



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED 40mph SPEED LIMIT, A196 GUIDE POST TO JOHNSON'S VILLAS

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to provide a 40mph speed limit on the A196 between Guide Post and Johnson's Villas.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed 40mph speed limit is 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"

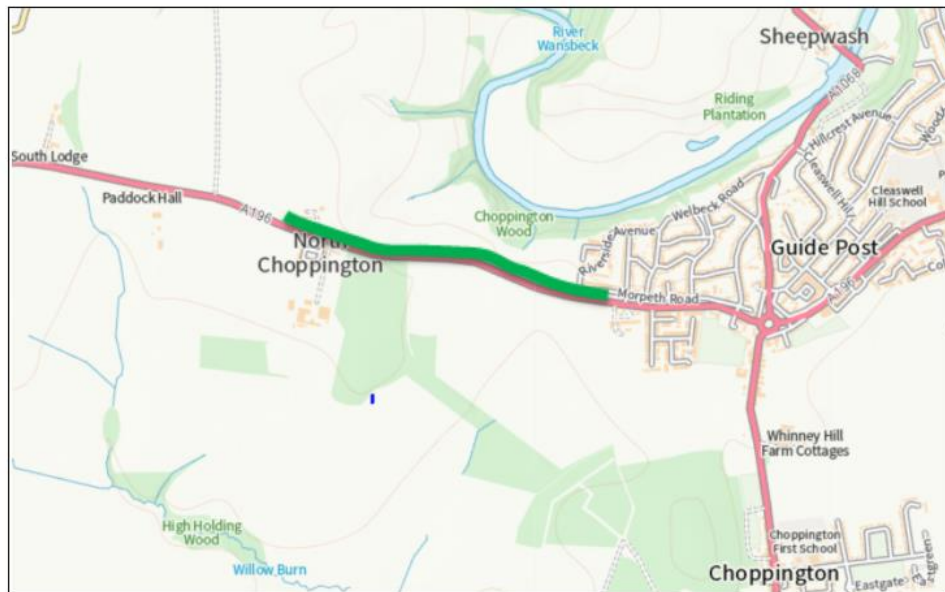
Key Issues

- The County Council has received concerns via the local Ward Member about traffic safety on the A196 between Guide Post and Johnson's Villas.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. The A196 west of Guide Post is currently subject to a 50mph speed limit following a number of road traffic accidents, including fatalities.
2. Concerns have since continued to be raised about the speed of traffic on the section between Guide Post and Johnson's Villas. The section in question is approximately 1km in length and is highlighted on the plan below.



3. There are 22 residential properties and a farm at Johnson's Villas. Consequently, there are many vehicle movements as traffic joins or leaves the A196.
4. There is a well-used foot/cycleway alongside the carriageway connecting Johnson's Villas to Guide Post. In addition, pedestrians must cross the road to access bus stops.
5. This section also includes an entrance and small parking area at Choppington Community Woods which is popular for recreation and attracts walkers from Guide Post who use the footway to reach the entrance.

Traffic Speeds & Accidents

6. Speed survey data collected at Johnson's Villas in 2017 recorded the following:

	Average Speed	85 th %ile Speed
Eastbound	48.4mph	55.3mph
Westbound	43.4mph	49.8mph

7. The speed data shows that traffic speeds are generally within the 50mph speed limit. Although the 85th percentile speed of eastbound traffic is high, it is below the level that would justify enforcement action by the Police.

Delegated decisions

8. Prior to the introduction of the 50mph speed limit in 2017 there were 24 recorded injury accidents in the section under consideration. Since then, the number of accidents has reduced significantly. However, two further serious injury accidents have occurred, one in December 2019, the other in June 2020.
- 9.

Assessment

10. Guidance on speed limits is set out in "Setting Local Speed Limits" (DfT Circular 01/2013). Section 7.2 relates to single carriageway rural roads. Paragraph 126 states "*The choice of speed limits should take account of whether there is substantial roadside development and whether the road forms part of a recognised route for vulnerable road users, including whether there is a footway.*"
11. It goes on to state in Table 2 that 40mph speed limits should apply "*where there are many bends, junctions and accesses, substantial development, a strong environmental or landscape reason, or where there are considerable numbers of vulnerable road users.*"
12. As described earlier, there is residential development at Johnson's Villas. There are also vulnerable road users (pedestrians and cyclists) present, as well as a number of junctions and accesses. There have also been further serious injury accidents. It is therefore considered that a 40mph speed limit is appropriate.
13. Statutory consultees were informed of the proposal to implement the 40mph speed limit. No responses were received, however, the local Ward member supports the proposal.
14. It is therefore recommended that the proposed 40mph speed limit is implemented.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	The proposal is in accordance with relevant guidance.
Finance and value for money	The proposal will be funded via the Local Transport Plan Programme with a contribution from the members Local Improvement Schemes funding.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None

Delegated decisions

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	Statutory consultees have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Choppington

Background papers:

File ref: HO206880

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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Delegated decisions

DECISION TAKEN

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

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

Subject:

**PROPOSED 40mph SPEED LIMIT, A196 GUIDE
POST to JOHNSON'S VILLAS.**

Consultation

No responses received.

Decision Taken:

The proposed 40mph speed limit should be
implemented.

Signature of Director



Date

6th April 2022
