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**Meeting:** Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

**Date:** 13 October 2014

**Subject:** Consideration of a petition that has been submitted to the Council regarding speed limits in Hitchin Road, Henlow

**Report of:** Paul Mason, Head of Highways

**Summary:** This report is to note the receipt of petitions submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and determine a way forward.

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Contact Officer: Nick Chapman

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Hitchin & Arlesey

Function of: Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

**Council Priorities:**

None from this report

**Financial:**

This is to be funded from the budget allocated to speed limit review and buffer zones.

**Legal:**

None from this report

**Risk Management:**

None from this report

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None from this report

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

None

**Community Safety:**

None from this report

**Sustainability:**

None from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

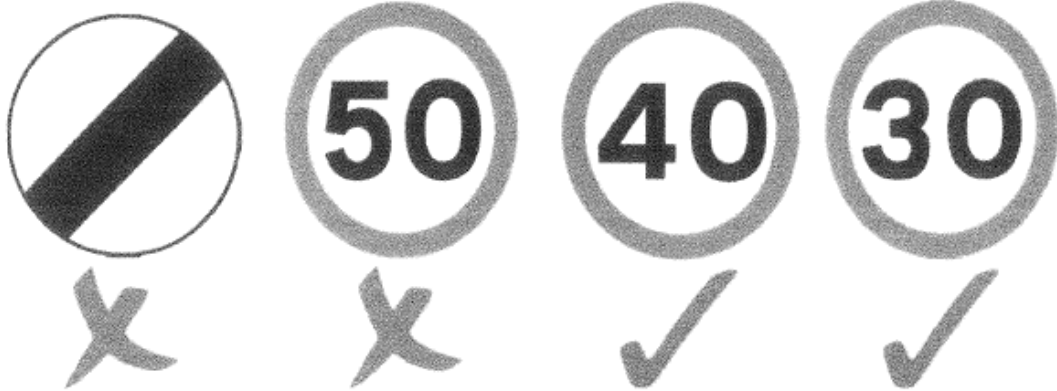
**That the proposed 50mph speed limit, as agreed at the Delegated Decisions Meeting in June 2014, be implemented and that officers be asked to review the additional request for the speed limit to be further reduced to 40mph.**

### **Background and Information**

1. A petition signed by 83 people has been received concerning the speed limit in Hitchin Road, Henlow. The petition asks for a 40mph speed limit to be introduced over the whole length of road from Henlow village near the A507 roundabout southwards to the start of the 30mph speed limit near Derwent Lower School at Henlow Camp.
2. As part of the speed limit review works a proposal to amend the speed limits in Hitchin Road, Henlow was published in February 2014.
3. There is currently a 50mph covering the northern section of Hitchin Road between Henlow village and Henlow Camp. The proposal was to reduce the speed limit from the national speed limit to 50mph southwards to the point where the 30mph speed limit for Henlow Camp starts.
4. Objections were received to this proposal and the matter was considered at the Delegated Decisions Meeting on 2 June 2014. It was resolved to implement that 50mph speed limit.
5. A proposal to also implement an advisory 40mph speed limit on part of Hitchin Road as an additional indication to drivers to moderate their speed was not approved.
6. The basis for the decision was that 50mph was the appropriate speed limit for that length of road given the density of roadside development and existing vehicle speeds. However, it was also considered reasonable that once the 50mph speed limit had been implemented and established, then there would be merit in undertaking further speed measurements to determine if a further reduction in the speed limit to 40mph would be appropriate.
7. It is therefore recommended that the petition be noted and that the lead petitioner be advised that based upon the previous decision the 50 mph limit will be implemented and further assessment carried out in due course.



**Central Bedfordshire Traffic Management**  
**Meeting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**



We, Who Are Residents And/Or Regular Users Of Hitchin Road,  
Support The Proposal For The Removal Of The Following Speed  
Zones Along Hitchin Road:

- Maximum Speed Limit Permissible
- Fifty MPH Speed Zone

**And Replaced With A Single Forty MPH Speed Limit**