

Bolton Council

Report to: Executive Cabinet Member for
Environmental Services

Date: 16th April 2018

Report of: Director of Place

Report No: ECMES/57/18

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Report Title: **Chorley Old Road, Old Kiln Lane, Walker Fold Road, Colliers Row Road, Scout Road, Smithills Dean Road, Bolton – Proposed 50mph Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO 303848)**

Non-Confidential: This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

Recommendations: Having considered the objection, the representations, the views of Ward Members and the police, the Director of Place recommends the Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services to agree to the schedule as shown in Appendix A.

Decision:

Background Doc(s): Copy of e-mails of objection and representations held on file in the Highways and Engineering Division.

Signed:

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Leader / Executive Member	Monitoring Officer

Date:

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Summary:

The Director of Place approved the promotion of a speed limit on Chorley Old Road, Scout Road and other local roads under the Scheme of Delegation in 2017.

The proposal was advertised in October/November 2017 and 19 representations were received. This report details and comments upon the representations.

Having considered the representations, the views of Ward Members and the police, the Director of Place recommends the Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services to agree to the introduction of the proposed speed limit as shown in Appendix A.

Background information

1. As part of the Greater Manchester A and B Road speed limit review, which was undertaken in 2009/10 Chorley Old Road and Old Kiln Lane have been identified for a speed limit reduction from National Speed Limit (NSL) to 50mph. It makes sense that whilst the Speed Limit Order is being promoted that a review of other local strategic roads is undertaken. The aim of this proposal is to implement a consistent speed limit by removing the National Speed Limit, which is hoped, will improve driver compliance in the interest of road safety.

Representations

2. The 50mph speed limit proposal was formally advertised by public notice in October 2017. A postal public consultation was also conducted targeting 130 properties defined by the capture area which consists of those directly affected by the proposal.
3. Of the total 130 consultations, 19 (14.62%) representations were received. 17 (89.47%) of them objected the proposed 50 mph speed limit and proposed a 40 mph speed limit instead. 2 (10.53%) representations supported the proposed 50 mph speed limit. It is worth noting that the latter residents are from the area around Old Kiln lane.

The objections and comments received were of the following:

4. With regard to Walker Fold Road, Colliers Row Road and Scout Road these were the objectors on the following grounds:
 - Most drivers using this stretch of roads are not respecting the National Speed limit of 60 mph and the proposed 50 mph will send the wrong signal to them.
 - The roads are narrow, with large poorly serviced areas.
 - Presence of sharp bends that are often on dips with poor sight lines.
 - Being an agricultural area, with farms on either side and tractors, often with pulling hay carts roam the roads which make it difficult for vehicles to overtake when approaching at a speed of 50 mph.
 - The increase in equestrian activities (4 equestrian centres in the last 10 years), will lead to a conflict between vehicles travelling at a high speed of 50 mph and animals need for low speed.
 - The area is used for leisure pursuits but the route has insufficient access to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders who are frequent users of this route. The inadequacy of footpaths forces walkers, often accompanied by their children to walk on the carriageway itself, and the 50 mph speed limit will be dangerous to them and to the animals.
 - The Woodland Trust intend to develop the leisure facilities in the area with a proposed Car Park on Walker Fold Road with a capacity of 150 parking spaces; measures that will contribute to future increase in both the number of vehicles and other users which will make the proposed 50 mph speed limit not only intimidating, but also dangerous to both people and animals.
 - The route is being used more and more by traffic as a shortcut between Belmont Road and Horwich. This increase in vehicular capacity will increase the prospect of accidents at the proposed 50 mph speed limit.
 - Frontage of numerous buildings is literally adjacent to the road which makes access and egress for residents very difficult even at lowered 50 mph speed limit.

- Due to the nature of the roads, many vehicles park on the road side which makes traveling cars at 50 mph difficult to overtake or manoeuvre in order to avoid the stationary vehicles and opposite traffic at the same time.
5. The objections received for the proposed 50 mph on Chorley Old Road put forward the following argument:
- On Chorley Old Road, in addition to cars, buses and HGVs are also abusing the current national speed limit of 60 mph, and the proposed 50 mph speed limit will send the wrong message to these drivers.
 - The proposed 50 mph speed limit will continue to invite motor bike riders to practice the “Manx TT” run during weekends.
 - Proximity of various building to the main road makes entry and egress dangerous and intimidating when the speed is as high as 50 mph.
 - Being a large road, crossing it while the vehicles are running at a speed of 50 mph is very intimidating and dangerous; hence a lower speed limit of 40 mph is more appropriate.
 - The pavement and inclination of the road to a negative camber causes flooding on the quarry bend and stretch to wider areas, which makes it dangerous to drive at a 50 mph.
6. The consultation recorded one objection and two supports to the proposed 50 mph limit on Old Kiln Lane, which are as follows:
- The objection representation suggests that the speed limit from the A58 Moss Bank Way to past the High Grove (approximately 500 m) should be 30 mph, and then 40 mph thereafter. This is because there are a considerable number of children, elderly people and dog walkers using Old Kiln Lane.
 - The other two representations support the proposal of 50 mph with some suggestion to improve the signage and road marking around the access to Boot Lane off Old Kiln Lane.

