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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

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REFERENCE: HSB-012-13

PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED RESTRICTION - WESTWOOD

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the points of objection received following the advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) associated with the permanent 20 mph speed limit in Westwood.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. Outcome 3 – Everyone in Wiltshire lives in a high quality environment.
Outcome 5 – People in Wiltshire have healthy, active and high quality lives.

Background

3. In recognition of the increasing number of requests for 20 mph limits, Wiltshire Council is seeking to develop its own framework policy. The policy will be used in conjunction with the Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 01/06 (now superseded by 01/13) '*Setting Local Speed Limits*' to provide engineers, local members and the public with clear guidance on the future use of 20 mph speed limits in villages and other rural communities. To assist with the formation of the new policy, and ensure it is predominantly 'evidence led', a limited 20 mph limit trial was established at a selected number of selected village locations in the spring of 2011.
4. The village of Westwood was one of five villages selected to take part in the trial. The restriction was implemented using an experimental TRO with maximum duration of 18 months. The experimental order has subsequently elapsed and a decision on whether or not to make the 20 mph restriction permanent is required.
5. Following conclusion of the Wiltshire 20 mph speed limit trial, and subsequent publication of the DfT Circular 01/13 '*Setting Local Speed Limits*', a decision was made by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Streetscene and Broadband to advertise permanent TRO's at all villages' trial sites.
6. Advertisement of the permanent TRO for the Westwood 20 mph limit took place between 16 August and 9 September 2013. During this period a single letter of objection was received, together with nine letters of support, including the Parish Council.
7. As a result of representation received from Westwood Parish Council, prior to the formal advertisement of the 20 mph limit, the advertised proposal included an extension to the limit on Upper Westwood Road to cover a greater number of properties and the Downside Nurseries.

Main Considerations for the Council

8. To consider the comments received during the consultation period. A summary of the points of objection and officer comments are included at **Appendix 1**. A plan outlining the advertised proposal is provided at **Appendix 2**.
9. The substantive point of objection relates to opinion there is no basis for the 20 mph restriction in Westwood and that it offers no benefit to the village over that provided by the previous 30 mph restriction.

Safeguarding Considerations

10. There are no safeguarding considerations relating to this proposal.

Public Health Implications

11. It is increasingly acknowledged that 20 mph speed limits can bring about change to local travel habits by encouraging increasing numbers to walk and cycle.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

12. The installation of additional speed limit signs and posts, particularly repeater signs where none previously existed, together with road markings and coloured surfacing could be considered detrimental to the visual vista and street scene.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

13. It may be argued the provision of a 20 mph restriction will encourage those who are less able to walk and cycle in the village to participate in such activities.

Risk Assessment

14. If schemes, programmed for design or delivery within the current financial year, are not progressed the Council risks the potential of delayed delivery in subsequent years due to other funding demands and uncertainty of future budget.

Financial Implications

15. There is an allocation in the 2013-14 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Integrated Transport budget for design, construction, supervision and monitoring works.
16. If a decision is taken to delay current proposals, this may result in the loss of the budget.

Legal Implications

17. The experimental order for the 20 mph speed restriction in Westwood has elapsed. As such, there is no legally enforceable TRO in place. In the absence of a permanent restriction, Police enforcement is not currently permissible.

Options Considered

18. To:
 - (i) Implement the proposals as advertised.

- (ii) Remove the experimental 20 mph restriction and reinstate the previous 30 mph speed limit.

Reason for Proposals

- 19. As evidenced by the comments received during the community survey and formal advertisement period there is majority local support for the retention of the 20 mph limit. The Parish Council is also supportive.

Proposals

- 20. That:
 - (i) The proposal for the 20 mph speed restriction be implemented as advertised.
 - (ii) The objector be informed accordingly.

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

None