



**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY
SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES**

Paul Jones

**Proposed 20mph Speed Restriction
Eastfield Dale and Eastfield Chase Estates, Cramlington**

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the introduction of 20 mph speed limit restrictions on the Eastfield Dale and Eastfield Chase Estates, Cramlington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that 20 mph speed limit restrictions be introduced on the Eastfield Dale and Eastfield Chase Estates, Cramlington.

Link to Corporate Plan

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"
Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Key Issues

1. This area has been the subject of traffic safety concerns over a period of time i.e. speeding traffic, raising concerns with residents, County Councillor and the Town Council.
2. The scheme is to be funded by Councillor Dunbar, through her members Local Improvement Allowance.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. Residents contacted their local Ward member with safety concerns regarding speeding traffic in the area.
2. After meeting with Councillor Dunbar, Officers proposed that a 20mph speed limit restriction be introduced in order to alleviate these concerns.
3. The proposed speed restrictions would include the following streets on the two estates:
Eastfield Dale
Kendal Drive Kirton Way, Kettering Place, Kinloss Square, Kingswood Road and Kirkbridge Place.
Eastfield Chase
Porchester Drive, Poole Close, Portland Gardens, Purbeck gardens and Pentridge Close.
4. A consultation letter was sent to 528 Residents and 21 statutory consultees on the proposed speed restrictions. A copy of the consultation letter and plan are attached in Appendix A
5. 82 responses were received as a result of the consultation letter, with 67 in favour 12 against and 3 neither for nor against the proposal. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.
6. The results were passed to Councillor Dunbar, who agreed that 20mph speed restrictions be introduced as proposed.
7. The scheme is funded and supported by Councillor Dunbar through her Members' Local Improvement Allocation.

Delegated decisions

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Member's Local Improvement allocation for Councillor Christine Dunbar
Legal	Preparation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)
Procurement	
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	
Crime & Disorder	Traffic safety concerns i.e. speeding on the highway
Customer Consideration	Scheme is anticipated to improve road safety for pedestrians, residents and road users in the area
Carbon reduction	
Wards	Cramlington Eastfield

Background papers:

File ref: HO176273_01

Appendix Index

Appendix A - Consultation Letter and Plan
Appendix B - Consultation Response

Delegated decisions

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer:

Service Director, Local Services

Subject:

Proposed 20mph Speed Restriction
Eastfield Dale and Eastfield Chase Estates,
Cramlington

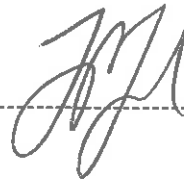
Consultation

For: 67
Against: 12
Neutral: 3

Decision Taken:

To introduce the speed restrictions as proposed

Signature of Director



Date

22/10/18

Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF

• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

Our Ref: HO176273_01
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr A Walker
Direct Line: 01670 620420

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed 20mph Speed Restriction **Eastfield Area, Cramlington**

Residents have raised concerns with County Councillor Dunbar, regarding vehicles being driven at excessive speeds in Eastfield, Cramlington causing a traffic safety issue. Councillor Dunbar has therefore requested that the speed limit be reduced from 30mph to 20mph in order to address these concerns.