Observations

7. Observations on the accident records for the last five years indicate that all accidents apart from one serious one that took place at the junction of Chorley Old Road / Walker Fold Road / Old Kiln Lane, were of slight in nature. The serious accident happened at turning point where V1 travelling with intention of turning right saw slow moving traffic also turning right pulled into carriageway and hit V2. It is worth noting here that the DfT in its Circular 01/2013 “Setting Local Speed Limits” under “Section 3: The Underlying Principles of Local Speed Limits” states that “*Speed limits should not be used to attempt to solve the problem of isolated hazards, such as a single road junction.*”.
8. The proposed 50 mph has been put forward in order to meet the DfT recommendation with the aim of speed management policies to achieve a safe distribution of speeds consistent with the speed limits of the road environment and surrounding roads, in this case Belmont Road and Chorley Old Road. By consistently linking the length of roads (Scout road, Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road) with Belmont Road and Chorley Old this will make the traffic move at a consistent speed below or at the posted speed limit having regard to the traffic conditions and remove any confusion.
9. The proposed speed limit of 50mph, should be seen as the maximum rather than a target speed at which to drive. The nature of roads and their features as well as the consideration of the users, both on foot or riding, are all self-explanatory and evidence-led to the drivers’s

assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. This is evident in the low accident records during the last five years.

10. The natural alignment of the roads, particularly those of Scout Road, Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road, will act as speed calming features, and prevent drivers from reaching the maximum speed of 50 mph. The existing road calming textures, road marking and hazard signs are also factors to the prevention of reaching the maximum speed of 50 mph. In terms of presence of walkers, cyclists, horse riders, tractors, proximity of building to the road and stationary vehicles on the side of the road; drivers are likely to expect and respect the importance of lowering their speed, as they become influenced by when it is appropriate and not appropriate to lower or increase the speed where they can see there are potential hazards.
11. The objectors proposal of a 40 mph speed limit is unrealistically low for such a rural area where buildings are sparse with very few on either side of the road. It is likely not to be effective, and drivers may not comply with it, particularly during the off-peak times, when the traffic is very low.
12. The representations have argued that the stretch of roads between Belmont Road and Chorley Old Road is used as a short cut by many commuters to and from Chorley, Horwich and M61 on one side, and Belmont Road and Blackburn Rd from the other side.

Views of Statutory Consultees

13. Representatives of the Chief Constable, County Fire and Rescue Service, Greater Manchester Ambulance Service and Transport for Greater Manchester have raised no comments on this report.

Views of Ward Members on this Report

14. The views of Ward Members have been requested on the content of this report which are as follows:
 - 14.1 Cllr Andrew Martin supports the 50 mph proposed on Chorley Old Road, Old Kiln Lane and Smithills Dean Road but Objects it on Walker Fold Road, Colliers Row Road and Scout Road as he believes these should have a 40 mph speed limit.
 - 14.2 Cllr Roger C Hayes Objects the proposed 50 mph speed limit on Walker Fold Road, Colliers Row Road and Scout Road as he believes these should have a 40 mph speed limit.
 - 14.3 Cllr Richard Silvester Objects the proposed 50 mph speed limit on all the proposed roads as he believes they all should have a 40 mph speed limit. He expressed his wishes to include his comments word for word in the final report, which are as follows:
 - 'I am firmly of the belief that a 40mph speed limit should be introduced throughout on all of the roads instead of the 50mph as proposed. I support the majority of the respondents to the consultation, 17 (89.47%) of them out of 19 who objected the proposed 50 mph speed limit and proposed a 40 mph speed limit instead.

If we look at the existing roads which are already subject to a 40mph speed limit in this area, we can see that Chorley Old Road, immediately to the East of the Bob Smithy Pub from its junction with Walker Fold Road to just before the Bolton Old

Links Golf Club, is a wide road which has good pavements on either side of the road for pedestrian safety and has no housing at all. Moss Bank Way is also 40mph from its junction with Stapleton Avenue to the Doffcocker roundabout – again this is a wide road with pavements on either side and no housing.

We then have the proposal that Old Kiln Lane and Chorley Old Road to the West of the Bob Smithy Pub and Walker Fold Road should all become 50mph. All of this I believe should be 40mph.

