



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment and Transport

PROPOSED 40mph SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION, A1171 CRAMLINGTON

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A1171 in Cramlington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposed 40mph speed limit extension should be 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"

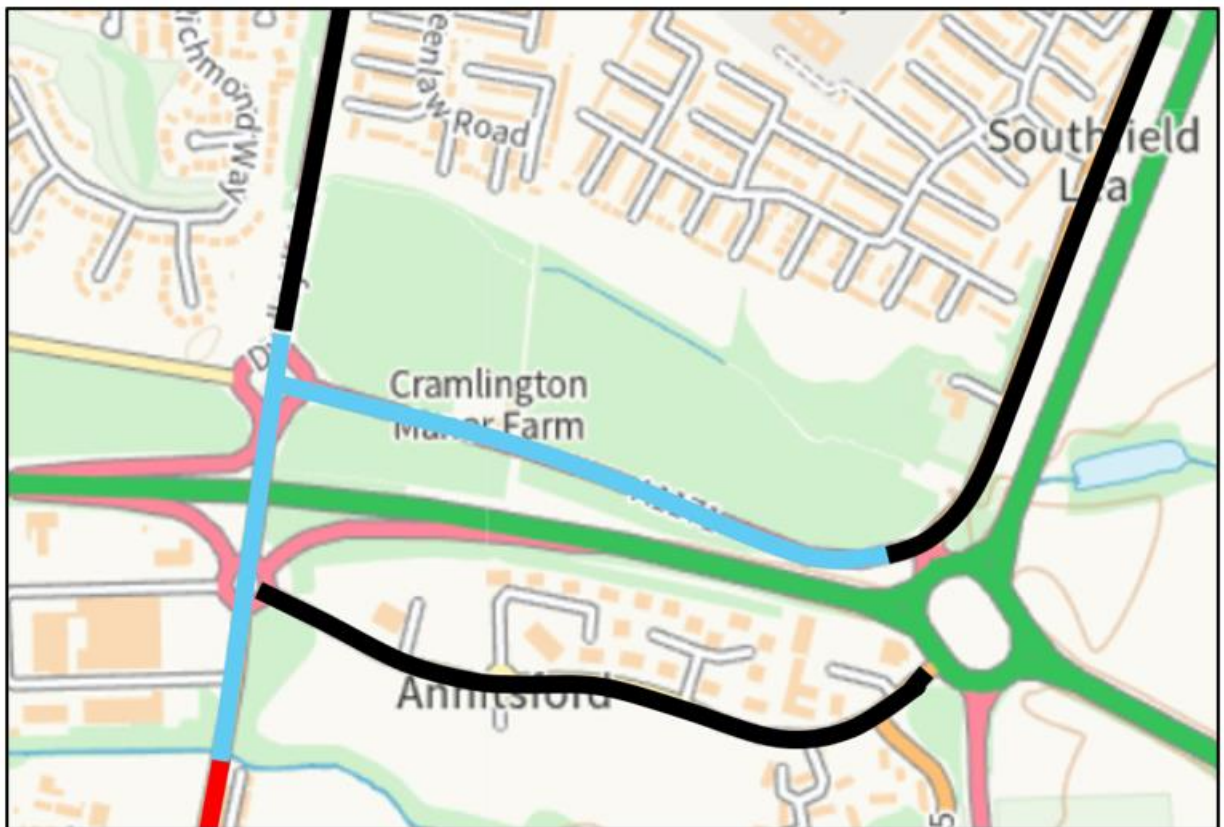
Key Issues

- Local Ward Members have submitted a review of the speed limits on the southern section of the A1171 in Cramlington as a priority for the Local Transport Plan Programme.
- There are frequent changes of speed limit in a relatively small area, leading to confusion among some motorists over which limit applies.
- Concerns have also been raised about the safety of walkers and cyclists who use this area.