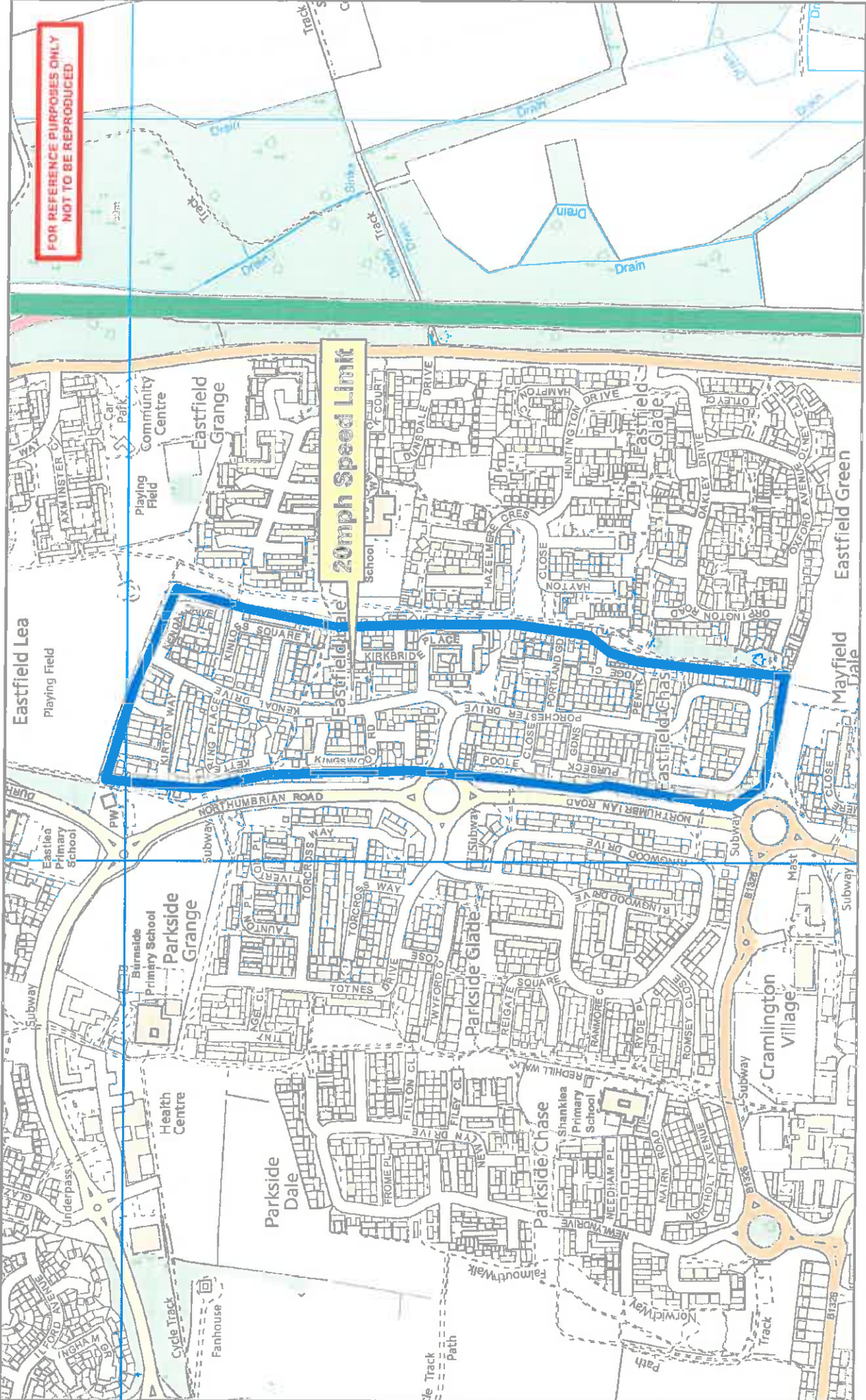
I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (as amended) to formally advise you on the proposed introduction of 20 mph speed restrictions at Eastfield, Cramlington as shown on the attached plan.

If you have any comments or observations regarding this proposal please can you email or write to Highways Programme, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF before the 2nd March 2018

Yours faithfully



Andy Walker
Technical Assistant (Members Small Schemes)



Title: Proposed 20mph limit Eastfield Cramlington HO176273_01		Date: FEB 18	Scale: NTS
Drm: CE			

Network Management Information System

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Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland NE27 2EF
Tel: 01670 830000

Additional Information:

