



# Northumberland

## County Council

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

**Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services**

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#### **PROPOSED 20mph & 40mph SPEED LIMITS, U34 DETCHANT**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To consider a proposal to provide a 20mph speed limit in the hamlet of Detchant, with associated 40mph speed limits on the approaches.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the proposed 20mph and 40mph speed limits are implemented.

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

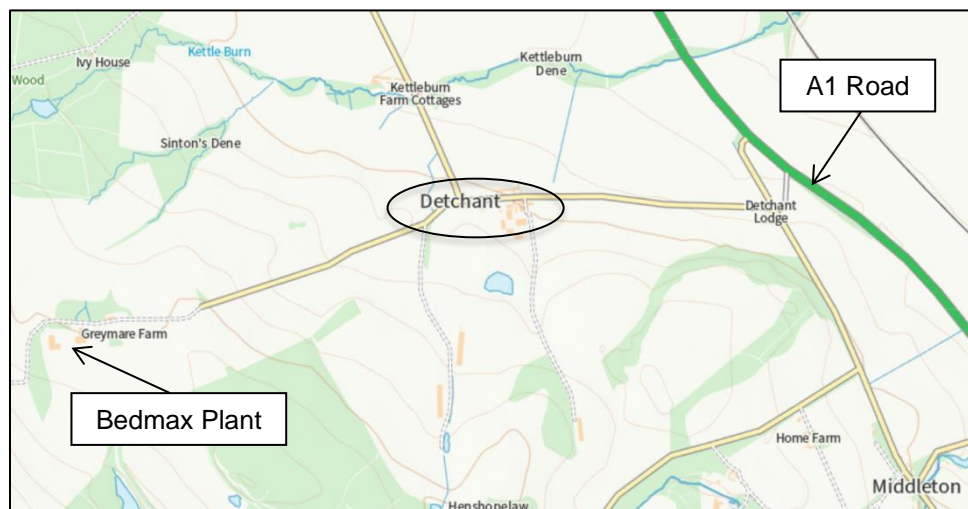
#### **Key Issues**

- The County Council has received concerns from residents of Detchant over the impact of HGV traffic travelling through the hamlet to and from the Bedmax manufacturing plant.
- Following a successful trial of a temporary 20mph speed limit, Members agreed to consider introducing a permanent limit.

## Delegated decisions

### Background

1. Detchant is a small hamlet located within farmland on the U34 road north of Belford. The U34 is a single-track road with some recently provided passing places. It is also part of National Cycle Route 1 (Coast & Castles).
2. Located approximately one kilometre west of Detchant is Greymare Farm which is the site of Bedmax, a company that manufactures horse bedding products from timber shavings, and other ancillary products.
3. Commercial HGV traffic travelling between the Bedmax plant and the A1 must pass through Detchant. The area is shown in Figure 1, below.



4. Planning permission was originally granted for the operation of the Bedmax plant in 1999. At that time, no restrictions were imposed on vehicle movements to and from the site, leading to a significant increase in traffic through Detchant.
5. A subsequent application in 2013 for an additional storage facility was approved with conditions that limited the number of vehicles and the times of operation. A 'Code of Conduct' for visiting drivers is also in place.
6. Following residents' concerns about the suitability of the road for HGV traffic, the County Council installed passing places and two interactive speed signs on the U34 in January 2017.
7. Despite these measures, the vehicle movements generated by the Bedmax facility continue to be a significant source of concern for local residents.
8. In response to these concerns a temporary 20mph speed limit was put in place with before and after monitoring carried out to allow its impact to be assessed. The average speeds recorded are set out in the table below:

## Delegated decisions

|                      | Eastbound    |             | Westbound    |             |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|                      | Before 20mph | After 20mph | Before 20mph | After 20mph |
| <b>Detchant east</b> | 23.2mph      | 19.1mph     | 19.6mph      | 17.3mph     |
| <b>Detchant west</b> | 17.3mph      | 14.6mph     | 18mph        | 15.2mph     |

9. These results show that the temporary 20mph speed limit has successfully reduced traffic speeds.

## Assessment

10. Government guidance set out in “Setting Local Speed Limits” (DfT circular 01/2013), states that ‘It may also be appropriate to consider 20mph limits or zones in built-up village streets which are primarily residential in nature, or where pedestrian and cyclists movements are high. Such limits should not, however, be considered on roads with a strategic function or where the movement of motor vehicles is the primary function.
11. National Cycle Route 1 (Coast & Castles) passes through Detchant on the U34, so the number of cyclists is above average for this type of road.
12. The guidance goes on to state that signed only 20mph speed limits, i.e. those without additional traffic calming features, are most appropriate on roads where average speeds are already low. If the average speed is at or below 24mph, a signed-only speed limit is likely to lead to general compliance.
13. As set out above, the recorded average speeds in Detchant were below 24mph prior to the temporary 20mph speed limit, and reduced even further following its implementation. This suggests that a permanent 20mph speed limit is likely to be self-enforcing and will generally achieve compliance.
14. The Council has therefore informed Statutory consultees of its intention to provide a permanent 20mph speed limit in Detchant, with 40mph speed limits on the approaches to soften the transition from a derestricted road (60mph for cars, 50mph for HGVs), down to 20mph.

