
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 27 March 2012
Subject: Beancroft Road/ Bedford Road junction, Marston -
Consider Responses to Proposed 40mph Speed Limit

Report of: Basil Jackson

Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services for the introduction of 40mph speed limit on the junction of Beancroft Road, Bedford Road, Roxhill Road and Marston Hill, Marston Moretaine.

Contact Officer: Caroline Almond
caroline.almond@amey.co.uk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Marston Moretaine and Cranfield

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve road safety and promote cycling and walking

Financial:

The cost of introducing a 40mph speed limit, including works and design fees, will be approximately £12000.

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:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the proposal to introduce 40mph Speed Limit on Beancroft Road/Bedford Road junction, Marston be implemented as advertised.**
- 2. The requested speed limits on adjacent lengths of road be assessed in the future as funding allows.**

Background and Information

1. This was a 'speed related request' raised via Marston Vale Trust in July 2010 and was added to the list of speed limit assessments. The request was for a 30mph speed limit at the junction of Marston Hill and Beancroft Road following local concern after numerous incidents.
2. The assessment was carried out in 2011 and the recommendation was to implement a 40mph speed limit at the junction. The recommendation was based on the criteria set by the Department for Transport guidelines (DfT Circular 01/2006; Setting local speed limits). A 40mph speed limit was deemed appropriate due to the accident rate recorded in the last 3 years and the environment and function of the junction.
3. The proposed 40mph speed limit was formally advertised by public notice in February 2012.
4. There were three representations made, including Marston Moretaine Parish Council. All of them fully support the proposal. However, two of them felt an extension of the proposed limit would be of value, although they had different views on how they should be extended. See Appendix C for these representations.
5. Regarding the suggestions made; the Parish Council suggests extending the 40mph limit along Marston Hill to meet the 30mph speed limit in Cranfield (see points a) and b)) and the other representation suggested that the proposed 40mph speed limit on Beancroft Road should include Charity Farm and Bedford Road to include the bends (see points c), d) and e));
 - a) 'Vehicles travelling down Marston Hill do so at a great speed'.
 - b) 'Your current proposal would see three speed restrictions along Marston Hill which the council feel is preposterous. It is firmly believed that motorists are unlikely to adhere to three speed restrictions in such a short stretch of road'.
 - c) 'We believe that the best interest of safety should be extended to Charity Farm or even better to Global Robots (the old Goodwood sawmills building) as there is a continual run off these bends.'

- d) The same applies for Bedford Road towards Upper Shelton; these bends are very hazardous with cars continually speeding off the road at the double bends we feel I would be better served if the speed limit could be extended towards Upper Shelton.
- e) The blind crest of Beancroft Road/ Webbs Hill opposite Hill House Farm entrances should be limited to 30mph.