Appendix B

FOR AGAINT	N E I T H E R		Other Relevant Comments
1			We reside at xx Kingswood Road, Eastfield Dale & have no objection to the proposed 20mph limit. We wish to point out that Kendal Drive is where some speed and some ignore the 30mph limit we feel sure that the same people will ignore the 20mph limit.
1	1		Thank you for your letter dated 5th February 2018 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patients appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the ongoing road safety programme.
	0		Reference your communication about the proposed 20 mph speed limit on Eastfield Estates, in order for me to make an informed consideration and comment could you please let me have the evidence of vehicles being driven at excessive speed, of results of speed surveys, of the nature and frequency of enforcement of existing speed limit etc. of the number of residents who have raised concerns about this perceived problem that imposing a 20 mph speed limit will alleviate the perceived problems and what enforcement will be carried out, by what means and how often.
	0		The overwhelming evidence is that enforcement is the only answer to excessive speed and without it many drivers become complacent. It's irrelevant what the limit is if it isn't policed. Experience shows that 20mph zones have limited effect, that only a proportion of drivers keep to that limit and many of those fall by the wayside when they learn that there are no sanctions. Have you considered other methods which may be resource efficient, more effective on multiple levels, cheaper and quicker to implement and more flexible. For example flashing signs, static signs, plastic policemen of the type found in shops ETC. In high visibility clothing. I support making our streets safer if the right solution is implemented but I haven't been convinced that these 20 mph zones are the best way forward.
	0		I'm forwarding the response below from Northumbria Police which I think shows that the claims in the proposal are not evidence based and that a 20 mph speed limit will not be enforced either. Interestingly, yesterday I walked up Newlyn Drive, Cramlington which has a 20 mph speed limit and it wasn't my perception that there was an abundance of compliance. Perhaps if it had simply been put to residents that at slower speeds less injury is likely in a collision and that a collision may even be avoided then that would be less open to challenge and be more educational than what appear to be over-egged, spurious and unsubstantiated anecdotal claims. I hope that you find this useful.
	1		I have been forwarded an email that you submitted on the 14th February in relation to communication from Northumberland County Council regarding a proposed 20 MPH speed restriction in Eastfield Cramlington. As the Neighbourhood Inspector for Blyth and Cramlington my role involves forging and maintaining close links with partnership agencies and local councillors in order to promote problem solving within the area which includes speeding. I aim to ensure that my small team provide high visibility policing that ensures the needs of the individual neighbourhoods are met whilst also continuing to drive down crime and disorder. In the email you ask two specific questions 1. What enforcement action has already been taken within the estate 2. What would be done to enforce the 20 mph speed limit if it was imposed. In response to the first issue I am unaware of any enforcement that has taken place within the estate by my neighbourhood team and I do not believe that the camera enforcement van would have been within the estate as there is a criteria that has to be met before a site is identified. In relation to the enforcement of a 20 MPH restriction there would need to be a validated high non-compliance to the 20mph speed limit which would probably be done by road sensors, there would need to be a verified link to excess speed and collision data within the area. There would be a further requirement that the enforcement of the 20mph site would only be a temporary measure whilst awaiting an engineering solution.
	0		Fully supportive of the proposal to introduce a 20mph limit. As someone who ended up with a Ford Fiesta in my garden after a smash which probably would have been avoided in a 20mph zone I look forward to this introduction A.S.A.P
	1		I would also support speed bumps / Traffic calming measures on Kendal drive.
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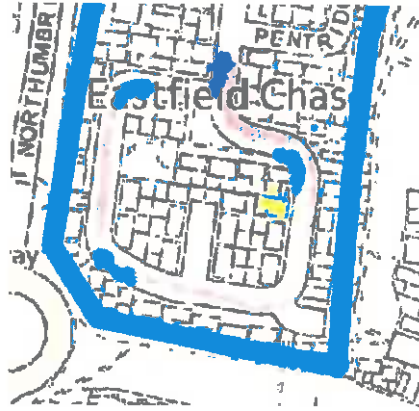
1	Entrance to Kendal Drive needs to be made wider.
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1	A very good plan to reduce speeding
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1	Where we live looks onto the road we have noticed near misses of accidents. Even cyclists doing wheelies - no hands - also ice conditions with the blind area, has been dangerous. People who live here own cars are cautious - it is visitors coming into this area are a hazzard. Thankyou. I do hope it includes Porchester Drive, Eastfield Chase a very busy street. Bungalows, houses. Children travel this way to schools. We have ambulances, community health worker, taxi service for several people in bungalows.
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1	I would also like to see something done about the speeding cars on Northumbrian Road
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1	This is an issue I raised around 10 years ago with Cllr Crowther. The issue is the length of the road on both Kendal and Porchester Drive. A 20mph speed limit is all well and good, however those who speed will pay little notice of a sign. A more suitable/appropriate measure would be to put in traffic calming measures/speed bumps to slow the vehicles. There are a number of estates which already employ those methods and I am at a loss why our estate has been neglected in this area.
1	Poor parking in corner of Kirkbride and not lot room for people to drive around. Poor parking in cul de sacs causing obstruction. Suggest double yellow lines in critical areas. Some cars park dont belong to anyone in cul de sac but Kirkbride Terrace ones and think cars around the corner in Kirkbride. In winter if snowing or slippy we will find car on our front lawn or house.
1	Yes if enforced, otherwise waste of time and money
1	Totally support Cllr Dunbar in this scheme it is long overdue as I have witnessed vehicles travelling far in excess of the present speed limit on this estate.
1	
1	After leaving Northumbrian Road at the roundabout, the very tight left hand turn into Kendal Drive is more of a safety hazard. Especially so if some idlot parks on the turn which often happens.
1	But it must be policed. I have never heard anyone being prosecuted for speeding in a 20mph zone, very few people do 20mph. Check out Horton Drive - if you drive at 20mph there is a queue behind you of frustrated drivers.
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1	As a 25 year resident in Eastfield Dale, I can only see increased cars and street parking as the primary hazard. Any speeding appears in the minority and who will continue to speed irrespective of a reduced number on signs - who /how will the reduced limit be policed/monitored? In my opinion, the funds would be better spent on catching the speeders and getting them off the streets.
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1	I agree with the 20mph limit for Kendal Drive, but I would ask you to look at the parking of non Kendal Drive residents, that make going to work on a morning a obstacle course as many as 6 cars in a row, as I haced said none of them living on Kendal Drive.
1	We live on Kendal Drive nearby on the corner with Kirton Way. People speed up as they come round the corner and race up Kendal Drive. Our neighbours cat was killed by a speeding driver who did not stop! This could have been a child! We have a few young children who live near this corner they could step out and be hit by a car as was the poor little cat. The sooner the safer it will be if we are all restricted to 20mph.
1	I strongly disagree and feel that this proposal is driven by personal ambition rather than a genuine safety concern. Please let me the number of reported actual accidents/fatalities/or near misses. It is impossible to drive at speed due to the parking of vehicles and number of cars using the road all the time. How many people have actually petitioned for this change before you issued this notification.

