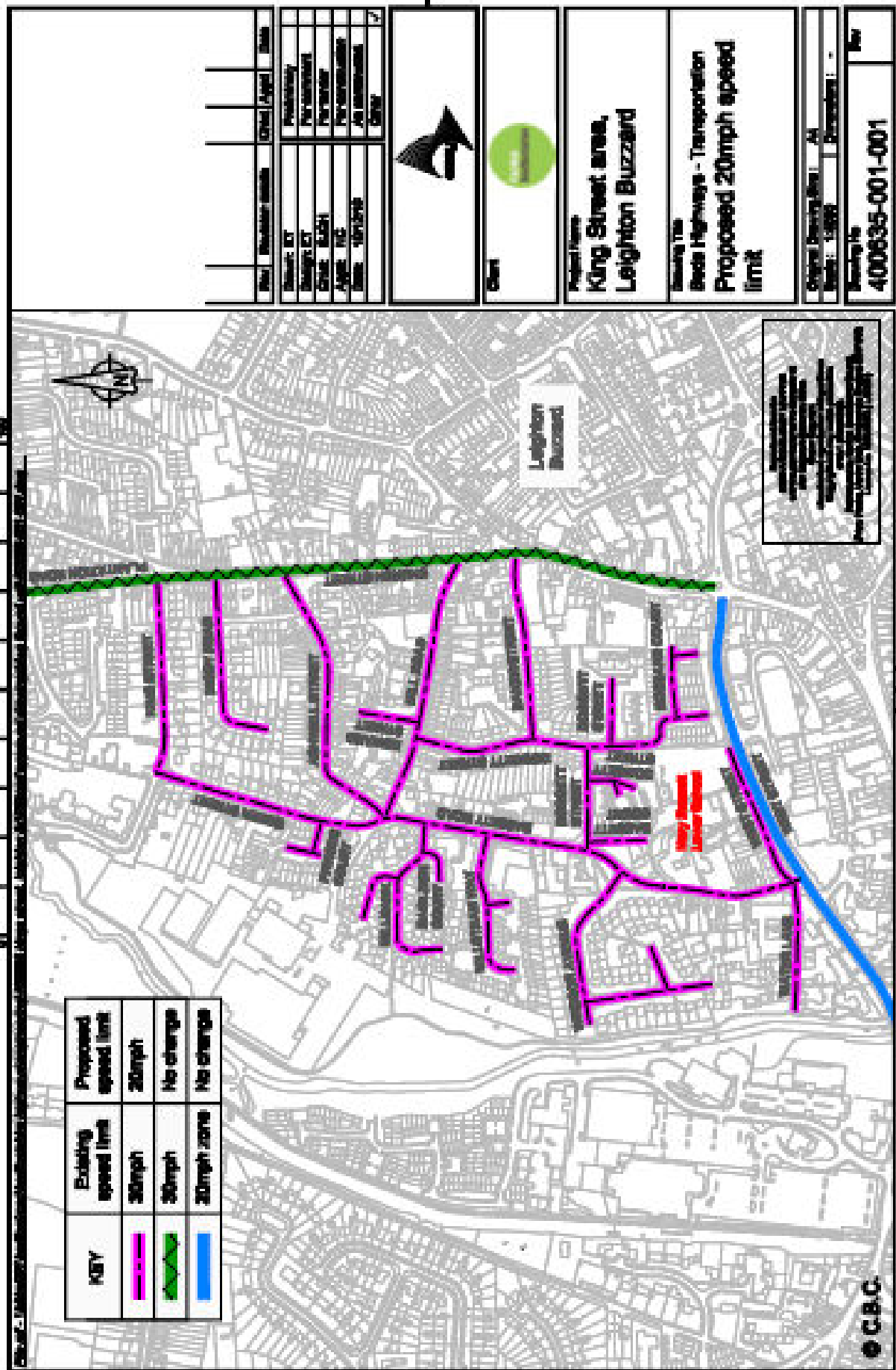
Appendices:

Appendix A – Plan

Appendix B – Public Notice

Appendix C – Support and objection to the proposal

APPENDIX A



File	Revision number	Date	Appr	Drawn

Drawn: KY	Prepared by
Checked: KY	Permitted
Drawn: KY	Permitted
Checked: KY	Permitted
Drawn: KY	Permitted
Checked: KY	Permitted
Drawn: KY	Permitted
Checked: KY	Permitted



