



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

PROPOSED 40mph SPEED LIMIT, C81 FOXTON

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to provide a 40mph speed limit on the C81 between Alnmouth and Foxtton Drive.

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"

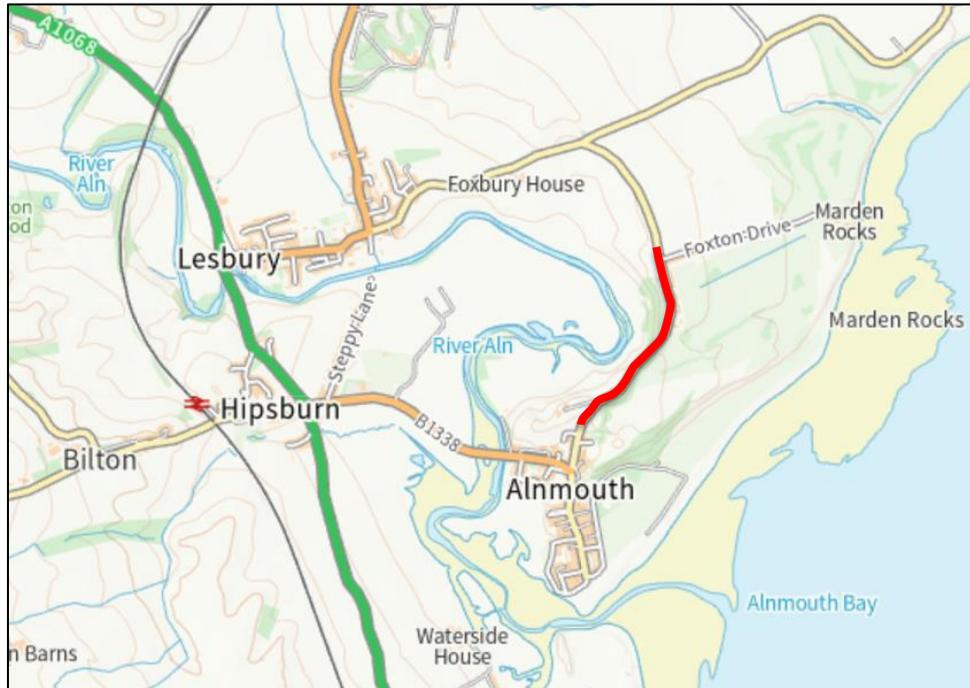
Key Issues

- The County Council has received concerns via the local Ward Members and Parish Council about traffic safety on the C81 between Alnmouth and Foxtton Drive.
- The issue was submitted as a priority for the Local Transport Plan Programme by Alnmouth Parish Council.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. Concerns have been raised via the local ward members and Alnmouth Parish Council about speeds and traffic safety on the C81 road between Alnmouth and Foxton Drive. The section of road in question is highlighted below.



2. The road is narrow, with a series of bends and a steep gradient rising northwards from Alnmouth. At Foxton, there are residential properties adjacent to the road before the junction with Foxton Road, which leads to further residential properties and Alnmouth Golf Club. The golf club has a hotel and restaurant open to the public and therefore generates a significant number of vehicle movements. The road is also part of National Cycle Route 1 and therefore carries significant numbers of cyclists.

Assessment

3. Rural roads may primarily have either a through traffic or local access function. Guidance on speed limits set out in “Setting Local Speed Limits” (DfT Circular 01/2013), states that some rural roads below A and B classification serve a mixed through-traffic and local access function. Where that traffic function is currently being achieved without a high collision rate, these roads should be judged as through-traffic roads.
4. There have been no recorded injury accidents on the C81 road which suggests it should be considered as primarily a through traffic road. However, the guidance also states that the choice of speed limit should also consider whether the road forms part of a recognised route for vulnerable road users.

Delegated decisions

5. National Cycle Route 1 is a recognised cycling route that uses the C81 between Alnmouth and Boulmer. Cyclists are vulnerable road users and are present in significant numbers on the route.

6. The guidance states that 40mph speed limits on rural roads:

“Should be considered where there are many bends, junctions or accesses, substantial development, a strong environmental or landscape reason, or where there are considerable numbers of vulnerable road users”

Consultation

7. Statutory consultees were informed of the proposal to implement the 40mph speed limit. Two responses were received, both in favour of the proposal. A copy of the responses is shown in Appendix A.

8. Both Alnmouth Parish Council and the local Ward Members are in favour of the proposal.

Conclusion

9. A 40mph speed limit is considered appropriate for the section of road in question because:

- The road layout is narrow, with bends and a steep hill.
- There is substantial development at Foxton, including the golf club which attracts significant traffic.
- The road is part of the National cycle Network and is subject to considerable numbers of cyclists.

10. 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.
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	Alnwick

Background papers:

File ref: HE223615

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

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

Delegated decisions

Appendix A

Consultation Responses

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			<p>Many thanks to you and your colleagues for progressing this welcome improvement to our local road safety. Please find attached my response following further consultation with my neighbours who also live alongside the C81. Everyone I spoke to is very grateful for this NCC initiative and we hope that our comments and feedback will prove useful. Whilst local preference remains for a 30mph speed restrictions we understand the reasons why this is not possible due to national guidelines. We are grateful for the 40mph proposal, particularly if drivers heading south towards Alnmouth are provided with ample warning and sufficient distance to consistently reduce their speed to below 40mph prior to the turn-off to Alnmouth Golf Club. The plans indicate a shorter than ideal distance although please note we may have misinterpreted them. Our recommendations is to install the 40mph sign immediately after the bend shown below. This is where drivers heading south start to increase speed and it is a circa 18m north of the cycle route sign. As a further precaution to prevent speeding we were wondering if it was possible for NCC Highways to install a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign in this location to reinforce this road safety improvement?</p>
1			<p>The Golf Club has a membership in excess of 800, accommodates over 4000 overnights stays and handles approximately 20000 tee times throughout the year. All this business has to use Foxton Drive which itself feeds into the C81 at a difficult T junction with limited sight lines and visibility to the north. The introduction of a 40mph speed limit along this stretch of road is to be welcomed and is firmly supported by the Club. I would ask that further consideration be given to extending the speed limit some distance further north. The road has significant bends on it, and is part of the well-used National Cycleway. Many drivers tend to move out into the centre of the road before making the tight left hand turn into Foxton Drive. It is quite usual for drivers to have to stop on the turn to give way to vehicular traffic leaving the Club thereby causing problems to drivers of vehicles and other road users following on behind. The suggestion of the Parish Council for the introduction of a speed indicator sign is also welcomed and supported.</p>
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DECISION TAKEN

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

Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services

Subject:

PROPOSED 40mph SPEED LIMIT, C81 FOXTON

Consultation

Two responses in favour.

Decision Taken:

The proposed 40mph speed limit should be implemented.

Signature of Director



Date

19th June 2023