Old Kiln Lane is a similar type of road to Chorley Old Road, East of the Bob Smithy Pub. Old Kiln Lane is wide, it has pavements on either side however it does have some adjacent housing. Chorley Old Road, East of the Bob Smithy Pub on this stretch is 40mph and I believe similarly, Old Kiln Lane should also be 40mph too because its nature is exactly the same but it does actually have some housing adjacent to it.

Chorley Old Road to the West of the Bob Smithy Pub does have housing along many stretches of this road with some concealed entrances as well. In the interests of road safety this too should be 40mph and joined up to the existing 40mph limit further along Chorley Old Road at Bottom O'th 'Moor which is exactly of the same nature of road. Why should one stretch be 40mph at present and another stretch of exactly the same nature be 50mph?

Walker Fold Road for almost its entire length has no pavements at all, it is undulating in its nature, it has some sharp bends and a very bad bend in the dip, it is narrow in most places and it does have housing along it in places and some concealed entrances. This should definitely be 40mph along its entire length because it is also used by many walkers and hikers who walk in the road because there are no pavements, cyclists and horse riders. There are also many farms and fields with gates and agricultural vehicles enter and exit the road into and from the fields slowly manoeuvring. There are people who work at the side of the road and unload vehicles and people park up at the side of the road and exit their vehicles. The Woodland Trust also plan to construct a new car park for their visitors which in time will mean that even more pedestrians will be walking along the road side.

For all of these reasons, in the interests of road safety for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and other users, I believe that Walker Fold Road should be 40mph for its entire length. I do not agree with the officers comments that, 'drivers are likely to expect and respect the importance of lowering their speed' on Walker Fold Road because they do not now at 60mph. They will only do so if the speed limit is reduced to 40mph as overall they will go slower, even if they were to speed it is likely this would not be as fast as the present 60mph. It is proven that when the speed limit is lowered significantly, that drivers also lower their speed but even if they do speed above the limit, it is likely to be less than the previous maximum speed limit.

Therefore if all of these roads were to become 40mph, this would be consistent and completely joined up to the existing 40mph areas so all of this area would have the same speed limit. It would therefore not be confusing for motorists and would be much safer all around for every type of road and highway user.

As a member of one of the Area Forums who has decided to allocate monies towards this legal notice, I am thoroughly disappointed that 50mph is being proposed especially for Walker Fold Road when we were given the impression that 40mph would be proposed. This is why we funded the TRO in the first place.

If 40mph was to take place instead of 50mph throughout this whole area, then there would also be a cost saving on additional signage as the present 40mph zones would automatically link into the new 40mph zones so smaller repeater signs could be placed instead as reminders instead of the new 50mph signage which would then be un-necessary.'

- 14.4 Cllr Kevin McKeon supports the case put forward by Cllr Richard Silvester.
- 14.5 Cllr Wild, Paul objects the 50 mph speed limit on Scout Road, Colliers Row Road and Fold Road and he feels that a reduction in the speed should be considered and that 40 mph or 30 mph should be introduced. In his comments he mentioned that speeding traffic appears to be happening along Scout Road from Belmont Road through to Colliers Road and Walker Fold Road to where it meets Chorley Old Road. Such observations have made him re-consider his initial observations and he feels that a reduction in the speed should be considered.
- 14.6 The remaining Councillors have either supported the proposed 50 mph speed limits or had no comments.

Financial implications and implementation

- 15. The estimated cost of the legal order is £3,106.00 including staff costs and legal fees. The removal and installation of the signs are in addition to this and the cost of the works involved is estimated to be £8,000.00. The scheme will be funded by the Smithills and Horwich North East Area Forums. If approved, the new speed limit will be implemented as soon as the necessary legal processes have been completed.

Recommendation

- 16. Having considered the objections and the views of Ward Members, the Director of Place recommends the Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services to agree the introduction of the Speed Limit Order as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

Appendix 1:

Deletion

National Speed Limit

Name of Road

Length

B6226 Chorley Old Road

from its junction with the B6402 Old Kiln Lane to its south easterly junction with Bottom O'th Moor.

B6402 Old Kiln Lane

from its junction with the A58 Moss Bank way to its junction with the B6226 Chorley Old Road.

Addition

50mph Speed Limit

Name of Road

Length

B6226 Chorley Old Road

from its junction with the B6402 Old Kiln Lane to its south easterly junction with Bottom O'th Moor.

B6402 Old Kiln Lane

from a point 25 metres west of its intersection with the extended westerly kerb line of the A58 Moss Bank Way to its junction with the B6226 Chorley Old Road.

Walker Fold Road

for its entire length.

Colliers Row Road

for its entire length.

Scout Road

from its junction with Colliers Row Road and Smithills Dean Road, to the boundary between Bolton Borough and Blackburn with Darwen Borough.

Smithills Dean Road

from a point 239m north-west of the extended north-westerly kerb-line of Jesmond Road, to its junction with Scout Road.

Appendix 2: Plans Showing Existing and Proposed Speed Limits.