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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 5 April 2011  
**Subject:** Petition – To provide additional Speed Limits in the Parish of Eversholt  
**Report of:** Basil Jackson  
**Summary:** The purpose of this report is to present a petition received from Eversholt Parish Council and signed by 183 signatories.

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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Woburn and Harlington

Function of: Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

##### **Financial:**

There is currently no budget for carrying out speed limit work of the nature requested in this petition.

##### **Legal:**

None as a result of this report.

##### **Risk Management:**

None as a result of this report.

##### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None as a result of this report.

##### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

None as a result of this report.

##### **Community Safety:**

None as a result of this report

##### **Sustainability:**

None as a result of this report

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

1.

- (a) The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles is requested to note the contents of the report.
- (b) The lead petitioner be informed of the outcome.

### Background and Information.

1. A petition of 183 signatures has been received from Eversholt Parish Council requesting the following speed limits additional to the existing lengths of 30 mph limit through the parish:
  - A length of 20mph speed limit on Church End and part of Tyrells End.
  - Additional lengths of 30 mph limits on Hills End, Tyrells End, Witts End and Tingrith Road connecting the existing lengths of 30 mph speed limits to the C100 Woburn to Steppingley Road. Also short requested sections of 30 mph speed limit along Berry End north of the C100 and along Potter's End south of Church End.
  - New 30 and 40 mph speed limits on the C100 as it passes to the north of the parish.

These lengths of requested additional speed limits will be shown on a drawing at the Traffic Management Meeting.

2. The petition was presented to the Central Bedfordshire Executive Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011. It was resolved that the requested speed limits would be referred to a future Traffic Management meeting and that the lead petitioner would be informed about the date of the meeting and invited to attend.

### Discussion of the requests in the petition

3. The following request descriptions have been prepared on the basis of data available at the time the petition was received. A more rigorous examination of the proposal would be possible, if funding was provided.

#### **20 mph speed limit on Church End and part of Tyrells End**

4. The request is for a 20 mph speed limit along a 600 metre length of Church End, and part of Tyrells End, from Linden Lodge eastwards to the swimming pool. This would pass the village school, the parish church, the Green Man public house and a recreation area. There have been no injury collisions along Church End and this part of Tyrells End during the past three years. A traffic count carried out in 2009 showed that the traffic flow along Witts End and Church End is approximately 400 vehicles in two directions per average 24 hour day.

5. There is no policy in Central Bedfordshire to implement a 20mph speed limit outside all schools. A policy to do so was originally adopted by the former Bedfordshire County Council. Following the creation of the new unitary authorities the policy was considered by Central Bedfordshire Council but it was agreed that until full detailed information could be provided on the practicality of doing this and the likely cost to the authority, that it should not be adopted as policy for the new Council. To date this situation has not changed.
6. Because there have been no injury collisions along Church End and this part of Tyrells End in the past three years, and because of the low traffic volumes, it would not be possible to justify this additional 20 mph speed limit on the grounds of casualty reduction or road safety.

#### **Extensions of 30 mph speed limits to C100**

7. The request in the petition would extend the lengths of 30 mph speed limits by approximately 500 metres along Hills End, 300 metres along Tyrells End, 200 metres along Witts End and 600 metres along Tingrith Road. These would extend the existing 30 mph speed limits to the C100. Although there has been an injury collision in the past three years inside the existing 30 mph restriction on Hills End and one on the section of Witts End with an existing 30 mph speed limit, there have been none on the suggested lengths of 30mph extension. There are very few properties fronting the sections of roads in question.
8. Because of the lack of injury collisions and properties fronting the sections of road in question, these requested 30 mph speed restriction extensions cannot be justified on the grounds of casualty reduction or road safety.

#### **Further requested lengths of 30mph speed limits**

9. In the petition, a 300 metre length of 30 mph speed limit is requested along Berry End northwards from the C100. Also a 100 metre length of 30 mph speed limit is requested along Potter's End, south of Church End.
10. Because of the lack of injury collisions and properties fronting the sections of road in question, these requested 30 mph speed restriction extensions cannot be justified on the grounds of casualty reduction or road safety.

#### **30 mph and 40 mph speeds limit along the C100**

11. The request is for a 300 metre section of 30 mph speed limit on the C100 near its junction with Hills End, and a 40 mph speed limit along the C100 from Hills End extending approximately 2 kilometres eastwards to its junction with Water End.
12. In the past three years there has been one injury collision on the section proposed for a 30mph limit, caused by lack of control at a cattle grid. On the section proposed for a 40 mph limit there has been one injury collision involving loss of control at a bend.
13. Although there has not been a recent traffic count along the C100 in this area, it is unlikely that the lack of injury collisions would satisfy Government requirements for either the proposed 30 mph or 40 mph speed limit on the C100.

## **Conclusion and The Way Forward**

14. There is currently no budget in 2011/12 for further speed limit reviews in Central Bedfordshire.
15. At its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010, the Executive Committee agreed a revised procedure for the review of rural speed limits. This procedure amended the accepted definition of a village and also sought to give additional weight to local opinion. Ultimately, however, whilst the revised procedure may indicate that a change to a speed limit would be possible, any change would still be subject to funding, which may be provided by the parish council.
16. In the current funding round, the Council has resolved to commit all the Local Transport Plan funding in 2011/12 to the four growth areas. Thus no finance will be available for further speed limit works which are not required on the basis of casualty reduction or as part of other projects.
17. Should Eversholt Parish Council choose to fund any further review and subsequent works, this would be a possible way forward as outlined in the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 Executive decision.