



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED 20mph & 40mph SPEED LIMITS, RENNINGTON

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the consultation exercise regarding a proposal to provide 20mph and 40mph speed limits at Rennington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed speed limits are not provided.

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

The County Council has received concerns from the local ward member and Rennington Parish Council about traffic speeds within the village and on the B1340 road which passes the village.

Speed surveys have shown that traffic speeds are well within the current limits.

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Background

1. The County Council has received concerns from the local ward member and Rennington Parish Council about traffic speeds within the village and on the B1340 road which passes the village.
2. Figure 1 shows the general area concerned. The proposed 20mph speed limit would cover the built-up area of the village, whilst the proposed 40mph speed limit would apply to the B1340 as it runs through the area, from 'Rennington House' in the south to the bend after 'Hassock House' in the north.
3. The village is currently subject to a 30mph speed limit whilst the B1340 is subject to the national speed limit of 60mph.



Fig.1. Rennington

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4. A 40mph speed limit would be required to facilitate the 20mph speed limit by reducing traffic speeds on the approach, however, the local ward member had also requested that a 40mph limit be considered for the B1340, irrespective of the proposal for a 20mph limit in the village.
5. Speed surveys were carried out in July 2018 in both the village and on the B1340. The results are set out below:

		85th%ile Speed	Average Speed
B1340 (south of Green Seat House)	Northbound	35.1mph	31mph
	Southbound	35.2mph	31.4mph
Rennington (near Village Hall)	Northbound	25.5mph	21.4mph
	Southbound	26.2mph	21.5mph

6. On the B1340, the current road alignment, with many tight bends, leads to speeds generally lower than 40mph. Only 5 vehicles were recorded travelling over 41mph. No vehicles were recorded exceeding the 60mph speed limit. The vast majority of recorded traffic was travelling between 26mph and 36mph. The provision of a 40mph speed limit would therefore have no effect on traffic speeds.
7. Within Rennington Village, the nature of the roads which are generally narrow with no centreline, also leads to generally low traffic speeds. Only one vehicle was recorded exceeding the 30mph limit. The majority of recorded traffic was travelling between 16mph and 26mph. Although a 20mph speed limit may help reduce speeds further, evidence suggests that any reduction is likely to be negligible. Given the already low speeds recorded, it is unlikely that a 20mph speed limit would have any noticeable impact.
8. There have been no recorded injury accidents in the area since 2003.
9. Despite the above survey results, residents were consulted to find out their views. 32 responses were received as follows:
 - For: 17 (53%)
 - Against: 15 (47%)
 - Neutral: 0

A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix A.

10. Rennington Parish Council stated that they were in favour of the proposed speed limits on the basis of a local survey that showed

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residents' support. This is not borne out by the results of the formal consultation.

11. The local ward member has agreed that the proposals should not go ahead.
12. Given the outcome of the consultation which shows only half of those who responded are in favour, the view of the local ward member, and the results of the speed surveys which show that traffic speeds are already low, it is recommended that the proposed 20mph and 40mph speed limits are not provided.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	None
Legal	None
Procurement	None
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	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Local residents and statutory consultees have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Longhoughton

Background papers:

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File ref: HE185325

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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Appendix - Consultation Responses