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1	Having seen similar scheme on the Parkside estates ignored by many drivers I feel that , although I support the proposals, some kind of physical deterrent to speeding is required to make up for the lack of enforcement. I would suggest the installation of chicane on Porchester Drive and Kendal Drive which are preferable to speed humps which can cause damage to vehicles and noise nuisance. The lack of enforcement is an issue which may eventually lead such schemes into disrepute and thus being ignored - a physical barrier prevents this.
1	I would suggest that before any speed restriction is enforced that the residents who live along the length of 'Kendal Drive' DO NOT park their cars on Kendal Drive. They are effectively reducing a two lane carriageway into a one lane carriageway. All those who park on the road have driveways, hardstands and garages, so please get them to use them. I don't expect speed humps, sleeping policemen or the likes to be installed. Who is going to enforce the 20mph? if folk don't abide by 30mph then why do you think they'll abide by 20mph? Who is going to maintain the signs and more importantly, who the hell is paying for them?
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1	Stop cars and vans parking at corner
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1	We have lived in Porchester Drive for 44 years and have never had any cause for concern regarding speeding. Eastfield chase is a quiet estate and because of all the cars and vans parked in the street it is quite difficult to drive at more than about 20-25mph anyway. As we are not close to any schools and there are footpaths and 2 underpasses for pedestrian use, we cannot see any need to change the speed limit.
1	The overwhelming evidence is that enforcement is the only answer to excessive speed and without it many drivers become complacent. It's irrelevant what the limit is if it isn't policed. Experience shows that 20mph zones have limited effect, that only a proportion of drivers keep to that limit and many of those fall by the wayside when they learn that there are no sanctions. Have you considered other methods which may be resource efficient, more effective on multiple levels, cheaper and quicker to implement and more flexible. For example flashing signs, static signs, plastic policemen of the type found in shops ETC. In high visibility clothing. I support making our streets safer if the right solution is implemented but I haven't been convinced that these 20 mph zones are the best way forward.
1	Not before time.
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1	Would also be safer to have double yellow lines on streets as some residents park 2 + 3 cars + work vans near corners + it is dangerous to cross roads or try to pull onto drive for vehicle obstructions. People are having to reverse their cars off drives + reverse onto main roads to avoid white vans parked at the bottom of drives. This is a residential area not a commercial van parking zone - Someone is going to be seriously injured or worse.
1	