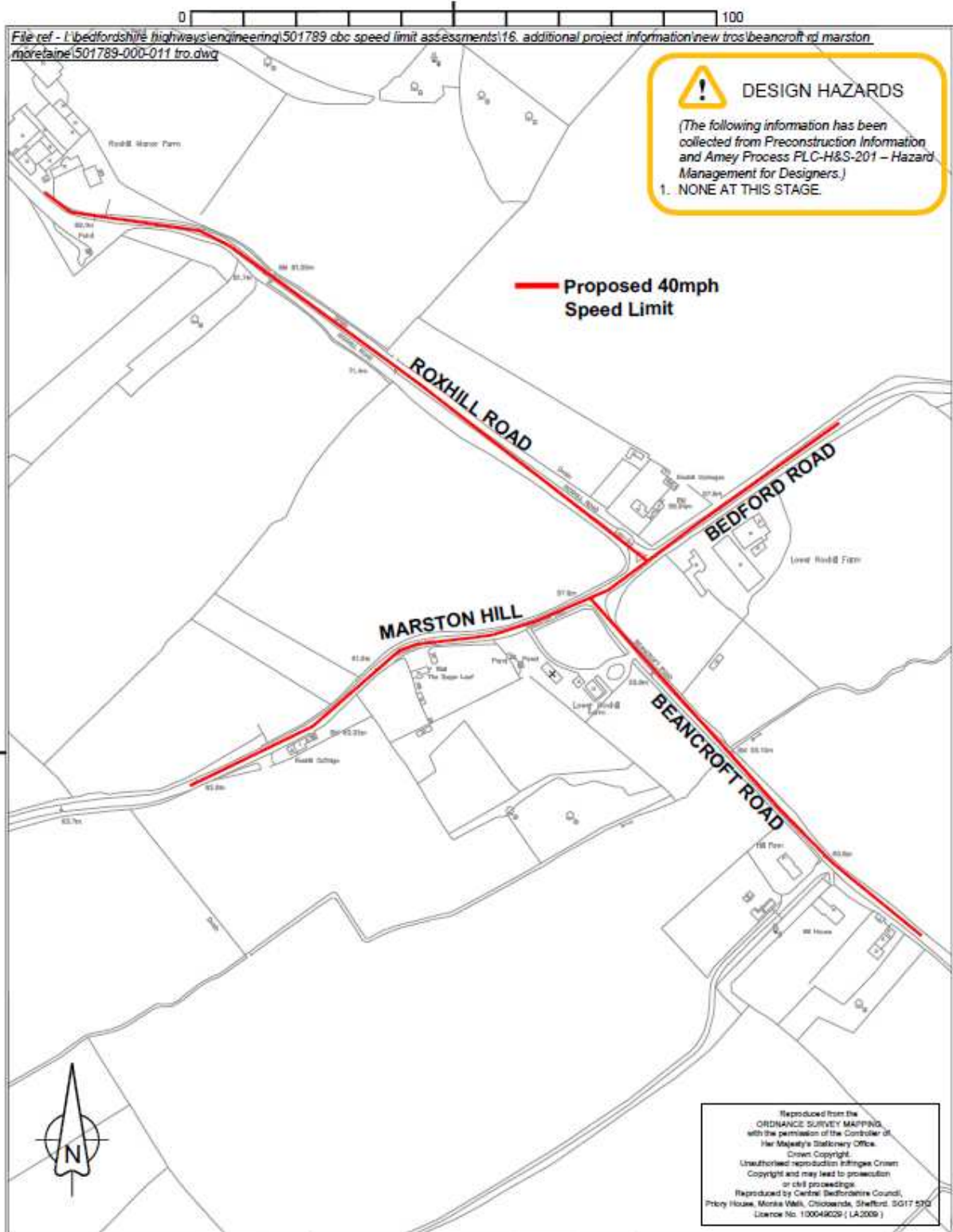
Conclusion and the Way Forward

6. Bedfordshire Highways' response to the specific points listed above are as follows:-
- a) Speed data was not taken on Marston Hill on the Cranfield side as it was felt that the existing Cranfield (recently extended) 30mph speed limit was appropriate. The existing national speed limit on Marston Hill towards Cranfield was also thought appropriate for the rural environment. A 40mph speed limit was not considered at the time of assessment due to there being no injury collisions within the last 3 years along that length.
 - b) The average speeds at the junction of Beancroft Road where a lower speed limit was requested, are around or below 40mph. This means the proposed speed limit should be largely self-enforcing.
 - c) The 40mph speed limit was recommended to be located only within the extend of the junction and lightly built up area due to the environment change and speed related injury collisions of the junction. There is a total of one injury collision within the last 3 years along the length south of the proposed speed limit on Beancroft Road (which includes Charity Farm). This collision was located on the bend south of the junction and it is not thought that a change in speed limit would have been a significant factor in preventing this collision as it was a result of an inexperienced driver colliding with the kerb.
 - d) On Bedford Road there was one 'slight' injury collision found within the last three years along the two bends approximately 220m east of its junction with Beancroft Road. This collision was as a result of a vehicle carelessly travelling within the wrong lane of traffic. These bends are of rural environment with no accesses or frontages within them. Please also see point e) below regarding bends.
 - e) When assessing speed limits it is not advised that forward visibility along the carriageway should dictate the speed limit. The speed limit is chosen on other factors such as the built environment, collision history and average speeds collected. Section 3 in DfT 01/2006 setting local speed limits reads – 'Speed limits should not be used to attempt to solve a problem of isolated hazards, such as a single road junction or reduced forward visibility such as a bend'.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Plan of 40mph speed limit (Public Notice plan)
- Appendix B – Public Notice
- Appendix C – Representations
- Appendix D – Bedfordshire Police response
- Appendix E – Speed summary

Appendix A



Rev	Revision details	Chkd	Appd	Date
Drawn: CA			Preliminary	
Design: CA			For comment	✓
Chkd: GB			For tender	
Appd: NO'L			For construction	
Date: 24-01-2012			As constructed	
			Other	

Project Name Proposed 40mph speed limit	
Drawing Title Bedfordshire Highways - Trans Beancroft Rd/ Bedford Rd jnc, Marston Moretaine	
Original Drg Size : A4	Dimensions : -
Scale : As Shown	Copyright © Amey/CBC



Client



Drawing No 501789/000/012	Rev -
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PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A 40MPH SPEED LIMIT ON VARIOUS ROADS IN MARSTON MORETAINE.