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>I would happily welcome a 20mph speed limit within the village. Just a shame it's not possible on the B1340 like Christon Bank - But understand the reasoning of this not being possible. It's just awful coming out of church road onto the B1340. So very, very dangerous. Fingers crossed the speed limit change within the village is agreed and started ASAP. Thank You.</p>
1			<p>If a 20mph speed limit were to be introduced it would be an inappropriate use of public money given the low speeds recorded by the speed survey Bearing in mind that central government is drastically cutting back on funds allocated to NCC, I cannot understand why the parishioners of Renington are being asked for their comments on speed reductions to 20 mph in Rennington Village using up more of the scant funds which are available.</p> <p>Speed tests were carried out on the B 1340 and within the village itself at the behest of the villagers through W Pattison our councillor. These showed that traffic is not speeding and the results of these tests gave an average speed as follows</p> <p>Within Rennington Village Northbound 21.4 mph Southbound 21.5 mph On the B 1340 Northbound 31 mph Southbound 31.4mph</p> <p>These figures are completely at odds with the initial perception of traffic speeds by some of the villagers. A report submitted to Rennington Parish Council by Wendy Pattison after she had the results of the speed tests said that traffic in Rennington Village was "highlighted around 30 mph" and the "traffic on the B 1340 was reducing speed to approximately 40 mph to negotiate the bends around the periphery of Rennington." To my knowledge speed monitoring devices were not installed on the bends so how does she come to this conclusion. I have asked her these questions in email form but she was unable to furnish me with a plausible answer. This feedback has been taken up by the residents giving them a false perception of the speed test results.</p> <p>I find it rather disconcerting that the actual average speed test results have not been included in the latest letter sent to Rennington residents asking for their comments. Is there a reason for this?</p> <p>I am all for reducing traffic speed where it is proven to be justified but in this instance, in my opinion, it is not. I am therefore against the suggested speed reductions on the grounds that it would be a complete waste of limited funds. Let any spare cash be put towards more deserving schemes.</p>
1			<p>This reply is sent on behalf of myself and my wife, <u>Ware</u> agreed on its content. We are in favour of the proposal to impose a 20mph limit within the village and a 40mph limit on the B1340 between South Farm and the Stamford junction. The roads through the village are narrow in places, there are several blind corners and also places where there is no pedestrian footpath. For the safety both of pedestrians and other road users we strongly support a 20mph limit within the village along the roads shown on the plan. On the B1340 the stretch from South Farm to the Stamford Junction is narrow and very twisty, it also has multiple blind corners and over the whole stretch the maximum safe speed, even on the straight bits, should not exceed 40mph. Imposing a limit will not therefore impede traffic flow but will hopefully make the stretch significantly safer - and discourage motorcyclists from using the twisting bends around the outside of the village as a challenge to their skills at riding fast. It will also make exiting from the bottom of Church road onto the B1340 in either direction a great deal safer as visibility both to the left and the right there is very limited.</p>
1			<p>The new speed limits should also include traffic enforcement such as speed bumps, etc.</p>

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1		Car traffic travels too fast through the village with near misses as well as tractors. A tragic accident is waiting to happen. Affecting residents and visitors to Northumberland. The new speed limits should also include traffic enforcement such as speed bumps and/or speed cameras, etc.
1		
1		<p>There is occasional speeding on the B1340 road approaching/leaving the village area, mainly by Motorcyclist's and the ridiculous noise they make, particularly around the bends and then climbing the hill towards Alnwick. This is mainly in summer months and on holiday weekends. Speeding within the village I think is less of an issue.</p> <p>While I understand concerns raised and a survey request I do not consider the speeding problem to be such to justify the costs involved for the works/materials needed to install all the signage that would be necessary to support the proposed speed limits. Who/how could the speed limits set be monitored and controlled?</p> <p>The narrow and winding roads approaching and leaving the village are in themselves a deterrent to speeding. The narrow and winding roads within the village and the parking on those roads, particularly on Church Road also act as a deterrent to speeding.</p> <p>I think that before considering the works/signage/cost issues, hard data on traffic density and speeds attained around and within the village should be sought and be made available.</p>
1		<p>We absolutely support these proposals for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety reasons. Lowering the speed limit can prevent accidents and improve road safety. 2. The B1340 is like a race track on weekends particularly with motor bikes. We have nicknamed it "Donnington". We have witnessed many bikes travelling in excess of 80 miles an hour. 3. 20mph through the village would make it safer for the elderly, children and people walking at night. There are places in the village with no footpath so 20mph is safer. 4. At the junction of Church Road and the road leading to rock therean end of the village visibility is reduced (see map) to leave the village. 40mph would make us worry about cars losing control on the bend approaching Orchard Loaning and crashing into our garden.
1		<p>can't complete first two fields</p> <p>Your ref is HE185325</p> <p>At the very least we need a 40mph limit on the B1340 that passes the village; motorbikes use the road like a race track</p>
1		<p>I would refer to your letter of 3rd December 2018 with reference HE185325 and wish to advise that my wife and myself are opposed to the stated amendments. We have been residents in Rennington village for more than 30 years and in that time cannot recall any motor vehicle accidents due to excessive speed by motor vehicles. In fact, the very nature of the road between South Farm and the Stamford junction being narrow in nature with many twisting bends is a self-limiting factor to excess speed. Similarly the roadway entering and exiting the village itself limits speed naturally due to its very nature. We also feel that the Local Authority are in a time of financial constraint and do not feel there is any justification in the additional expense which this proposal would create in not only the erection and maintenance of additional road signs which in fact adversely upon the natural beauty of the area, but also in the additional policing costs which would be incurred monitoring speed limits unnecessarily.</p>
1		<p>The speed limits do need looking at. I think a decrease in Denwick is more important at this time than Rennington. I lived in Prudhoe for most of my life and the speed limit was decreased in the area that I lived yet it was the the residents that drove the quickest. I wonder if this is the same?</p>
1		<p>How will the 40mph limit on B1430 be enforced? A particular problem is motorbikes treating these lanes like a racing circuit! Residents often cross the road at Church Rd Junction to follow footpaths in field opposite for dog walking and when cars / vehicles are speeding they do not see pedestrians on the road and I have experienced many near misses as drivers emerge around bends. Turning right in a car here is also a problem for the same reason. I do hope your measures are sufficient to slow people down.</p>
1		
1		<p>The new speed limits should also include traffic enforcement such as speed bumps or speed cameras etc.</p>

