



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed 20 MPH Speed Limit – Hazelmere Estate, Bedlington

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle, Improving Our Roads & Highways

25 November 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce a 20 MPH speed limit at Hazelmere Estate in Bedlington.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a 20 MPH speed limit at Hazelmere Estate is introduced as proposed.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2023-26:

‘Thriving Places and Culture – Neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained’

Key Issues

1. Northumberland County Council has received concerns regarding traffic speeds at Hazelmere Estate in Bedlington.
2. As a result, a 20 MPH speed limit throughout the estate is proposed to alleviate these concerns.
3. The scheme is supported by the local County Councillor.
4. The scheme is to be funded through Councillor Robinson’s Members’ Local Improvement Scheme Allowance.

Background

The residential estate at Hazelmere consists of over 600 properties and no through roads, with the only access to the estate being via the B1331 Netherton Lane. The estate has no traffic calming and is currently subject to a 30 MPH speed limit due to the proximity of streetlights.

Concerns have been received regarding traffic speeds in Hazelmere Estate, which presents a road safety issue for both pedestrians and vehicles, increasing the risk of a potential collision occurring.

A 20mph zone is proposed to be introduced to alleviate the concerns raised in Hazelmere Estate and covers the full extent of the estate identified below in Figure 1. The measures will consist of new regulatory traffic signs along with road markings in the form of roundels at the entrance of the estate to indicate the new speed limit.

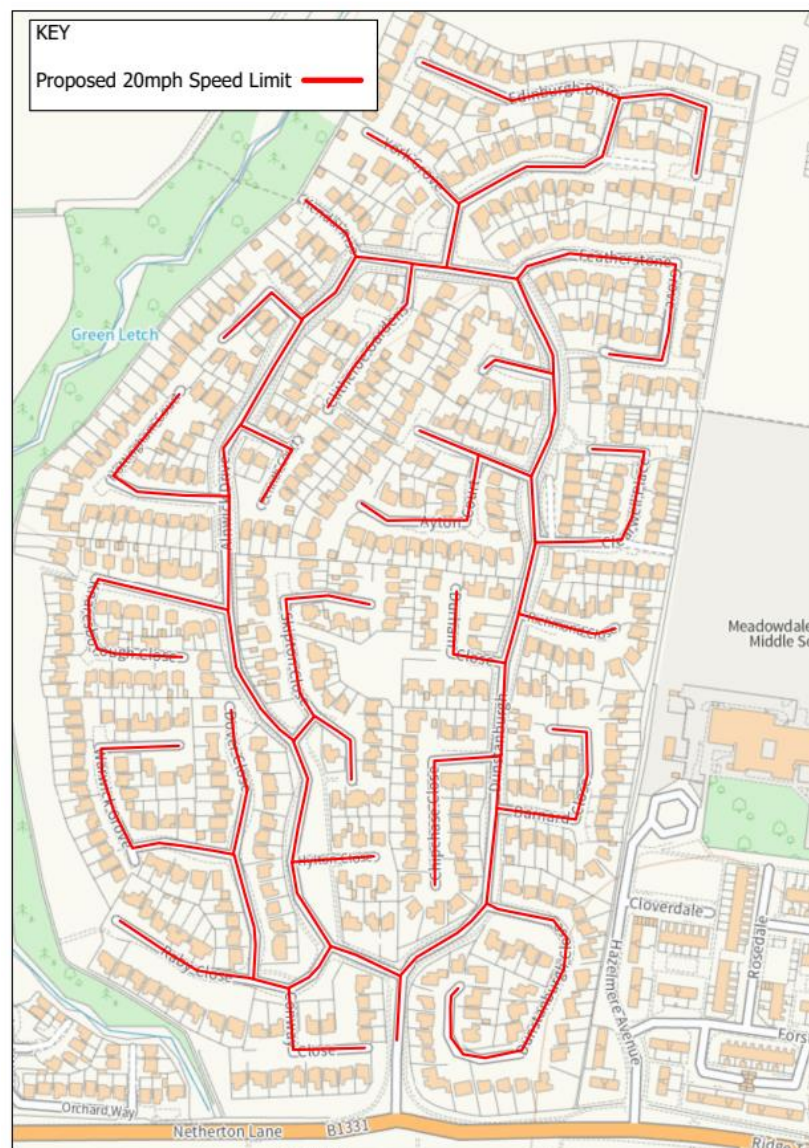


Fig. 1: Proposed 20 MPH Speed Limit Extents in Hazelmere Estate, Bedlington

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Details of the proposal can be found in Appendix A. It is intended to increase road safety by reducing the speed limit and to protect the amenity of the area overall. Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of this amendment as part of the process for making the permanent Order.