Reason for proposal: This proposal is intended to reduce vehicle speeds and improve the safety and environment for local residents. Therefore, Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to make an Order as follows:

Effect of the Order:

To introduce a 40mph speed limit on various roads in Marston Moretaine as follows:-

- § That length of Beancroft Road which extends from its junction with Marston Hill in a south-easterly direction for a distance of approximately 370 metres.
- § That length of Bedford Road which extends from its junction from Roxhill Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of approximately 170 metres.
- § That length of Marston Hill which extends from its junction with Roxhill Road in a westerly direction for a distance of approximately 330 metres.
- § The entire length of Roxhill Road.

Any previous speed limit Order made on the lengths of road specified above will be revoked.

Further Details: of the proposed Order and a plan may be examined during normal opening hours at Ampthill Library 1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill MK45 2NL. These documents will be placed on deposit until 6 weeks after the Order is made or until it is decided not to continue with the proposal. Please contact Caroline Almond, tel. 0845 365 6057 or email caroline.almond@amey.co.uk 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 e-mail centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk stating the grounds on which they are made by 24th February 2012.

Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (40mph Speed Limit) (Various Roads, Marston Moretaine) Order 201*"

Technology House
239 Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9QQ

Basil Jackson
Assistant Director for Highways
and Transport

2nd February 2012

Appendix C- Representations

Support from resident via email 3rd February 2012

'I would like to register my strong SUPPORT for the proposed speed limit of 40MPH on various roads in Marston Moretaine. As a resident of the Roxhill area I am delighted that you have decided that the limit should be introduced, this will make the Marston Hill/ Beancroft Road junction significantly safer. I am sure that my neighbours and the Cranfield Parish Council who also argued for the limit will be equally pleased. Please let me know if you need other residents to voice their support again during this consultation process, for now I am assuming that you have enough evidence of support to ensure that the proposal goes ahead.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and making our roads safer'.

Representation from resident via letter dated 10th February 2012

We thank you for your correspondence and are extremely pleased to see a speed limit being considered, however we also submit further comments for consideration.

Having been residents and owners for 20years of Hill House we can observe the movement of vehicles extremely well and for some time have lobbied the Parish Council and Highways for speed restriction to Beancroft Road our points are as follows

- 1) We believe that in the best interest of Safety the Limit should be extended to Charity Farm or even better to Global Robots (the old Goodwood sawmills building) as there is a continual run off on these bends.
- 2) The same applies for the Bedford Road towards Upper Shelton; these bends are very hazardous with cars continually speeding off the road at the double bends we feel it would be better served if the speed limit could be extended towards Upper Shelton.
- 3) The blind crest of Beancroft Road/Webbs Hill opposite Hill House and Hill Farm entrances should be limited to 30mph.

We have noticed a significant increase in traffic and especially heavy articulated lorries along Beancroft Road since the new 421 was built, talking with some residents this appears to be caused by the closure of Hoo Lane and the single track to Shelton.

We trust our views are taken into consideration as at this time Beancroft Road has become some what of a race track and very unsuitable for the standard speed limit

Representation from Marston Moretaine Parish Council via letter dated 24th February 2012

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed 40mph speed limit on Beancroft/ Bedford Road junction.

The Parish Council supports the introduction of this speed restriction in the areas proposed but feels that the restriction area should be incorporated further up Marston Hill to meet the end of the current 30mph speed restriction.

Vehicles travelling down Marston Hill do so at a great speed and the Parish Council are well aware of the dangers posed to residents who live along this stretch of road.

Your current proposal would see three speed restrictions along Marston Hill which the Council feels is preposterous. It is firmly believed that motorists are very unlikely to adhere to three speed restrictions in such a short stretch of road. There is also the question of whether enforcement is possible with this proposal. The Parish Council would like to see common sense prevail and the restriction area increased as requested.

Appendix D

Bedfordshire Police response - no objection

Appendix E

Speed summary

Location – Bedford Road

Speed Limit – NSL

Volume combined directions (7 day ave) – 4,232

Westbound Speed (7 day Ave) – 36.1mph

Eastbound Speed (7 day ave) – 39.1mph

Location – Beancroft Road

Speed Limit – NSL

Volume combined directions (7 day ave) – 4,532

Northbound Speed (7 day Ave) – 40.8mph

Southbound Speed (7 day ave) – 39.8mph

Location – Marston Hill

Speed Limit – NSL

Volume combined directions (7 day ave) – 7,629

Westbound Speed (7 day Ave) – 28mph

Eastbound Speed (7 day ave) – 30mph