

Bolton Council

Report to: Executive Cabinet Member
Environmental Services

Date: 16 October 2017

Report of: Director of Place

Report No: ECMES/29/17a

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Report Title: The Bolton (Egerton Area, Bolton)(20mph speed limit) Order (Traffic Order 303876) Objection Report

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 and the views of Ward Members, the Director of Place recommends the Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services to agree to the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit traffic regulation order as advertised.

Decision:

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

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

The Director of Place approved the promotion of a 20mph Speed Limit on residential roads in the Egerton area under the Scheme of Delegation in June 2017.

The proposal was advertised in August 2017 and one objection was received. This report details and comments upon the objection. Having considered the objection and the views of Ward Members, the Director of Place recommends the Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services to agree to the introduction of the 20mph speed limit traffic regulation order as originally advertised.

Background information

1. At the meeting held on 17th April 2013 the Council agreed to the principle of introducing a mandatory 20 mph speed limit on all appropriate residential roads in the Borough. This proposal confirming the Council's policy to improve road safety, reduce the severity of casualties and improve the local environment.
2. At the meeting held on 15th February 2016 the Cabinet proposed the allocation of funding from the unallocated Capital Programme Resources for 2016/2017 (Item 39, minute (iv) refers). This expenditure was approved by Council at the meeting held on 24th February 2016 (item 60, minute (d) refers).
3. This funding is being utilised to complete the promotion and implementation of 20mph speed limits on residential roads across the Borough.
4. An area based approach has been adopted in the introduction of the 20mph speed limits. One of these was the Egerton Area. This comprised residential roads to the east of the A666 Blackburn Road (north of Darwen Road) up to and including Cox Green Road. This proposed order further includes Shorefield Mount, Delph Avenue and Dimple Road to the west of Blackburn Road.
5. A notice relating to the proposed speed limit order was published, pursuant to regulation 7 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, on 1st September 2017. The latest date for objections to be made was 29th September 2017.

Representations-Objections

6. On 1st September 2017 the Council received an objection to the proposed speed limit area from HG.
7. The objection was as follows;

"I live on Druids Close at the back of Egerton Primary School. We suffer many inconveniences because of school drop offs and visitors, and the front of our house is a favourite place for people to abandon their cars for the day.

I am concerned that you intend to place further restrictions on us by enforcing the 20 mile per hour speed limit on this, and other adjoining streets and roads in the area. The speed limit signs have already been placed on the lampposts which seems a little strange as the opportunity for objections has only just commenced.

As stated there is a school very close to us but the opportunity to drive above 20mph at school letting out and dropping off times is just not there and I cannot think of a reason to place all the area under this speed curfew for the whole of life!

I suspect that the limit will not be observed mostly because it will not be policed and will be used to convict some poor soul who happens to be in the wrong place when a child unexpectedly steps off the pavement at 2 in the morning.

I wish to register my objections"

Observations

8. Research has shown that the introduction of an area wide limit using 20 mph speed limit signs alone, without supporting traffic calming features, leads to a reduction in speeds of 1mph to 2 mph. While this speed reduction may appear to be low, research has shown that each 1 mph reduction in speed translates to a reduction in accident frequency of 6%. There is also clear evidence confirming the greater chance of survival and reduction in severity of injuries to pedestrians at lower speeds.

Consultation

9. Representatives of the Chief Constable, County Fire and Rescue Service, Greater Manchester Ambulance Service and Transport for Greater Manchester were consulted on the original proposals and no adverse comments were received.

Views of Ward Members

10. The views of Ward Members have been requested on the content of this report and Councillor Critchley has confirmed his support to the proposed 20mph speed limit order as originally proposed.

Financial implications and implementation

11. The cost for the legal traffic order and associated signage is £10,600.

Recommendation

12. Having considered the objection and the views of Ward Members, the Director of Place recommends the Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services to agree to the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit traffic regulation order as advertised.