Responses were received from 39 consultees with 30 in favour and 9 against the proposals. A summary of the responses received is attached as Appendix B.

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Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies.
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the local County Councillor's MLIS Allowance budget.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
Customer Consideration	Statutory consultees and directly affected residents have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	Speed reduction assists with carbon reduction
Wards	Bedlington West

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Background Papers

File reference – HO206744

Appendix A – Scheme Layout

Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Author

Report Author **Conor Edgar, Senior EV Project Officer**

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DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer	Director of Environment & Transport
Subject	Proposed 20 MPH speed limit at Hazelmere Estate, Bedlington
Consultation	For: 30 (77%) Against: 9 (23%)
Decision Taken	To introduce a new 20 MPH speed limit at Hazelmere Estate, Bedlington

Signature of Director






Date




27th November 2024

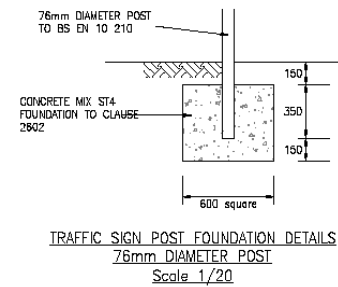


PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNS SCHEDULE

SIGN REF	TSR&GD 2016 DIAG No.	'x' HEIGHT (mm)	LEGEND	No. OF	SURFACE	APPROX. SIZE (m)	POSTS			MOUNTING HEIGHT (m)	REMARKS
							DIA (mm)	LENGTH (m)	No.		
1	SCHED 10, PART 2, ITEM 1 (DIAG. No. 670)	-		2	CLASS RA2	0.800 (DIA)	78	3.200	1	2.100	SIGN TO BE ERECTED ON ONE NEW POST BACK TO BACK WITH SIGN REF 2
2	SCHED 10, PART 2, ITEM 1 (DIAG. No. 670)	-		2	CLASS RA2	0.800 (DIA)	-	-	-	2.100	SIGN TO BE ERECTED ON ONE EXISTING POST BACK TO BACK WITH SIGN REF 1
3	SCHED 10, PART 2, ITEM 1 (DIAG. No. 670)	-		36	CLASS RA2	0.300 (DIA)	-	-	-	2.100	SIGN TO BE ERECTED ON EXISTING LIGHTING COLUMN BACK TO BACK

PROPOSED ROAD MARKINGS SCHEDULE

REF	TSR&GD 2016 DIAG. No. (2016)	DIAGRAM	MARK (m)	GAP (m)	WIDTH (mm)	USE
A	SCHED 10, PART 2 ITEM 9 (DIAG. No. 1065)		4.3	—	—	20" ROUNDEL (SMALL)
B	SCHED 10, PART 2 ITEM 9 (DIAG. No. 1065)		4.3	—	—	30" ROUNDEL (SMALL)
C	—		—	—	1.0	RED SURFACE TREATMENT



Contract Drawing No.: 02	Drawing Size A1
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NOTES:

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 ALL DIMENSIONS ARE SHOWN IN MILLIMETRES (mm)
UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

2.0 TRAFFIC SIGNS

2.1 SIGNS TO COMPLY WITH BS EN 12899-1 2007 & NATIONAL ANNEX & BE MANUFACTURED FROM ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE PANEL WITH CLASS RA2 SIGN FACE SHEETING.

2.2 DESIGN WIND-LOADING TO DETERMINE SIGN SUPPORT AND FOUNDATION DESIGN TO BS EN 12899-1:2007, AND NATIONAL ANNEX, HAS BEEN ASSESSED USING BUCHANAN "SIGLOAD" SOFTWARE OR SIMILAR APPROVED SOFTWARE.