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1		I would prefer to see a 30mph speed limit on the B1340 between South Farm and the Stamford Junction. This is because we witness, so often, motor bikes (in particular) racing each other past our back garden. Secondly, we never use the junction from Rennington, Church Lane, to turn right on to the B1340 as speeding vehicles come round the corner so quickly that it is impossible to turn right safely.
1		In conjunction with the speed limit signage; do you think the installation of a speed indicator device which displays a vehicle's speed along with a "SLOW DOWN" sign
1		
1		A 20mph limit is necessary along Church Road passing the Grange Old Peoples Home. Also a limit through the village should be in place, the road is narrow in parts & 20mph seems sensible.
1		We don't feel strongly about this; we don't feel a 20mph limit is necessary through the village, but a 40mph limit on the B12340 would be helpful, although the bends in the road between South East Farm and the Stamford turn means speeds are restricted anyway - though some motorcyclists do drive dangerously quickly through this stretch, 20mph limits seem to work outside schools and in urban areas where children play outside, but in our village there seems little point. The 20mph limit in Christon Bank is rarely respected. Frankly your increasingly limited resources would be better used elsewhere, so on balance we do not support this.
1		From the south of the village the contours of the road don't encourage speeding or exceeding 40mph. From the north the 30mph limit doesn't work. Speeding drivers only slow down when they reach the sharp bend near the middle of the village. I would suggest a visual speed indicator would get better results than road signs. As residents we certainly don't want rumble strips as they don't slow down many cars but do disturb the peace as has been proven in Christon Bank
1		I support the proposals for lowering the speed limit on the B1340 but think it should be lowered to 30mph. However 20mph is not required in the village as it is not an issue & would be a waste of taxpayers money with signage etc. and it is quite difficult to do more than 30mph. An example is the speed restriction of 20mph in Christon Bank which has been found to be unpopular by most of the villagers who would like it raised back to 30mph.
1		I think a better way of slowing down traffic is having a sign which flashes up the speed of a vehicle (< 30: message to slow down & > 30 thank you) this seems to be more effective in many other places whereas a static sign is more easily missed or ignored.
1		Hopefully constructive. It is probably more cost effective to put in traffic calming measures at North Farm & Church Road junction with B1340 as well as the entrance to the village via the creek. The B1340 is already naturally restricted by the number of bends in the road and to my knowledge has never been policed. In the advent of further speed restrictions as proposed who will monitor / police these? It may be more beneficial to make Church Road one way from the B1340. The reinstatement of the white painted give way lines at the northern end of Church Road would enhance the safety of the junction.
1		I DO NOT support the proposals of 20mph & 40mph. The reason being Rennington is not a busy road through the village and 99% of the cars or vehicles travel at 30mph. And there has been no accidents. As for the 40mph on the B1340 there has never been an accident on the road and the corners slow traffic down. My belief for the reason for the 40mph is so that planning permission can be given for the building of houses. Also we know that someone in Southfield doesn't like the motorbikes going fast. I am not filling in my Name & Address but I am a resident of Rennington I have lived here over 20 years and was brought up in this area.
1		Hopefully this will address the speeding issues within both the village and on the B1340. The section of road between Rock Village and Rennington is also unrestricted will a buffer zone be included either as a 40mph from exiting Rock to entry in to Rennington 20mph or will the existing 30mph limit at Rock be extended to down the hill to the commencement of the 20mph limit at Rennington.

