

Agenda Item IMD20

NOTICE OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

ITEM NO.	IMD 2015 – 20
TITLE	Warren House Road (Wokingham and Hurst) 30 mph Speed Limit
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Councillor John Kaiser, Executive Member for Planning and Highways
DATE AND TIME OF DECISION	Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 10:00am
VENUE	WSP meeting room, Council Offices, Shute End, Wokingham
REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED ON	Friday 1 May 2015

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION
REFERENCE IMD: 2015 - 20

TITLE	Warren House Road (Wokingham and Hurst) 30 mph Speed Limit
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Councillor John Kaiser, Executive Member for Planning and Highways
ON	Tuesday 12 May 2015
TIME	10:00am
WARD	Norreys and Hurst
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

- Reduction in vehicle speeds near a new housing development and maintaining safety on the approach to a roundabout junction.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Highways and Planning:

- Approve the formal sealing and advertisement of the WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL (WARREN HOUSE ROAD, WOKINGHAM AND HURST) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015.
- Inform those who have responded to the consultation accordingly.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council introduced a temporary 30mph speed limit along Warren House Road in 2013 as a new roundabout was being constructed to serve the new Kentwood Farm Development. Officers consider that the speed limit should now be made permanent, rather than allow the temporary order to lapse, and the speed limit revert to a derestricted 60mph. The proposal to make the 30mph limit permanent was advertised in January 2015 and both objections and support were received, considered further in this report.

Background

In May 2013 a temporary order was introduced to reduce the speed limit on Warren House Road to 30mph in order that work could commence on implementing a roundabout which would become the access to the Kentwood Farm Development.

Now the roundabout is complete and the development has started to be occupied, it is considered appropriate to make the temporary order permanent. The approach to the roundabout from the north has limited forward visibility due to the brow of a hill as the road crosses the A329(M). Together with the roundabout junction and associated vehicle movements, it is also likely that there will be more cyclists and pedestrians using this length of Warren House Road than previously. It is also considered a retrograde step if the temporary order is allowed to lapse as the speed limit would revert back to a derestricted 60mph.

Proposal

The drawing no. 5049 2031 illustrates the length of Warren House Road to which the proposed 30mph limit would apply. This restriction was agreed with Thames Valley Police prior to the public consultation.

Response to TRO Consultation

The TRO was announced on 22 January 2015 with a closing date of 16 February 2015. As a result 4 responses were received, two of which were objections. All of these responses are detailed in Appendix A.

There were also some comments made on the council's face book page on the internet, but all of those making comments were informed that they would have to communicate their response officially through the normal channel. One of those commenting did so.

Recommendation & Conclusion

The objections received were against the reduction from national speed limit to 30mph. Whilst it is true that, before the roundabout was installed, the national limit for a single lane road of 60mph applied, the temporary 30mph speed limit has now been in place for some 20 months. If the speed limit were to be raised, motorists may be of the view that the road has been improved to a higher standard, whereas the alignment and roundabout arrangements have not in fact altered. The retention of the 30mph limit has also been agreed by the police and is therefore accepted as being an appropriate limit for the location.

On balance, it is recommended that the 30mph speed limit should be made permanent. The speed limit can be monitored, and if compliance is problematic then it can be reviewed and/or additional measures supporting the speed limit considered further.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£250	Yes	Revenue Budget
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£250	Yes	Revenue Budget
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)
Does not impact on other services.
Does not impact on any of the council's priorities.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES – FINAL CONSULTATION	
Strategic Director - Resources	No response
Monitoring Officer	No response
Leader of the Council	No response
Town and Parish Councils	
Wokingham Town Council	A request to support the permanent adoption of a 30mph speed limit in Warren House Road was received and considered. Members noted that the temporary limit was not being observed, and if adopted it should be enforced. It was resolved that the Committee would support the proposal and request that a prominent sign be erected to the north of the A329(M) bridge to warn southbound motorists of the new roundabout.
Local Ward Members	
David Lee	In favour of the proposal

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A • Drawing 5049 2031 • Notice of Intent

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