2.3 ALL MECHANICAL FASTENERS FOR SIGNS TO BE
PROCURED FROM NHSS 3 APPROVED SOURCES.

2.4 SIGN POSTS SHALL NOT PROTRUDE ABOVE SIGN EDGES.

2.5 WHERE SIGNS ARE TO BE ERECTED ON EXISTING LIGHTING COLUMNS A SUITABLE RUBBER PROTECTION STRIP SHALL BE PLACED IN BETWEEN THE SIGN FODING CLIP & LIGHTING COLUMN.

2.0 PROPOSED SIGN REF'S 1 & 2 TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF 0.5m CLEARANCE BETWEEN THE EDGE OF THE SIGN & EDGE OF THE CARRIAGEWAY.

Particulars	Drs.	Crds.	Assets	Liabilities	Equity

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Drawing Station:

CONSTRUCTION

Client:
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, MORPETH
NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF

U6540 HAZELMERE ESTATE
PROPOSED 20mph SPEED LIMIT, BEDLINGTON

Drawing Title

TRAFFIC SIGNS & ROAD MARKINGS
SCHEDULES

~~Scale 1/4~~ AS SHOWN



Driver: CH	Date: APR 2024	Checklist: RWDD	Passport: GM
Drawing Number: H0206744/0D/U6540/10/02			Revision:
Order Number: H0206744			

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Appendix B – Consultation Responses

Key: F = For; A = Against

F	A	RESPONSES
		I live in X and have no issues with reducing the speed limit on the estate. Enforcement, however, will no doubt be as rigorous as the current 30mph limit is, that is, non-existent. I see out of my windows various persons exceeding the current limit. The reduction, although well intentioned and an expression of societies disapproval of speeding, will make no difference to the behaviour of some drivers.
1		
	1	No need for this, lived here for 20 years without any traffic problems. Spend money on pot holes.
1		20mph speed limit on Hazelmere estate Bedlington that is great news and long overdue. Well done we really appreciate it.
		I have lived on Hazelmere estate for 20+years and not experienced any problem with the current 30mph limit on our estate. My reasoning is that, at present I know of no incidents and there is a small minority who do 50mph which a 20mph won't change, unless you put a speed camera in. I am in favour of signage on the main circuit of the estate and a speed cameras if you need to. I have experienced older drivers failing to negotiate the bends this is probably because there are no white lines. Probably white lines would improve the driving in the estate. I am against speed bumps because of my cars suspension and my motorcycle. In my time on the estate I believe 30mph is fine on the main route around the estate most people slow down entering each street on the estate. I know my view will not be counted because some have shouted loudest. I reiterate my statement that the people doing 50mph should be stopped but they are few and far between. This is my own personal view. I wanted to express my opinion because there's no actual vote, it's been made difficult to voice opinion.
1		In favour of signage but not speed bumps.
		I have not received any communication about proposal. I have not been consulted in anyway. I emphatically object to this and ask my views be noted. This is no necessary at all and will damage the value of housing on this estate. Please spend the public money on most needed leisure centre instead! We are the only town which hasn't one and this is a far pressing issue than a made up problem. I suppose this is what happens in a Labour ran area!
1		
		I personally didn't receive any correspondence regarding the above. However, I am in favour of the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on the estate as long as it doesn't involve speed bumps or chicanes. I am writing in reference to the proposed change to the speed limit on Hazelmere estate. I have lived here XX years and never heard of any incidents. In my opinion no change of any kind are required but I certainly oppose any speed bumps or chicanes as the bends around the estate should be enough to slow the traffic. However if a change has to be made to appease the minority then the 20mph is an acceptable compromise.
1		
		I'd like to register my comments: I do not know how this decision was arrived at and cannot understand why this change in isolation will achieve anything other than spending taxpayer funds. Lack of white lining on the main loop road leads to pedal, motor bikes, cars and van cutting the corners like following a race line. Additionally the long straights can see cars dangerously accelerate due to absence of speed bump/chicanes in place. Are any additional measures planned like the above or indeed regular enforcement activity?
1		
		I really don't think a 20 limit will make a difference to be honest, as people don't abide by the 30mph law that we have at present. It will be a waste of time and funds adding signs etc.
1		
		I am writing to inform you that I am in favour of the 20mph speed limit proposal on my estate Hazelmere Bedlington. I also did not receive the consultation letter. I have to rely on information received regularly from XX Bedlington West Ward.
1		
		I agree the 20mph speed limit as certain people use road as a race track.
1		
		I was delighted to receive your letter with regards to the subject proposal and hope to see its implementation as soon as possible. Frankly, some people appear to us Alnwick Drive as a racetrack, especially during the morning and evening commute when school children are walking to and from School. have seen some dreadful driving at high speed, whilst cutting bends, every morning when out on the estate walking my dog. On one occasion a speeding car cut a bend, clipped the kerb and very nearly flipped over. Pure luck it came back on its wheels. As I said I fully endorse the proposal but I did not see any mention of how the 20mph limit would be obtained or how the limit will be in forced. After all, you can make the limit as low as you like but if it is not enforced many drivers will simply ignore it and drive as they currently do.
1		
		I'm really disappointed to not have received a consultation letter about this. I am for the 20mph speed limit on the estate and for lines to be placed on the road but I am against any chicanes or speed bumps.
1		
		I very much support the proposed 20mph speed limit on the Hazelmere Estate.
1		