Delegated decisions

Background

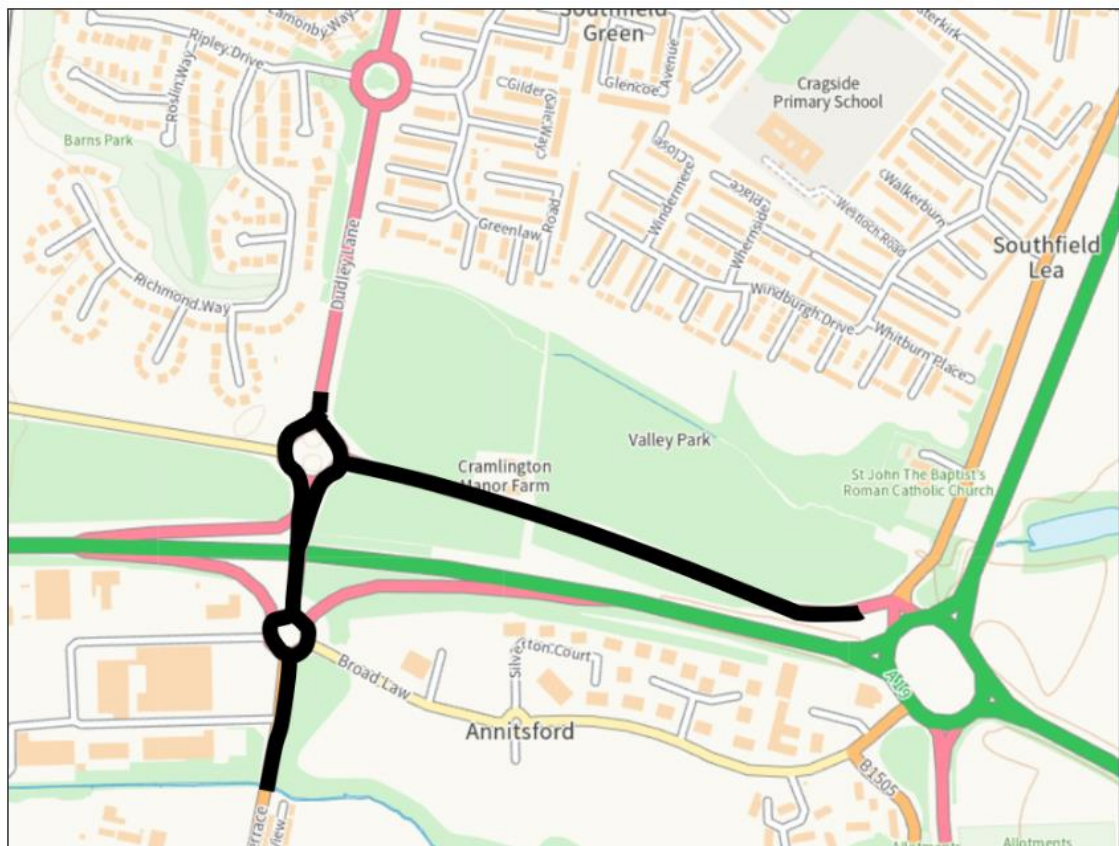
1. The A1171 road runs north-south through Cramlington, from the A192 in the north to the A19 in the south. It is one of the main strategic roads through the town and carries a significant amount of traffic.
2. At its southern end, it is subject to a 40mph speed limit which currently terminates at the roundabout junction with the A19 and Arcot Lane.
3. Beyond this point, the road is subject to the national speed limit of 60mph. However, motorists heading south quickly enter either the 30mph speed limit at Dudley or the 40mph speed limit at Northumberland Business Park. Those heading east enter a 40mph speed limit at the roundabout junction with the A19/B1505. The existing speed limits are shown on the plan below:



4. Guidance in "Setting Local Speed Limits" (DfT 2013, Revised 2024), states that the length of a speed limit should generally be not less than 600 metres to avoid too many changes of speed limit along the route.

Delegated decisions

5. The distance between the end of the existing 40mph speed limit in Cramlington and the start of the 30mph limit at Dudley is approximately 449 metres. Motorists passing through this section quickly encounter changes in speed limit.
6. The section of the A1171 that runs east from Dudley Lane to Moor Farm is approximately 600 metres. However, it adjoins 40mph areas at each end. Making this section part of the wider 40mph speed limit will remove the relatively frequent changes in limit and reduce confusion for motorists.
7. In addition, this section of road runs alongside Valley Park, a recreational area used by walkers and cyclists. There are some residential properties fronting the road and it has a footway which is regularly used by pedestrians. There have also been several reports of vehicles colliding with wildlife and warning signs have since been erected to warn motorists of this potential hazard.
8. There have been several recorded accidents in this area, particularly at or close to junctions. Residents report that there have also been many unreported and damage-only accidents.
9. Statutory consultees were, therefore, consulted on a proposal to implement a 40mph speed limit, as shown highlighted black on the plan below. The proposal simplifies the speed limits in the area by linking existing 40mph sections together.



