



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Paul Jones – Director of Environment & Transport

Proposed 30mph Speed Limit – Longhorsley Village

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

10 June 2024

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposals to formalise an existing 30mph speed limit throughout the village of Longhorsley.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the existing 30mph speed limit is formalised to improve road safety in the area by allowing more efficient enforcement of the area via a Traffic Regulation Order.

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 observed issues with the current road layout and retrieved data finding vehicles travelling at high speeds through the vicinity of Longhorsley.
2. The area is subject to site compliance checks and enforcement by Northumbria Police due to the high vehicular speeds obtained through survey data.

Delegated Decision

3. The current 30mph speed limit is denoted primarily by street lighting, although some extensions to the limit have been arranged through the normal Traffic Regulation Order process.
4. In order to simplify the 30mph limit in the village and to aid any enforcement of the speed limit. A 30mph speed limit is currently denoted by street-lighting in residential areas and traffic signs at the gateways to the village, however this is not yet formally legalised through a Traffic Regulation Order and the remaining extents have a National Speed Limit in place.
5. A new formalised 30mph speed limit is proposed to alleviate these concerns.
6. The 30mph speed limit is supported by the local County Councillor and Longhorsley Parish Council.
7. A highway improvement scheme to the 30mph area is to be funded through the 2024/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme.

Background

The village of Longhorsley is situated between Longframlington and Morpeth and is accessed via several routes, but mainly by the A697 road which flows through the centre of the village. The A697 road, East Road and West Road are all single carriageways subject to an automatic 30mph speed limit as the routes approach the village entrances because of street-lighting features. These extents are therefore not subject to a formal Traffic Regulation Order except for a recent 30mph extension north of Reivers Gate on the A697 road, which was approved in May 2020 to encourage slower speeds for those travelling southbound before entering residential areas.

Traffic calming features are in place, such as signage, road markings, infrastructure in the form of pedestrian crossing points, footways and bollards, but due to the recent recordings of higher vehicular speeds than usual, there is a need for a Police presence and enforcement to be carried out as a site compliant area to discourage any further speeds above 30mph.



Fig. 1: Existing 30mph gateway signs to denote 30mph speed limit on the A697 at Longhorsley
(Source: Google Maps, 2024)

Any defects in the existing signage or road markings will be rectified, whereas any vegetation obscuring the signage will be cut back and a Traffic Regulation Order will be created to allow effective enforcement where it has been considered necessary to discourage slower speeds in the vicinity.

Details of the extents of the 30mph speed limit can be found in Appendix A. The proposal is intended to improve road safety by formalising the speed limit, carrying out improvement works to existing infrastructure and therefore 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.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies.
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the 2024/25 LTP 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"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	A reduction in speed will lead to a safer environment for all road users.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Longhorsley

Delegated Decision

Background Papers:

File reference – HF244442

Appendix A

Author

Report Author **William Binks, Programme Officer**

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Director of Environment and Transport

Subject: Proposed 30mph speed limit – Longhorsley Village

Consultation: Not required on the grounds of road safety, however statutory consultees will be informed.

Decision Taken: To formalise the existing 30mph speed limit as proposed at Longhorsley Village

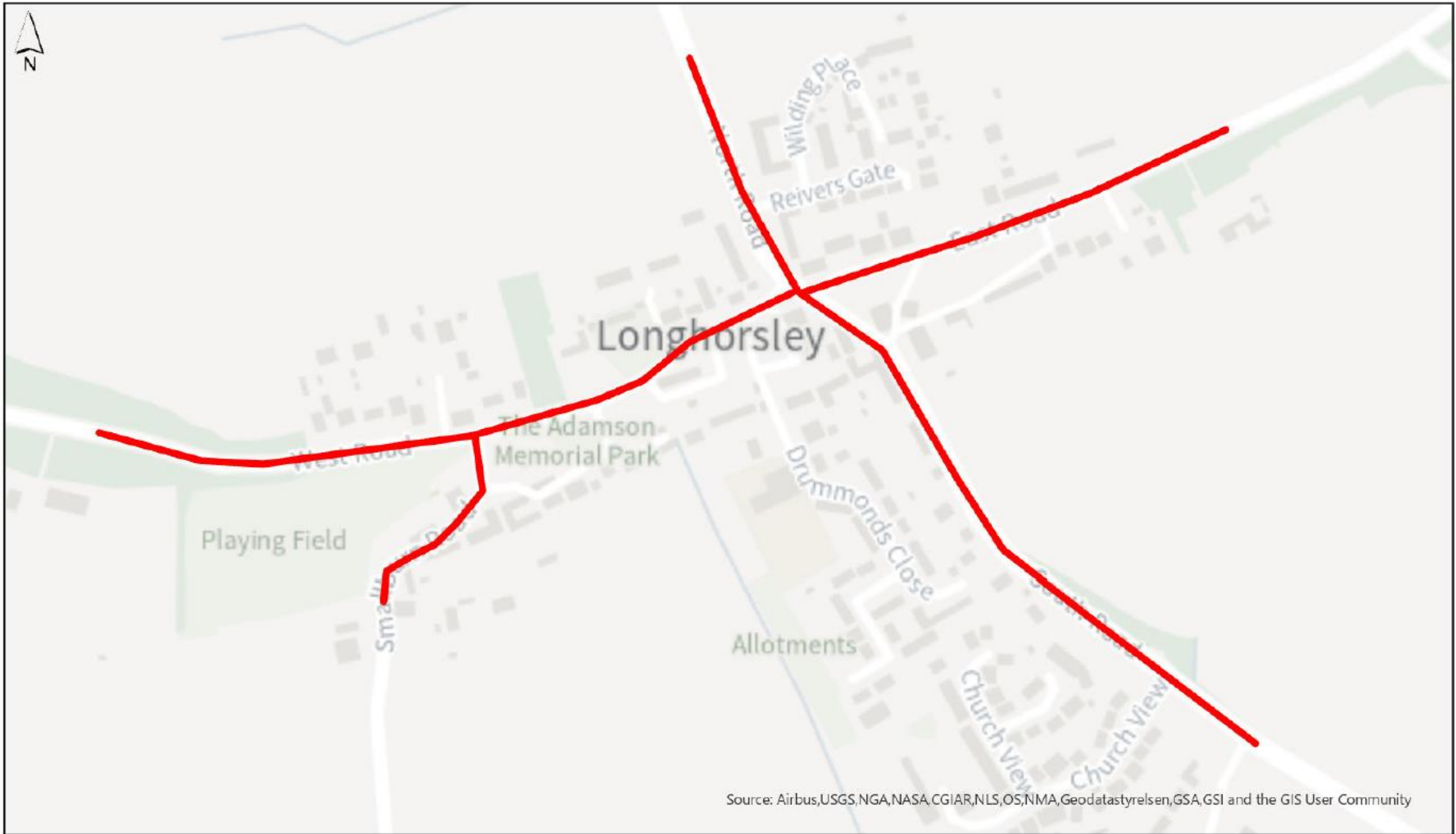
Signature of Director





Date

5th September 2024

Appendix A



 <p>Northumberland County Council</p>	<p>Proposed 30 MPH Speed Limit Longhorsley</p>				<p>Key:</p> <p> Proposed 30 MPH Speed Limit Extents</p>
<p>Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF Tel: 0345 600 6400</p>	<p>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License no. 100049048 (2010).</p>	<p>Drn: WB</p>	<p>Date: 10.06.24</p>	<p>Scale: 1:6,800</p>	