1	Improve the parking system on Porchester Drive. Vans are on either side of the road making it very difficult to see oncoming cars. A van blocks the junction opposite penridge close turn off and another to the right (looking to turn onto Porchester perspective) which is dangerous as completely blind to oncoming vehicles. Something to keep in mind, unsure on solutions no alternative parking areas. 20MPH may make this safer?
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1	Long overdue. Next thing to tackle is overnight parking of commercial vans on the housing estates. One to three ton vans parked on footpaths and corners, it's like living on an industrial estate. As a retired HGV driver of 40+ years I am pretty good at judging widths. A number of occasions I estimate if we had an emergency in our cul-de-sac a fire appliance would be unable to reach us.
1	I'm in favour of a 20mph limit. But just who is going to police it?
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1	I have 2 small children so I definitely support this and have seen how fast drivers go on the area mapped out, sometimes you can even hear cars driving silly.
1	I do not support these proposals. As a resident of nearly 40 years on this estate, I have yet to see or be shown a single incident of drivers travelling at excessive speeds within the estate, I have no knowledge of any accident / incident on the estate which could be attributed to excess speed. Furthermore I am of the opinion that due to the number of parked cars on the roads in the estate, that the general speed of vehicles passing and out of the estate is already below the current limit. I am aware that councillor Dunbar has been trying to have the limit lowered for some time however if something is 'not broken' why 'try to fix it'. It is my opinion that the money (lost) of these measures, and the policing of them, would be far better spent elsewhere, where it was really required. Perhaps the emergency potholes on the estate could be properly filled, and was not causing a distraction to drivers as they drive on the estate.
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1	The area marked in blue contains a number of very small closes and short roads I don't think it is possible to reach 30mph. The only road where it is possible is Kendal Drive. I would suggest that money should only be spent where it will make a difference. I think Kendal Drive is the one. I am sure councillor would agree after all that's where she lives. This is my reason for opposition.
1	Cars parking on footpaths, corners + opposite junctions also parking on grass verges especially in wet weather causing it to be churned up and then driven onto roads or paths.
1	We do support the 20mph speed restriction in Eastfield Cramlington. At certain times of the day, cars going far too fast on the estate roads were a problem when our children were growing up about 15 years ago. They were going too fast to take the bends properly and ended up on the wrong side of the road. This still continues today. As we live near a sharp corner, we regularly used to hear screeching of tyres and motorbikes sliding across the road. The estate is far too small a space to get up any speed safely.
1	With regard to the 20mph speed limit proposal within Eastfield, Cramlington, I am not aware of any incidents over the last 40 years that would necessitate a reduction in speed limit in this area. The main estate roads are wide with good pedestrian access and good visibility. I have used these roads for many years and I do not believe the concerns over the current speed limit are justified or a reasonable use of council funds. I kindly request evidence to support the decision to reduce speed limits. I would however suggest that the council take action to prevent vehicles parking on grassed areas on estates and in close proximity to junctions as this does pose a serious risk to pedestrians and road users
1	Hopefully this change will be well sign posted?
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1	It will be good and a relief to see this in place.
1	With so much traffic going in and out of the estate a 20mph speed limit would be most welcome. Hopefully delivery vans would not take notice of a 20mph limit as they are often the worst offenders for speeding.
1	
1	I live at xx Kendal Drive (near the bottom) and the cars going from Kirton Way and the cul-de-sac in Kendal Drive is ridiculous. My cat was killed outside of our house in April and it was horrendous. It was bad enough my cat getting killed, but what about the children around us. I just hope the 20mph can be re enforced. This has been going on for years.
1	