Delegated decisions

10. Fifteen responses were received, fourteen in favour of the proposal, the other a neutral standard response from the NE Ambulance Service. A summary of the responses is appended to this report. The local Ward Members and Cramlington Town Council support the proposal.

11. It is therefore recommended that the proposed 40mph speed limit should be 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
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	Cramlington Village, Cramlington Sout East

Delegated decisions

Background papers:

File ref: HE243822

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

Consultation Responses

F O R	A G A I N S T	N E I T H E R	
			Other Relevant Comments
1			We are entirely in agreement with the proposed speed reduction to 40mph.
1			Thank you for your email. This is great news, and I'd like to thank you for your consideration of this. This will make a big difference to pedestrians, especially when walking the sections of that road where there is no grass verge. It will undoubtedly feel safer. We certainly support these changes.
1			I would like to add my name to reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph on the A1171 between the Dudley Road and Moor Farm roundabouts. I have seen a number of accidents on this road over the years and recently a couple of deer killed while crossing the road. On either side of this section of road the speed limit is 40mph, so it definitely makes sense to make this part the same.
1			As a local Cramlington resident I wholeheartedly support and agree to the proposed changes to reduce the speed along the A1171 and connecting roads. With the increased usage of walkers, runners and others around the area, I feel this would be a good change. We have also already had several car accidents and Deer killed along that road this year alone. Reducing this road to 40mph would be a good move in my opinion which will match all the roads going to and from this road as it is.
1			I completely support the reduction of speed from 60 to 40 on this section of road. The speed cars travel on this short road is unacceptable, dumping their rubbish in the process. There is only one footpath therefore litter picking is necessary but can be dangerous. We are adults and do take care by wearing Hi Viz clothing. I cannot see any reason for objecting to this reduction because of the impending mini roundabout which is not visible from the road heading towards Moor Farm roundabout.

Delegated decisions

1		<p>I am responding in agreement with the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph, the current speed limit is too fast for this small stretch of road I have bullet pointed reasons below:</p> <p>The public path directly off the A1171 roadside is barely 1 meter wide and not wide enough for 2 persons to walk side by side or pass by safely, this path is also used by cyclists as the road is too dangerous to cycle on, which creates further issues on the path. The path on the A1171 is smaller than the width of some street paths which would have a 20MPH speed limit. Would you like your son or daughter walking on the side of a 60MPH road, would it be acceptable to walk on the side of the A19 on a meter path? The road must be deemed as high risk with the reduction to 40MPH to improve road safety. The path is used by school children from Manor Farm, public / joggers / cyclists / Friends of Valley Park clearing up the area and volunteer's doing litter picks which will reduce anxiety from these users.</p> <p>The road has 2 pedestrian crossing points which are dangerous to cross, has direct access from Valley park onto the road and a junction to access Manor Farm development of houses the road also has a significant bend with a blind corner which has resulted in accidents, I have attached a PDF map of the road with hazards indicated on the road. Most persons drive at a sensible speed of 40MPH but there are increasing people using the road as a speed track far exceeding the 60MPH limit with overtaking on the small stretch of road not uncommon, a reduction in the speed limit will have a reduction in public anxiety and safety on the road.</p> <p>Difficulty with access / egress to Manor Farm due to speeding vehicles, with two previous accidents crashing into the rear of cars accessing Manor farm due to speeding traffic.</p> <p>The environmental impact of such a small road less than 1/2 mile also has to be taken into account with residents gardens adjacent to the road, pedestrians and people using Valley park with reduction in speed resulting in carbon reduction. The Council has acknowledged that deer cross the road and signage has been displayed on both sides of the road, there have been numerous accidents with deer being knocked down on this road which could have resulted in far more serious accidents. The road is linked between two 40MPH roads and is less than 1/2 a mile in length, there does not seem to be a point of raising the speed limit to 60MPH for less than 1/2 a mile? There have been 5 accidents on the road in the last year that I have passed by which all have had police involvement 1 with a road closure and I don't travel down the road frequently. There has also been a fatality on the road sometime back, I'm sure there are many more accidents on the road that the police could provide statistics for. Car leaving the road crossing the pedestrian path and crashing into Valley Park Wood where children cross to access McDonalds - police will have information as the car was in the woods for approx. 4 days before removal. Car Crashing into a lamp post knocking down the lamp post - road closed whilst cars were removed. Car crashing into fence around the bend on the A1171 - (this has happened on numerous occasions). Car Crashing into bollards in the central reservation of the road. Car crashing into equipment on the side of the road. Multiple accidents due to deer crossing. There have been speed reductions in the borough for dual carriageways in East Hartford with none of the attributes the A1171 has. Reducing the speed to 40MPH will promote slower traffic speeds on Dudley Lane leading to the school. The reduction in speed is supported by the Local Councillors / Town Council. The proposed 40MPH will aid safety for road users and reduce noise and vehicle emissions for pedestrians, cyclists, residents and users of Valley Park. The reduction in the speed limit links well with Northumberland Councils corporate plan</p> <p>Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"</p> <p>Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"</p> <p>Learning - "We want you to achieve and realise your potential"</p>
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Delegated decisions

