



Report to Leader (Transport portfolio)

Decision Date:	14 October 2024
Reference number:	TR22.24
Title:	Proposed 40 mph Speed Limit – B488 Horton Road, Horton
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Steve Broadbent, Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Transport
Relevant councillor(s):	Councillor Chris Poll, Councillor Derek Town, Councillor Peter Brazier.
Contact officer:	John Pateman, John.Pateman1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Ivinghoe
Recommendations:	That the Leader notes the outcome of the Statutory Consultation; That the Leader approves the making and introduction of the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised, comprising of a speed limit reduction on a section of B488 Horton Road, Horton.

Reason for decision

The speed limit reduction is aimed to achieve the provisions set out in Section 3, subsection 2(e) of the Road Traffic Act 1984:

- “[To prevent] *danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.*”;
- “[To facilitate] *the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians).*”

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Slapton Parish Council has raised concerns related to road safety along the B488 Horton Road, a heavily used route by local and commuter traffic.
- 1.2 This request is for existing National Speed Limit (NSL) to be reduced to 40 mph on B488 Horton Road, Horton, covering a length of 0.217 mile between the village name sign and the existing 30 mph sign, located on the bend as one enters the main body of Horton Village. This proposal is supported by the Local Members and the Parish Council.
- 1.3 The recommendations in this report follow the statutory consultation period.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for the highway network within its boundary; this includes the provision, management & installation of the proposed speed limits. Thames Valley Police are responsible for carrying out enforcement of speed limits.
- 2.2 The proposed 40 mph speed limit was advertised and promoted locally through a statutory consultation process carried out between 14 May 20204 and 11 June 2024.
- a. The activity and the consultation documents (Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4) can be accessed via this link:
<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/roads-parking/slaption-speed-limit>
- 2.3 The proposed change from its existing National Speed Limit (NSL) to 40-mph speed limit aims to improve road safety within the local environment.
- 2.4 There were **17** responses to Statutory Consultation from the general public, received via YourVoiceBucks, email and letter – this can be seen in Appendix 5:
- **16** respondents supported the introduction of the 40-mph speed limit
 - **1** respondent opposed the speed limit proposal; however, no statement is mentioned to oppose the proposal.
- 2.5 Table 1 below represents the results from the statutory consultation:

Table 1 - Responses received from consultation

Responses from consultation	Count	Percentage (%)
Yes	16	94.12
No	1	5.88
Total	17	

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 A Speed Limit Assessment was carried out by the Network Safety Team and Thames Valley Police in July 2019. The Parish Council wanted the existing 30 mph Speed Limit extended, but this was not supported by the Network Safety Team and Thames Valley Police. As a result, this section of road does not meet the current DfT Guidelines for lowering to 30mph speed limit & would not get the compliance of reducing the speed to 30 mph, therefore is not supported.

4. Legal and financial Implications

- 4.1 Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 places a duty on Buckinghamshire Council to secure the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), on its highway.
- 4.2 Regulation 14 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulation 1996 state that an order making authority may be modify an order, whether in receipt of any objections or otherwise, before it is then made.
- 4.3 When the decision is taken and recommendations agreed, a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be made. Responders to the consultation and those who will likely be affected will be informed of the decision taken.
- 4.4 If approved, this key decision will be the authority for Buckinghamshire Council to 'make' as well as publicise the TRO and advertise a Notice of Making in the local press in accordance with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 4.5 The Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board is fully funding this project.
- 4.6 Future maintenance of the associated signs will be through Buckinghamshire Highways general maintenance budget.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 The following corporate implications have been considered:
- a. **Equality** – An Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 6) has been undertaken and the decision is not expected to have any negative impacts on persons with protected characteristics.

- b. **Property** - All land for this project is already within the Highway Boundary.
- c. **Data protection** – A privacy statement was included on Buckinghamshire Council’s citizen space consultation online page which stated the following: “We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal detail”.
- d. **Value for money** - The signs installation works will be tendered and carried out by an approved sub-contractor on behalf of Buckinghamshire Highways. Costs associated with this scheme has been allocated within its agreed budget and sufficient remains to implement the proposed speed limit restriction measures on the ground.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 Buckinghamshire Highway invited comments from ward members and Parish Council for B488 Horton Road, Horton between 25 January 2024 and 1 February 2024.
- 6.2 Table 2 Below shows the responses received from Local Members.

Table 2. Initial Feedback from Local Members

Consultee	Response
Cllr Chris Poll	I am content with the proposal, Thank-you.
Cllr Derek Town	I still maintain that this not the correct solution, but having noted the agreement is already supported by fellow members and Slapton PC I also agree with the decision to go ahead with the 40-mph project.
Cllr Peter Brazier	Thanks, good to know you are on it. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help from our side.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 A period of statutory consultation was undertaken between 14 May to 11 June 2024.
- 7.2 The draft notice was also advertised in Bucks Free Press local newspaper. Residents received letters and Site notices were installed on light columns and telegraph poles within the village.



- 7.3 Neil Biggs, Traffic Management Officer, Thames Valley Police responded to the consultation via mail stating: “Speed data that was taken between 8/7/2019 – 15/7/2019 indicated the following that the mean speeds for a 24hr period NW bound were 46mph and SE 44mph. The 85%tile speeds were NW bound 49mph and SE bound 53mph.

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) guidelines are that the speeds should not exceed 10%+2mph of the posted limit, in this case both the mean speeds NW bound are on the cusp of the enforcement range and all 85%tile speeds are well within it.

Due to the nature and road environment, it will not be possible to use mobile enforcement at this location and will be reliant on speed reducing features if required by the local highway authority.

A review of the collision history for the five year period 1/1/2019 – 31/12/2023 on the area covered by the proposed limit showed no injury collisions, Thames Valley Police allocate their resources on a threat/harm/risk basis.”.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 If these recommendations are accepted, a Traffic Regulation Order will be made to reduce the speed limit to 40-mph.
- 8.2 Following a decision on this report, should the recommendations be approved the implementation of the scheme will be undertaken by the new council’s highways contractor in the 2024/25 financial year.
- 8.3 All consultees and responders to the consultation will be contacted by either e-mail or letter and will be informed of the decision including where they can find the details of the statutory consultation as well as the decision taken. This report will be published on the Buckinghamshire Council web page.

9. Background papers

Appendix 1 – Statutory Consultation Notice

Appendix 2 – Map Tiles

Appendix 3 – Statement of Reasons

Appendix 4 – Street Notice

Appendix 5 – Consultation Response Document and Responses to Objections

Appendix 6 – Equality Impact Assessment

10. Your questions views (for Key Decisions)

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider, please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk by 5pm on 10th October 2024.