1		<p>I have lived here since approx 1975. Over the last few years I have noticed an increase in traffic on the estate, some of which travels too fast. There is also an issue with people parking on bends -around the top of Porchester Drive which makes driving more difficult and increases the likelihood of an accident on these bends due to one side of the road being blocked. Because I have lived here a long time, I understand the importance of driving on my side of the road around these bends but this is not the case for everyone. Even when no vehicles are parked on the road, some drivers continue to drive in either the middle of the road or on the wrongside. It may be a good idea to look at signs which could go up to remind people to "stay left" for example. Hope this makes sense, but if not, I am happy to discuss further.</p> <p>Although support speed limit reduction not sure how it would change the actions of people who don't observe 30mph limit</p>
1		<p>I'm a resident of the affected area (xx Kinloss Square) and I do not support the proposals. I'm not aware of any traffic concerns over the use of excessive speed, so do not think that the cost is justified. Is there any solid evidence to support the proposal, or is it all anecdotal? If road safety is a concern in the area, the councilor should be looking for ways to reduce the level of on street parking.</p>
	1	<p>I believe the restriction should be automatic on all housing estates, 20mph or lower. I live at xx Porchester Drive, marked on the enclosed map as yellow dot. Have you ever thought, considered, making the loop (marked as pink line) on Porchester as a ONE-WAY system ! Living at xx, one-way would not be an advantage to me or my visitors, but could be worth having ref safety especially at the corners. If not one-way, would you consider putting No Parking Lines on the corners (marked as blue line.)</p> <p>Both myself and my wife are in favour of this proposal.</p>
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Regarding the proposed 20 mph speed restriction on Eastfield Cramlington, whilst we have no objection to the proposal, we would object if the proposal also included the introduction speed humps and any reduction in the road width at certain locations as this will only result in more congestion and speeding between the restrictions. Signs indicating the 20 mph would be acceptable. Can we also request an answer from the council to the ongoing street lighting problem we have in Kirkbride Place. 18 months ago we complained regarding the new location of the street lights in our street, after numerous emails and phone calls and involving Christine Dunbar, the council admitted that the design was incorrect and a new light would be installed opposite the walkway to the cycle track/walkway. On Saturday 27/01/18 a new post was positioned opposite the walkway and the light midway down Kirkbride place had the light removed, this light was put on the new post. On Sunday 28/01/18 workmen returned to fill in the holes around both posts. This resulted in two lights not working in Kirkbride Place. During w/c 29/01/18 workmen returned and removed the light from the new post and replaced it on the existing post and reconnected it. We are still waiting after 5 weeks for the new post to have a light put on it and to be reconnected DO WE HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER 18 MONTHS FOR THE LIGHT TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL ?



I would like my council rates/tax spend on repairing potholes on road and footpaths first. Cycle tracks need repairing. This is a waste of money. Nobody will stick to it and who is going to monitor the cars speed. There are more and more cars parking on Kendal Drive so that is acting as a speed deterrent.

For far too long now Kendal drive has been used as a race track by certain residents on this estate. There are quite a few children on this estate so this change will be received

I have lived in Porchester Drive, Eastfield Chase, Cramlington, since March 1974 and have never felt that there was a problem with excess speed on this estate. I served in Northumbria Police for 30 yrs. and spent the latter 26yrs as a motor patrol officer, retiring in 1992. I have never received a complaint about excess speed on the estate, nor can I recall any accident where speed was a factor. The estate is a closed estate having no through road so any vehicle entering is either driven by a resident or is visiting houses on the estate. I therefore feel that this proposal is an unnecessary waste of tax payers money in the current financial restraints. Surely if this speed restriction is such a necessary safety problem on housing estates then every estate in Northumberland should be restricted to 20mph and not selected ones on the whims of local councillors and a minority of residents. Councilor Dunbar tried to have the estate restricted before she was elected to the council and was rebuffed but since being elected she is trying to enforce it again. If there is finance to spare a greater safety matter in my opinion would be to try and solve the problem of street parking on the estate especially the parking of light commercial vehicles at nights and weekends. I would be interested to know how many accidents have been averted on the estates subject to 20 mph limits and how many prosecution have been pursued for excess speed. Many drivers do not observe the 30mph limit so they will have no indication to observe the 20mph limit.

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In respect of the above proposal, I would like to know how the proposed speed limit is intended to be enforced, and the benefits objectively measured. If there are no plans to enforce it, then it will be costly to implement and not make a difference. Those drivers who currently drive too fast will continue to do so, whilst law abiding residents who adjust their speed, within the speed limit, depending on the circumstances, will be limited to 20mph at all times. I have real concerns, that at a time of reduced finances this is being implemented because it looks like a good achievement, rather than because it will actually solve the problem. I suspect that directing the money to enforce the current speed limit would be more effective, than the spending on new signage etc.

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67	12	3