1		<p>I am writing in regards to the proposed plans to introduce a 40mph speed limit on Dudley Lane between Dudley and Cramlington, and on the A1171 road alongside Valley Park. I am writing in Favour of this change. Specifically, in regards to the A1171 stretch of road the current 60mph limit is simply excessive. It is a short stretch of road and dangerous for speed to be reaching national speed limit. Down the whole stretch there is a public footpath that is regularly used. Having cars getting to these speeds, makes it very dangerous as they create a strong wind pressure/force especially when the vehicles are large buses and lorries. I am shocked there hasn't been an accident as of yet. I am unaware of anywhere else in Cramlington where there is a pedestrian path directly adjacent to a 60mph speed limit - I imagine this is in place for safety reasons. Additionally, there are residential housing that require cars to turn into, not just the residents but delivery workers e.g. post men etc. There have been numerous crashes, and countless near misses where people are going too fast and cannot break in time. Some of these incidences the cars waiting to turn have been stationary and have left plenty of time to slow appropriately just to have people crash into the back of them. There are also many deer that live within the Valley Park adjacent to the road, they are known to run out across roads. A 40mph speed reduction would minimise damage and risk of injury to the driver of the vehicle that are in the position with a deer running out in front of them. I urge you to give thought to the points above and consider if you had to walk down the pedestrian path with your dog, child/grandchild, or even just yourself, how safe you would feel as a large lorry speeds past you at 60mph?</p>
1		<p>Regarding the potential reduction in the speed limit on the A1171 behind Valley Park in Cramlington and the connecting road between Cramlington and Dudley, I am fully behind this change. We have campaigned long and hard to have this speed change brought into effect due to the numerous accidents with other road users and wildlife</p>
1		<p>I am writing in response to the council proposal to reduce the speed limit on Dudley lane (latter part) and the A1171 alongside Valley Park. I am in full support of this speed limit change. It is not uncommon to hear both cars and motorbikes accelerating hard as they come from Southfield Green roundabout at speeds way in excess of the current 40mph limit. Sadly it is not uncommon to see motorists speed up as they approach the pelican crossing when they see pedestrians waiting to cross for fear of hitting a red light. I'm sure you are aware, there have been several bad accidents on the Southfield Green roundabout where cars have clearly lost control while travelling at speed. You may also be aware that several wild deer have been injured and killed on the A1171 by cars that were travelling at speed where they were unable to stop when a deer runs out from the trees. Therefore I would like to request that some form of governance is put in place to try to enforce the speed limit, otherwise I fear motorists will continue to ignore the speed limit as they do now. I'm not suggesting to reduce this further as 40mph is fine, but only to implement some form of governance to enforce it. Further up Dudley Lane outside the high school, mobile police speed cameras are frequently in attendance and in general I think motorists do observe the 30mph limit on this road even when the police cameras are not in attendance. However on the 40mph section behind Barns Park, there are never any police cameras and hence many motorists ignore the speed limit as there is no deterrent. So my request to the council is to liaise with the police to alternate the location of the mobile police cameras to the south section of Dudley Lane/Barns Park section and the A1171 in addition to the High School section. This is an ideal opportunity to coincide with the speed limit changes that you are proposing and I would hope this would both promote and encourage safer driving.</p>

