

REGULATORY COMMITTEE  
9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2002

---

**MALMESBURY: A429 BURTON HILL -  
SPEED LIMIT**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider an objection to a speed limit proposed at Malmesbury.

**Background**

2. During 2000, petitions were received for an extension to the existing 30 mph speed limit and for traffic calming at Burton Hill, Malmesbury.
3. In response, a scheme has been developed in partnership with North Wiltshire District Council involving construction of a footway, slight narrowing of the carriageway and the imposition of a 40 mph speed limit.
4. The Area Committee of the District Council has approved a contribution of £9,000 towards the cost of the scheme, and St. Pauls Without Malmesbury Parish Council a contribution of £1,000. The remaining £8,000 is to be funded by this Authority utilising Local Transport Plan funding.
5. The proposal to lower the speed limit to 40 mph has been advertised. A letter of objection has been received and is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

**Detail**

6. Mr. Coase of 4 Home Farm Cottages, Burton Hill, whilst supporting the footway provision, considers the 40 mph limit "at best a complete waste of time, money and resource." He considers the lower limit will be ignored by the majority of drivers and will lead to frustration with a consequent increase in danger.
7. Mr. Coase suggests that a more useful alternative is the provision of double white lines between Burton Hill School to the Grange Lane junction.

**Consideration**

8. The scheme has the full support of the District and Town Councils and the Local Member. Its introduction should result in reduced traffic speeds on the A429 at Burton Hill and increased road safety.

9. The A429 road is subject to a double white line system with a solid line, prohibiting overtaking, where the forward visibility for drivers falls below the standard set in the Traffic Signs Manual. Inappropriate use of the double white line system would bring the markings into disrepute reducing their effectiveness. Also, as contravention of the prohibition line can lead to disqualification from driving, inappropriate use of the system could expose this Authority to litigation. Given the forward visibility for main road traffic, the provision of double white lines to prevent overtaking between Burton Hill School and Grange Lane would be contrary to the Regulations.

### **Conclusion: Options Considered**

10. Abandon the proposed 40 mph limit.
11. Implement the proposed 40 mph limit as advertised.

### **Recommendation**

12. That:-
  - (i) The 40 mph speed limit at Burton Hill, Malmesbury, be implemented as advertised; and
  - (ii) The objectors be informed accordingly.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

13. To achieve a reduction in traffic speeds and improve road safety.

**RICHARD J. LANDER**

Director of Environmental Services

---

**The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:**

Letter of objection from Mr. Coase.  
Correspondence with the District and Parish Councils.

### **Environmental impact of the Recommendations contained in this Report:**

The lowering of the speed of traffic should result in an improved environment for residents.