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	1	<p>We DO NOT support any part of this proposal.</p> <p>It is common knowledge that funds are tight within NCC and the cost of carrying through this proposal will be very high for the signage alone and we feel those funds could be better used elsewhere eg repairing the road surface over the railway bridge between Rennington and Christon Bank on the B1340.</p> <p>The reduction of the limit from 60 to 40 on the section of the B1340 is unlikely to have any effect as sensible drivers are unlikely to be exceeding 40 due to the numerous bends and those less considerate drivers/riders (eg motor bikes on a bank holiday) are not likely to take any notice of the change as the police advise they haven't the capacity to monitor the situation due funding.</p> <p>The speed reduction from 30 to 20 within the village is unlikely to have any effect for the same reasons.</p> <p>Over the last 25 years, to our knowledge, there have been no accidents in these areas to warrant this expense.</p> <p>The reduced speed limit in Christon Bank has proved to be a failure and reverted back to 30 mph - what a waste of precious resources that has been, the signage, laying cobbles across the road and digging them up again due noise problems.</p> <p>Can the NCC please use our funds in a more beneficial way.</p>
	1	<p>Not sure we need 20mph through village. But think the proposed 40mph on the B1340 is still too high. The dangerous bends at the 2 locations are very serious. So I would have preferred 30mph from Rennington House to Stamford turn off</p>
	1	<p>I write to object to the above proposal. My concerns relate to the 20mph proposed limit through the village. Having regularly experienced the difficulties encountered with the experimental 20mph through Christon Bank I believe that the limit causes increased dangers to road and pedestrian users by the dangerous and intimidating driving by those who do not abide by the 20mph but are stuck behind a car adhering to the limit. I feel driving at 20mph is a hazard. I would prefer a sign at entrances to the village displaying a 30mph limit asking road users to please drive carefully through our village.</p>
	1	<p>Re 20mph limit proposed: I do not consider that many vehicles do exceed this speed in most of the village & the very few who do, do so on the section past North Farm, either on their way into the village, or leaving. I doubt, from my observations of traffic in Christon Bank & Longhoughton (not 20mph limit) that a 20mph limit will be observed & certainly not enforced. Therefore the process is likely to be a waste of resources & use money which could be better used on highway maintenance.</p> <p>Re 40mph Proposals: Generally traffic speeds do not appear to exceed 40mph on B1340 where passing Rennington the geometry of the road acts as a natural traffic slowing measure in my opinion. Again restricting the speed will involve cash & use money that could be better spent on highway maintenance.</p>
	1	<p>I write to object to the above proposal. 20mph is far too low for safe driving through the village. 30 mph is sufficient and safe.</p>
	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If present 30mph limit was policed and enforced there would be no need for this as it's only a few who break the limit. 2. Have speed humps been considered? 3. I understand from the Chairman of Rennington PC these speed limits will NOT be policed or enforced. 4. Why is a buffer zone needed - there isn't one at Christon Bank which goes from 60mph to 20mph? 5. Total waste of council taxpayers money just to satisfy people with money & influence.
1		Fully support especially the 40mph section
17	15	0

DECISION TAKEN

**Title of Officer(s) and Portfolio
Holder (where appropriate):**

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

Subject:

**PROPOSED 20mph & 40mph SPEED LIMITS,
RENNINGTON**

Consultation

- For: 17 (53%)
- Against: 15 (47%)
- Neutral: 0

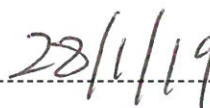
Decision Taken:

The proposed 20mph and 40mph speed limits should not be provided.

Signature of Director/
officer/Portfolio Holder (where
appropriate)*



Date



* delete as appropriate