



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED 50mph SPEED LIMIT, B1331 NEDDERTON to BEDLINGTON

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to provide a 50mph speed limit on the B1331 between Nedderton and Bedlington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed 50mph 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"

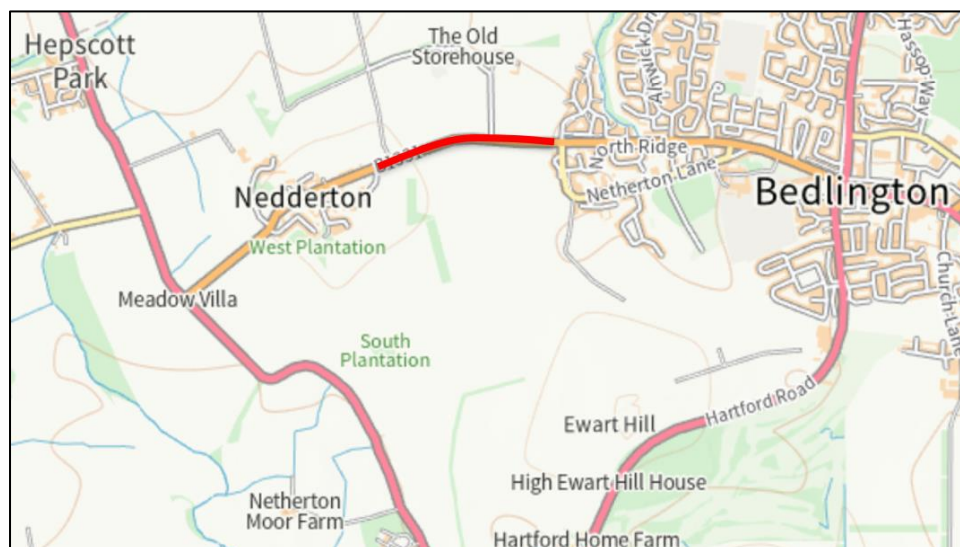
Key Issues

- The County Council has received concerns via the local Ward Member and Parish Council about traffic safety on the B1331 between Nedderton and Bedlington.
- Two serious injury accidents occurred on this section of road since 2020.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. Concerns have been raised via the local ward members and West Bedlington Parish Council about speeds and traffic safety on the B1331 road between Nedderton and Bedlington. The section of road in question is highlighted below.



2. This section of road is approximately 650m long. It is currently subject to the national speed limit of 60mph and is generally straight with one access to a private property and one junction with an unclassified no-through road. There is a footway along the north side of the road, allowing pedestrians to walk between the two settlements.
3. More widely, the B1331 road performs a strategic function in the area, linking several A class roads, and is part of the Council's 'Resilient Network' which is given priority in order to maintain economic activity and access to services.

Assessment

4. Guidance on speed limits set out in "Setting Local Speed Limits" (DfT Circular 01/2013), states that high quality strategic A and B roads with few bends or junctions should be subject to a 60mph speed limit.
5. However, it further states that, where there is a footway, and where other community or environmental factors such as accidents are a factor, consideration should be given to using a lower limit.
6. There have been two road traffic accidents on this section of the B1331 since 2020, both of which resulted in serious injuries, and pedestrians may be present using the footway. It is therefore considered that a 50mph speed limit is appropriate.

Consultation

Delegated decisions

7. Statutory consultees were informed of the proposal to implement the 50mph speed limit. Two responses were received, one in favour of the proposal, the other neutral. A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix A.
8. West Bedlington Parish Council support a reduction in the speed limit but suggested that it should be reduced to 30mph if possible, so that there is a continuous 30mph speed limit throughout Nedderton and Bedlington.
9. The road does not meet the criteria for a 30mph speed limit because there is no roadside development. Also, the distance between the two settlements is greater than the minimum recommended length of an individual speed limit of 600 metres.
10. The road does not meet the criteria for a 40mph speed limit because there is no roadside development, and few bends, junctions or accesses.
11. The local Ward Member is in favour of the proposal.

Conclusion

12. A 50mph speed limit is considered appropriate for the section of road in question because:
 - The road is part of the strategic network providing a wider traffic flow function.
 - There is no roadside development and few junctions or accesses.
 - There have been recent serious injury accidents and pedestrians are present.
 - The section of road is longer than the minimum requirement of 600 metres for an individual speed limit.
 - The reduced speed limit will not impede traffic flow.
 - The reduced speed limit will help lower speeds upon entry to the adjoining 30mph areas.
13. It is therefore recommended that the proposed 50mph 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.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None

Delegated decisions

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	Statutory consultees have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Bedlington West

Background papers:

File ref: HE233725

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

Appendix A

Consultation Responses

A N G E I T F O R T	N E I T H S E R	Other Relevant Comments
	1	<p>I refer to your recent correspondence in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal.</p> <p>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-patient appointments. Although I appreciate the possible need for restrictions to improve road safety, I must point out that such restrictions would affect this Service in the following way:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ambulances activating to emergencies within the locality could suffer a reduction in response times, although these times may still be within statutory limits; 2. Patients being transported from the locality could be subjected to some discomfort as a result of the proposed restriction. 3. The maintenance costs of our vehicles may be increased due to the additional usage of shock absorbers and suspension etc. <p>I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme</p>
1		<p>"Whilst the Town Council would welcome any speed restriction scheme along this stretch of road we would strongly request the the speed limit is reduced to 30mph for the whole stretch of road (To prevent drivers speeding up and then having to slow down) We feel it would be safer to simply reduce the speed limit throughout."</p>
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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 50mph SPEED LIMIT, B1331
NEDDERTON to BEDLINGTON**

Consultation

Two responses:

1 in favour

1 neutral

0 against

Decision Taken:

The proposed 50mph speed limit should be implemented.

Signature of Director



Date

20th June 2023
