
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20 December 2017
Subject: A6 Bedford Road, Clophill – Petition requesting an extension of the existing 40mph speed limit.

Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways

Summary: This report is to note the results of actions taken following the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council concerning the speed limit on the A6 Bedford Road Clophill.

Recommendation: That planned works to improve the A6/A507 junction at Clophill include an extension of the existing 40mph speed limit on Bedford Road to encompass the junction with Old Silsoe Road.

Contact Officer: Paul Salmon
paul.salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Silsoe and Shillington

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The subject of the petition correlates with Local Transport Plan objective J.

Financial:

Work will be funded from Local Transport Plan budgets.

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:

None from this report.

Sustainability:

None from this report.

Budget and Delivery:	
Estimated cost: £1,500 - £2,000	Budget: To be determined
Expected delivery: To be determined	

Background and Information

1. On 3 May 2017, The Traffic Management Meeting considered a petition signed by 35 people, requesting the Council moves the national speed limit signs on the A6 at the junction of Old Silsoe Road to the beginning of the dual carriageway. At that meeting it was resolved to investigate whether an extension of the existing 40mph speed limit in Bedford Road is appropriate giving consideration to the volume and speed of traffic on this section of Bedford Road.
2. This report discharges the obligation on officers to report back to the Traffic Management Meeting on the results of its investigation.

Officer response

3. Officers commissioned an automated vehicle count to take place on Bedford Road over the seven day period 27 June to 3 July 2017. The location for the count was adjacent to the junction with Old Silsoe Road. The count showed that the average vehicle speed in a northbound direction (downhill toward Bedford) was 33.6mph and 39.6mph in a southbound direction (uphill toward Luton). The 85th percentile speeds were 45 mph northbound and 45.9 mph southbound.
4. Officers commissioned a report in the number and nature or injurious collisions on the A6 Bedford Road on the section between the A507 roundabout and the junction with Old Silsoe Road covering the most recent 3-year period for which data was available. The report revealed three collisions had occurred that had resulted in a minor injury, all of which involved cars heading northbound down the hill towards the A507 roundabout.

The first collision occurred on 13 Sep 2014 at 08.41 and involved a collision with a vehicle exiting the petrol station and turning right. The second occurred at 8 am on 17 Nov 2014 and involved a rear-end shunt in slow moving traffic on the approach to the roundabout. The third occurred on 16 Jun 2016 at 9.10 am and involved a collision with a vehicle exiting Old Silsoe Road and turning right.

5. Officers are satisfied there is justification for extending the 40mph speed limit to encompass the Old Silsoe Road junction. However, as there is no immediate urgency on safety grounds, given average vehicle speeds in both directions are below 40mph, it is recommended that the revision be advertised and introduced coincident with proposed changes to the A507/A6 junction arrangement.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Petition

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix A

I support the request for the national speed limit signs on the A6 at the junction of Old Silsoe Road to be moved to the beginning of the dual carriageway.

Name

Address

Appendix B