Delegated decisions

1		<p>The proposed 40mph speed limit on Dudley Lane leading onto the B1319 Dudley. Looking at maps you can see there's just a small length of road (approx. 300 meters) which crosses over two roundabouts still has national speed limit status dropping to 30mph speed limit as you enter Dudley Northern Terrace. It's obvious when the original 40mph speed limit was first imposed this section of road should have been included at the time. With regards to the A1171 we have a similar situation on the B1319. This section of road with national speed limit status is approximately only 600 metres long changing back to 40mph beyond the mini roundabout that feeds the Moor farm B1505. This stretch of road currently encourages drivers to accelerate up to national speed limit, at which point they have to brake on the approach to the mini roundabout. Certain times of the day there's excessive build-up of stationary traffic on this road A1171 leading onto the mini roundabout awaiting to enter Moor Farm roundabout which means heavy braking from excessive speed. I suspect a lot of drivers don't take note of the reduction in speed limit to 40mph certainly on the B1505. There's is also a wild deer warning sign displaced on this stretch of road A1171 another reason to reduce speed limit. Just this recent year there have been at least two major accidents occurred on both the A1171 and B1319 where casualties have had to be taken to hospital. Both accidents have caused excessive damage to vehicles, lamp posts and road signs which results in large repair costs to NCC and insurance providers. I'm also aware of at least one fatality involving car accident on the A1171 in the past. There's also a public footpath that runs alongside A1171 which suggests a reduced speed limit of 40mph. I'm sure these roads have just been an oversight when the original 40mph limits were put in place. Now would be a good time to change and make the road network in this area more consistent. Looking ahead road markings on the A1171 need renewing especially the mini roundabout approaching moor farm roundabout. I hope this helps in your final decision to make the relevant changes.</p>
1		<p>I would like this proposal to go ahead on the A1171 and the road reduced to 40mph, preferably it should also have traffic calming measures added - similar to Dudley Lane. The path next to the A1171 is very narrow and is used by residents and children, who walk to school or access the bus stop. The 60mph is unsuitable for the short road where cars speed down to avoid Moor Farm Roundabout, posing significant risks to pedestrians, children and local wildlife. I have witnessed drivers overtaking other cars at excessive speeds to reach the roundabout quicker on this short 750 yards stretch of road. There have been accidents on this road, fences knocked down, lamp posts knocked over and numerous injuries. Despite the deer warning sign, drivers continue to speed, resulting in multiple accidents, where deer are killed or need to be euthanised, vehicles damaged and drivers/passengers luck to be alive. It has been lovely seeing Valley Park being looked after, local residents use the park more than ever and at lunch time there are often workers from local business using the area for a lunchtime walk. Reducing the speed limit will hopefully reduce the risk of accidents, create a safer environment for pedestrians as well as drivers. It will enhance the safety of children and residents who use the pathway adjacent to the A1171 and create a safer environment for everyone.</p>
	1	<p>I refer to your recent correspondence in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. 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-patients 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: 1. Ambulance activating to emergencies within the locality could suffer a reduction in response times, although these times may still 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. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.</p>

Delegated decisions

1		<p>I am writing to inform you that I am in favour of the proposed speed limit decrease to 40mph along the A1171 which is currently 60mph. I use this road several times a day as do our children walking back and from school. I worry when they have to walk along that road because of the speed of the traffic and the close proximity of the path they use to the road. Along half the stretch of road there is no grass verge separating the path from the road and as you can imagine when cars and lorries come hurtling along that road it can be very scary and dangerous. Since the development of the business park on the other side of the A19, buses also use this road now so you can imagine what it feels like for double decker buses coming fast along this road too. The nature of the road too is that cars are traveling at 60mph it can be very dangerous for them to stop Quickley at the end with the mini roundabout as there is often traffic queuing there and as you come along the road there is a slight bend in the road and you can't see queuing traffic which at that speed can be very dangerous. The length of the road from one roundabout to the other roundabout isn't great so cars can still be accelerating when approaching the next roundabout. The entrance to the residential area is half way along that road and you cannot believe the number of accidents that have happened when a car has been traveling west and turning right into the courtyard. Cars coming up behind the car signalling right have very often been shunted in the back as they can't stop in time from seeing the stationary car because of the speed they're travelling at. Many of these accidents have not been reported as the people tend to settle without going through insurance companies. That's why many more accidents have not been reported. Personally, I hate walking along that road as I find the traffic along there at 60mph very very scary and dangerous. The footpath isn't even on the part where there is no grass verge so I'd hate to think what would happen if anybody tripped. The pathway along the road is very popular with walkers around valley park woods and many many people fell the same view about how vulnerable they feel and how dangerous the road is when walking long. I hope and pray that the speed limit is decreased even just for the safety of our children walking to and from school on a daily basis. Many thanks for taking the time to read this and consider my points.</p>
1		<p>Would totally support more widespread use of 40mph zones across Northumberland and particularly within the Northumberland National Park, similar to the successful introduction of 40mph within the Lake District National Park. Many of the B road are unsuitable for 60mph limits and "permit" motorists to travel at excessive speeds on narrow roads with degraded surfaces. another option would be to reduce to 40mph along active travel corridors and National Cycle Routes, for example NCR 72 (Hadrian's Wall) which attracts cyclist from across the UK and overseas, often traveling "self-sustained" with provisions and camping /bike packing equipment. As a regular cyclist, I can attest that a vehicle passing at 40mph is far better than one passing at 60mph and allows drivers more time to access and time their overtaking manoeuvre? I have several video clips of close passes in the Hexham area, if you feel it may assist in explaining the rationale for reducing speed limits along high use cycle routes? Thanks.</p>