## Conclusion & Recommendation

15. The primary function of the U34 road through Detchant is the movement of motor traffic. However, there are higher than average numbers of cyclists present because the road is part of National Cycle Route 1.
16. It is subject to higher than average HGV traffic than would normally be expected on a road of this type.

## Delegated decisions

17. Traffic monitoring has shown that the average speeds are low enough to meet the requirement for 20mph speed limits to be self-enforcing and achieve compliance, and that the temporary 20mph speed limit reduced these speeds even further.
18. It is therefore recommended that the proposed 20mph and 40mph speed limits are implemented.

## Implications Arising out of the Report

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Policy</b>   | None   |
| <b>Finance and value for money</b>  | The scheme will be funded via the Local Transport Plan Programme.                            |
| <b>Legal</b>  | Motorists will be required to comply with the new speed limits.                              |
| <b>Procurement</b>  | None   |
| <b>Human Resources</b>  | None   |
| <b>Property</b>   | None   |
| <b>Equalities</b><br>(Impact Assessment attached)<br>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/><br>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> | None   |
| <b>Risk Assessment</b>  | None   |
| <b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>   | None   |
| <b>Customer Consideration</b>   | Residents have requested the 20mph speed limit.<br>Statutory consultees have been consulted. |
| <b>Carbon reduction</b>   | None   |
| <b>Wards</b>  | Bamburgh   |

## Delegated decisions

### Background papers:

File ref: HE213533D

### 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)      |          |

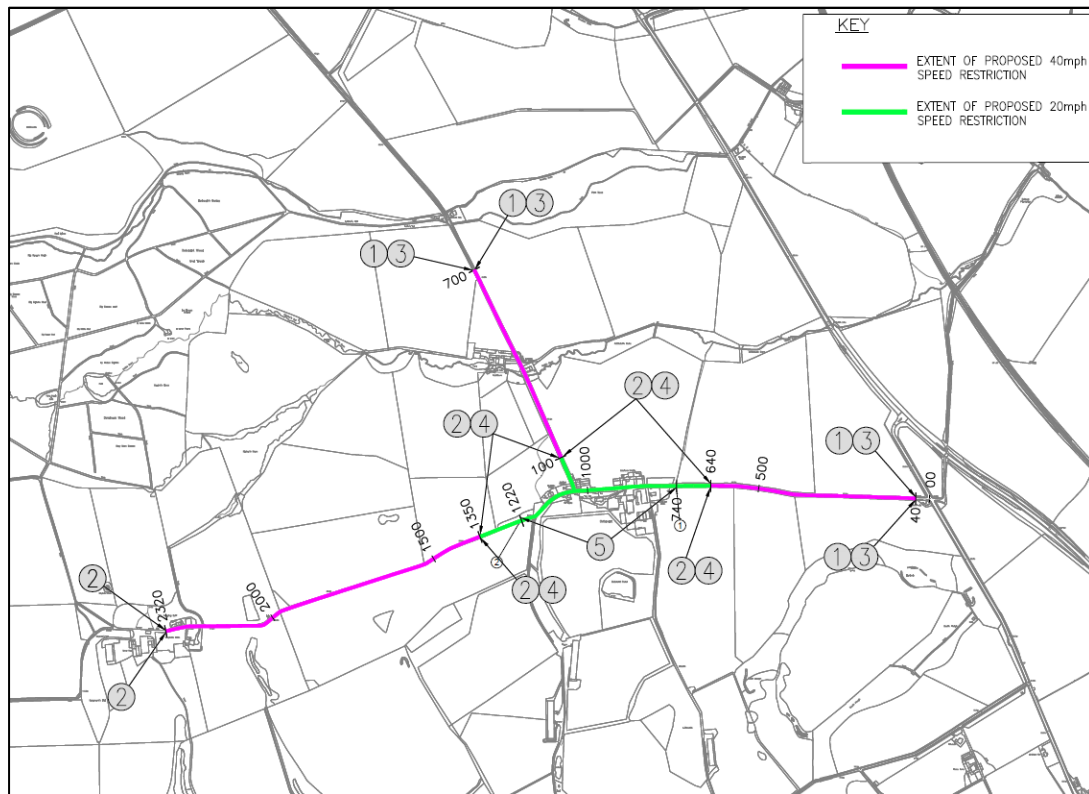
### Author and Contact Details

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Report Author     ***Richard McKenzie – Senior Programmes Officer***

# Delegated decisions

## Appendix A – Consultation Plan



## DECISION TAKEN

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

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

**Subject:**

PROPOSED 20mph & 40mph SPEED LIMITS, U34, DETCHANT.

**Consultation**

Statutory consultees have been informed of the Council's intention to implement the 20mph and 40mph speed limits.

Local residents have requested a 20mph speed limit in Detchant.

**Decision Taken:**

The proposed 20mph and 40mph speed limits should be implemented.

Signature of Director



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**Date**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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## Delegated decisions