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1	Please be advised that you have our support over the proposals to introduce a 20mph speed limit in the Hazlemere estate. We would also support additional speed reduction measures if introduced.
1	I am writing as a resident of the Hazlemere Estate, Bedlington to strongly object to the lowering of the speed to 20mph on our estate. I have lived on this estate for XX years and I have never witnessed any reckless driving that might cause injury to anyone. This is not necessary on our estate and is a complete waste of taxpayers' money. If the council has evidence to the contrary they need to present it to the residents. If you reduce the speed limit, are you going to "police" it? If not then the speed limit is as I said earlier, a complete waste of taxpayers' money. If you are going to police it then that is going to cost more money and as I stated earlier, where is the evident that this is required on the Hazlemere estate? The persecution of motorists needs to stop.
1	I am writing in support of the Proposed 20mph speed limit Hazlemere Estate Bedlington. As a resident on the estate for the last XX years, I have noticed too many cars exceeding the existing speed limit, causing danger to pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. Measures to help prevent any accidents can only be a good thing.
1	It is another waste of resources the speeders will still speed as NO ONE ENFORCES this better spend money on clearing paths removing overgrown trees from paths so we can walk on them. Put bollards or yellow lines on corners to stop cars etc parking on pavements blocking footpath.
1	Lots of children on the estate at various times of day, lots of dogs out for walks and general family activities. On the main road around the estate a couple of the bends need to be taken slowly to prevent cars swinging over onto the other side of the bend and a speed limit of 20mph may help. Must be safer surely on the estate.
1	Although I am supportive of a 20ph proposal I cannot support speed humps being put in place due to the excessive ware they place on a car! Extremely badly worded consultation! No reference included or options to support its implementation if it was to go ahead. How do you expect someone to make informed decision.
1	No comments
1	Excellent idea and fully support the change. It will need policing as there are some idiots about.
1	As a resident of Hazlemere estate for the last XX years I am writing in support of the plan to create a 20mph speed limit on the estate. It makes no sense to go any faster anywhere on the estate in any case, as there are only a very few tiny stretches of road where it is feasible, and if you did go faster you would not get anywhere any quicker. This is an estate with lots of young families and I think it is far better to make it as safe as possible for children to play outside here (especially as there is not park area) than to allow traffic to go at speed which benefit no one.
1	Regarding the proposed speed limit reduction on Hazlemere estate it is a pointless waste of cash again by the council as it is un enforceable and therefore redundant before it starts. Similar in Cramlington are just ignored and gather very negative comments on social media about it being flouted. So it seems pointless just use the money to repair roads or make other high risk areas safer like the school on Ridge Terrace.
1	I am writing on behalf of my husband and I to agree with the proposal for 20mph on Hazlemere Estate.
1	Please accept this email as our full support for the proposed 20mph speed limit for Hazlemere Estate Bedlington.
1	There most definitely is a need for measures to be put in place on our estate specifically Alnwick Drive which is often used as a race track especially around school run times. It is an accident waiting to happen! Even though we live in the first street at the from of the estate I walk my dog daily around Alnwick Drive and there are people probably doing 50nph regularly. Some sort of traffic calming is needed in my opinion to physically stop cars from speeding either chicanes or speed bumps. Road signs will be ignored and will work if they are somehow policed which I doubt will happen. We also have no road markings on the estate which leads to people driving in the middle of the road which again is dangerous. Please I implore you to sanction money for at least Alnwick Drive to be made slower. Again I am saying it's an accident waiting to happen!
1	I am writing to give my support to the proposed 20mph speed limit for Hazlemere estate Bedlington. I have seen several near misses (e.g. people cutting the corner on bends) and almost on a daily basis, people speeding around the estate. Any more to reduce speed and improve safety is a good thing in my opinion.
1	Proposed 20mph speed limit, Hazlemere Estate Bedlington. Just to say that I am very much in favour of the above proposal.
1	Thank you for the notification regarding the above proposal. I would be happy if 20mph signs were erected at the start of the estate then 20mph road markings continued around the estate. The initial sign could be an illuminated/flashing one that checks speeds coming into the estate. NO speed bumps or chicanes. Not an abundance of further signs around the estate.
1	I am writing to share my views as a resident of the Hazlemere estate. I am completely in favour of the proposed 20mph speed limit for the estate. It is my view that there is no need to go any faster and any time savings would be miniscule from travelling 30mph, whereas the safety gains would be much greater. As someone with a small child and who walks around the estate daily, I would