Project Name:
**King Street area,
 Leighton Buzzard**

Issuing Title:
**Beds Highways - Transportation
 Proposed 20mph speed
 limit**

Contract Drawing No.: AI
Scale: 1:500
Revision: -

Drawing No:
400635-001-001

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ON VARIOUS ROADS IN KING STREET AREA, LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety. The proposed 20mph Speed Limit is intended to reduce the speed of vehicles in this residential area and improve pedestrians' safety. If implemented, this will improve road safety and quality of environment, and will help promote walking and cycling. Therefore, Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to make a Road Traffic Regulation as follows:

Effect of the Order:

To introduce a 20mph Speed Limit on the following lengths of road in Leighton Buzzard:

- The entire length of Bassett Road
- The entire length of Queen Street
- The entire length of King Street
- The entire length of Water Lane
- The entire length of West Street Service Road (which runs parallel to West Street)
- The entire length of Windsor Avenue
- The entire length of Doggett Street
- The entire length of Bassett Court
- The entire length of Bossard Court
- The entire length of Baker Street
- The entire length of Millstream Way
- The entire length of Millbank
- The entire length of Basildon Court
- The entire length of Mill Road
- The entire length of Edward Street
- The entire length of Ashwell Street
- The entire length of Princes Court
- The entire length of Digby Road
- Any road(s) subsequently constructed and adopted that adjoins any of the aforementioned roads

Orders to be revoked: If implemented any previous Speed Limit Order made 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 Leighton-Linslade Town Council, The White House, Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard and normal opening hours at Leighton Buzzard Library, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard. 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 Estera Twardowska, 0845 365 6086 for further advice on this proposal.

Objections should be sent in writing to the Transportation Manager, Bedfordshire Highways, Woodlands Annex, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NU or by e-mail to centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk stating the grounds on which they are made by 14th January 2011.

Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (20mph Speed Limit) (Various Roads in King Street Area, Leighton Buzzard) Order 201*"

Technology House
239 Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9QQ

Basil Jackson
Assistant Director for Highways

16th December 2010

APPENDIX C

Central Bedfordshire proposes to introduce a 20mph Speed Limit on various roads in the King Street area, Leighton Buzzard.

<p>This Authority has considered the proposed 20mph Speed Limit Regulation Order as outlined in your letter dated 15th December 2010 and offer the following comments for further consideration.</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	
<p>This Authority has considered the proposed 20mph Speed Limit Regulation Order as outlined in your letter dated 15th December 2010, together with the reason(s) given. The proposal is accepted by this authority, therefore no objection will be offered.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">✓</p>

Name: - John Houghton
 Address: BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Signed: [Signature]
 Address:

PROJECT	AREA
CONTRACT	BEDFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS
ACTION	BY ET
DATE	10 JAN 2011
COPIES	
ORIGINAL	

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 13 January 2011 21:00

To: Central Beds Consultation

Subject: Order 201 Speed limit(20mph) variation in roads in th King Street Area, Leighton Buzzard

Dear Sirs,

I refer to the above order number 201 recently publicised on the appropriate local roads.

I do not object to the imposition of the 20mph speed limit and in fact I have campaigned for the reduction in speed for the last three years.

I do object, however, to the imposition of this speed limit reduction without any effort to enforce this by the use of traffic calming measures. It has been recognised that speeding traffic can only be reduced by the use of traffic calming measures including speed humps and speed platforms, proposed in the original order which was withdrawn in 2010.

This is particularly relevant to the narrow stretch of road from 1 to 15 Bassett Road. This stretch has only one pavement which is one child pram wide. Two way traffic often exceeds the current 30mph limit passing children and pensioners with a few inches. Vehicles in fact often accelerate in a north bound direction as they are approaching a hill.

The 20mph speed limit will not be enforceable without the traffic calming as originally proposed.

I therefore object to this traffic speed regulation order without appropriate traffic calming at least along this short stretch of dangerous road.

I will be very grateful for an indication that this objection has been received.

Yours faithfully,

Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1AR