



Report to Beaconsfield Community Board

Date:	29 th June 2021
Title:	Petition response - Reduce Speed Limit (50mph to 30mph) - Wycombe Road (A40) Approach to Old Town, Beaconsfield.
Relevant councillor(s):	Cllrs Anita Cranmer, Jackson Ng, Alison Wheelhouse.
Author and/or contact officer:	Nick Reading – TfB Network Strategy Manager
Ward(s) affected:	Beaconsfield
Recommendations:	The Town Council / Community Board may wish to progress a reduction in the speed limit to 40 mph. It should be noted that since the conclusion of the countywide speed limit review the Council no longer have funds to progress new speed limits requests, as a result funding would need to be sourced locally.

1. Summary

A petition has been received requesting the Council to reduce the speed limit from current 50 mph to 30 mph on A40 Wycombe Road between Walkwood Rise and 1 Wycombe End, Beaconsfield Old town. The lead petitioner states:

We the undersigned petition the council to Reduce the Speed limit from 50mph to 30mph on the stretch of road between the corner of Wycombe Road & Walkwood Rise (Corner of new Beaconsfield Primary Care Centre) leading to the Old Town. The current speed limit (50mph) of the stretch of road between the corner of Wycombe Road & Walkwood Rise (Corner of new Beaconsfield Primary Care Centre) leading to the Old Town is incredibly dangerous, as a consequence of the multiple turn offs (Dobbies Garden Centre which causes congestion + ESSO petrol station) which ultimately often causes emergency braking in that half mile stretch of road. The issue will only be compounded when the new and

considerably larger medical practice opens on A40. The speed limit needs to be reduced to 30 mph to avoid the increased likelihood of accidents. Local residents feel very strongly about this and it needs to be addressed

2. Background Information

- The A40 Wycombe Road between Walkwood Rise and the start of the 30 mph zone on Wycombe Road is subject to a 50mph speed limit. This is 0.7 miles in length.
- There is footway provision along the length of Wycombe Road from Walkwood Rise to the start of the 30mph zone to facilitate pedestrians.
- There is street lighting on this stretch of road which covers the junctions with Walkwood Rise, Pennyworth Place and by the Esso garage.
- Walkwood Rise is a junction with clear views in both directions when leaving the road and entering onto Wycombe Road. There are no issues with vegetation or any other visible distractions to obscure the drivers view.
- When vehicles are turning right into Walkwood Rise from Wycombe Road there is a sign warning vehicles of an upcoming right turn. Just before the Walkwood Rise junction there is an area of central hatching that protects right-hand turn vehicles. This enables traffic to flow from East to West without having to make adjustments for any vehicle turning right.
- No requirements were made at the planning application stage for any road layout changes or traffic calming measures regarding the new Beaconsfield Primary Care Centre on Walkwood Rise.
- There have not been any injury collisions reported to Thames Valley Police on Wycombe Road junction with Walkwood Rise in last 5 years, 100 meters either side of junction (up to and including 31st January 2021).
- Approximately 15000 vehicles using this part of Wycombe Road every day split evenly East and West directions. The impact of the new Beaconsfield Primary Care Centre is anticipated to be minimal. It is not anticipated that all journeys to and from the centre will be via Wycombe Road as there are alternative options.
- The average speed of vehicles travelling within the 50 mph stretch of Wycombe Road, west of Burkes Road is 38 mph (data collected March 2021).
- This financial year 2021/2022, due to a number of reported injury collisions, Transport for Buckinghamshire is installing a casualty reduction scheme on Wycombe Road junction with Broad Lane (0.4 mile away from junction with Walkwood Rise). This is likely to have a traffic calming effect on vehicles travelling along A40 in the vicinity of Walkwood Rise.

- There have been two previous consultations for a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph on the A40 Wycombe Road in 2008 and 2013. On both occasions due to lack of support at public consultation the final recommendations were that no changes to the speed limit were to be made.
- The Council follows Department of Transport Guidance as Policy when installing new speed limits. On assessing the background information gathered above, Wycombe Road does not meet the Department for Transport criteria for there to be change of speed limit from 50 mph to 30 mph.
- However, notwithstanding the above and as a result of this petition, a site visit was carried out on 12 May 2021 between the Thames Valley Police Traffic Management Officer and Transport for Buckinghamshire.
- **As a result, and considering all of the background information the Council would support an application for a reduction to 40 mph.**

3. Other options considered

Alternative options the Town council or Community Board may wish to consider in order to highlight the junction are yellow backing the junction warning signs and adjacent 'SLOW' marking painted in white on the carriageway.

4. Legal and financial implications

None identified.

5. Corporate implications

None identified

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

N/A.

8. Next steps and review

N/A

9. Background papers

Buckinghamshire Council follow Department of Transport Guidance when setting local speed limits. A copy of this guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits/setting-local-speed-limits>

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

N/A