Delegated decisions

1			<p>I would like to highlight that I fully support the proposal of a reduced speed limit along this section road in Cramlington. Children walk on the pathway next to this road every day, to and from school. The path sits right next to the road and has no border between the curb and roadside. Cars, vans, lorries, buses and motorcycles use this stretch of road and can come hurtling past you often in excess of the 60mph speed limit whilst you are walking and it is a pretty scary experience. This road stretches from the roundabout which then leads up to Arcot Hall, down to the mini roundabout which is adjacent to Moor Farm Roundabout and is probably less than 1Km in distance. All roads leading up to it and from it have 30mph and 40mph speed limit. However, this road alone has a national speed limit of 60mph and which encourages those of a certain persuasion that it is fine to speed up whilst on this section of road. Why on earth the speed limit was ever set to 60mph is a mystery in itself, however it is a mighty relief that somebody within the Council has recognised this and is now aiming to address the issue. A friend of mine recently sat on a speed awareness course and one of the questions was concerning that the speed limit was in a photograph. It highlighted a country road (without a path way!) but which had street lights. The course tutor highlighted that street lights automatically dictated that the speed limit on a single road would be 30 mph unless otherwise stated. My friend highlighted our section of road, clarifying it had a path all of the way along with street lights, plus houses and that the speed limit was 60 mph. The tutor was perplexed and unable to understand why that should be the case. What was abundantly clear on the course was that fatalities were far higher when accidents occurred at a greater speed – fact. The reality is though that having a 60mph speed limit is both unnecessary and dangerous and accidents do happen. I was involved in accident myself a few years back as I was waiting to turn right but waiting for oncoming traffic to pass by first. A speeding car came up behind me and slammed into my car causing me whiplash (I never sued) and causing major damage to both vehicles. The police attended the incident and which could have had a far worse outcome than it did. I am aware of other accidents and a fatality on this stretch of road and the sooner the speed limit is reduced the safer for everyone and especially children. For those advocating that the current limit of 60 mph should be maintained, I would ask the question why, for what reason or good? All of the roads around this road have a lower speed limit so why on earth should this small section of road be greater than those leading to it and from it? There are often long queues at the mini roundabout leading onto Moor Farm roundabout. As traffic speeds down this road they can often be confronted with standstill traffic caused by the queue at the roundabout. It is inevitable that more accidents will occur because drivers are encouraged to be able to drive faster because they see a national speed limit sign and not a 40mph or better still 30mph sign. There are mobile speed cameras often positioned on the dual carriageway road leading up to Cramlington village and where the speed limit is 30 mph. I would suggest the camera was put on this stretch of road because the amount of speeding offences would be extremely high. The pathway along this full stretch of road is far more popular these days since the business park was built on the other side of the trees lining the road. Many workers use the McDonalds restaurant at Moor Farm Roundabout and walk back along this road on their way back to work to get fresh air. They should not be endangered by having to walk next to vehicles travelling at extreme speeds and accidents are just waiting to happen. I both beg and implore the council to act and use some common sense as the only sensible solution is to reduce the speed limit now. It is your duty and responsibility to ensure that the public are kept safe and not exposed to unnecessary risk and which is currently the case here. If things do not change, I would like the names of the people responsible for making this decision. Then heaven forbid that there is a fatality in the future but their opportunity to prevent it and negligence in not doing so should be highlighted to all. It is not the road which is our concern but the crazy speed limit which was set many years ago. Times have changed and so should this speed limit and I implore the council persons responsible to make the obvious and sensible decision of reducing the speed limit now.</p>
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DECISION TAKEN

Delegated decisions

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

**Paul Jones - Director of Environment and
Transport**

Subject:

**PROPOSED 40mph SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION,
A1171 CRAMLINGTON**

Consultation

15 responses:

14 in favour, 1 neutral

Local Ward Member and Parish Council are in favour.

Decision Taken:

The proposed 40mph speed limit extension should be
implemented.

Signature of Director



Date

14th October 2024