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		personally benefit from slower traffic and less noise disturbances of certain cars speeding excessively.
1		I have lived on this estate for XX years and have eagerly awaited the introduction of a speed limit or traffic calming system. The speed travelled on the estate by some vehicles are unbelievable at times. I am surprised we have not had a major incident.
1		Thank you for considering our estate with this proposal, as a resident for some 30 years I have watched with growing concern the amount of speeding drivers in the estate grow. People in too much of a hurry with modern living. I sometimes wonder where the pit stop is for some swerving through the chicanes that are meant to slow them. If possible could we also have one of the signs showing your speed. Whatever you do as a safety measure would be greatly appreciated and you have my and many others support. Thank you
1		With reference to your letter of 20/07/24 I am in full agreement with the plan to reduce the speed limit of Hazelmere estate to 30mph, with the hope this reduces the risk of accidents.
1		I do think the random parking on paths, corners/junctions and drop curbs should be addressed as lack of visibility due to irresponsible parking could potential cause an accident. Also there is limited access for pushchairs and wheelchairs throughout the Estate due to parking on footpaths. In the deeds its states no company vans to be parked on driveways/in streets - this needs addressing too.
1		We recently received a letter regarding the proposed 20mph speed limit on Hazelmere Estate (Meadowdale Farm estate), Bedlington. I live with my family in Nottingham Court on this estate. I would like to support the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in order to reduce speeds around the estate, which can be excessive, mainly around Alnwick Drive. However I wish to add that I hope that this will not include the introduction of any speed humps. I would not be in favour of speed humps as they cause discomfort for drivers and passengers. I would like to suggest that if the speed limit is introduced, you should include reminders at a few points around Alnwick Drive either by using standard 20 speed limit signs or by painting 20 indicators on the road. This will serve to remind drivers (particularly non-residents) of the speed limit when driving out of the estate, which they might be doing some time after they drove in.
1		As a resident of Hazelmere, Bedlington, I am for the proposed 20mph speed limit with the use of 20mph signs and actual road markings (white lines) to keep people on the correct side of the road. However, I would be against speed bumps in our individual cul-de-sacs, given that we do not experience a problem with excessive speed in Clearwell Place. A problem of equal importance is people parking on corners or near junctions on the main thoroughfare, as this is incredibly dangerous. So double yellow lines would be required if white lines weren't introduced.
1		A note in support of the proposal for the 20mph speed limit on our estate. We have noticed an increase in speeding drivers this year and have become increasingly concerned for the welfare of pedestrians, children in particular. We hope this change will influence more considered driving behaviour. We also hope, if successful, this change will be introduced with the support of Northumbria Police to ensure appropriate enforcement of the new limit will ensure those less considerate drivers will conform. A small intervention will have a significant early impact, in our view.
1		We fully support the proposed 20 mph speed limit throughout the estate. We would also suggest speed reduction humps at intervals along Alnwick Drive loop road as regular offenders will probably ignore any signs. It is a busy road and every day we see people speeding through the estate (residents and visitors). There are a number of hazards - exits from cul de sacs, families with buggies, school children and dog walkers who are at risk every day. We think all estates should have 20mph limit - a number of estates and areas in Bedlington already have 20mph limits so it's about time ours does too.
30	9	