

Cabinet Member for City Services

26th June 2017

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor J Innes

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Longford

Title:

Report - Petition – Request to reduce the speed limit on the 40mph Section of Westwood Heath Road to 30mph

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 42 signatures (30 paper and 12 electronic-signatures) has been received requesting a reduction in the speed limit on the 40mph Section of Westwood Heath Road to 30mph.

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to speed limits are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member had considered this petition prior to this meeting and in response to the issues raised requested that the petition was dealt with by letter (determination letter), rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

The determination letter advised that due to the nature of the road and the results of speed survey on the section of road currently a 40mph, the current speed limit is appropriate and should be retained.

On receipt of the determination letter, the petition spokesperson advised that they did not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and wanted it to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Note the petitioners concerns.
2. Endorse that the actions confirmed by determination letter to the petition spokesperson (as detailed in paragraph 1.5 of the report).

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Location Plan
Appendix B – Determination letter

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Report - Petition – Request to reduce the speed limit on the 40mph Section of Westwood Heath Road to 30mph

1. Context (or background)

1.1 A petition of 42 signatures has been received requesting the reduction in speed limit on 40mph Section of Westwood Heath Road to 30mph.

1.2 The petition advises:

‘Reduce speed limit on section of Westwood Heath Road to 30mph’

1.3 Westwood Heath Road is a local distributor road linking Cromwell Lane to Kirby Corner Road. In the area where the 30mph speed limit has been requested, there is a relatively small number of residential properties and these are only on the northern side of the road. A location plan is provided in Appendix A to the report.

1.4 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to speed limit reductions are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member considered the petition prior to this meeting and in response requested that the issue was dealt with by determination letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

1.5 The determination letter (copy in Appendix B to the report) advised that following a speed survey coupled with other analysis, the speed limit should not be reduced as the current speed limit is appropriate.

1.6 Setting speed limits at the appropriate level for the road, and ensuring compliance with the speed limit plays a key role in ensuring greater safety for all road users. When setting speed limits, a number of key factors are considered, including existing ‘mean’ speeds, number of personal injury collisions, the road environment and the presence of vulnerable road users.

1.7 The underlying principles of speed limits are aimed at achieving a safe distribution of speeds consistent with the speed limit, which reflects the function of the road and the road environment. This includes assessing the mean speed to ensure it is appropriate to the prevailing conditions, and to ensure all vehicles are travelling at speeds below or as close as possible to the posted speed limit, in line with the conditions. The speed surveys revealed an 85th percentile speed of 43.7 mph and a ‘mean’ speed of 37.7mph on Westwood Heath Road.

1.8 An accident analysis of Westwood Heath Road has revealed a total of two personal injury collisions over the previous three year period. However further analysis has revealed that both collisions were not related to speed, and were caused by driver behaviour. The road environment is semi-rural and there are low numbers of vulnerable road users. As the existing speed limit reflects the road environment and has little impact on walking and cycling coupled with a low number of accidents; the existing speed limit should remain at 40mph. As highlighted in the speed surveys, vehicles are already travelling close to the speed limit and a reduction would not be enforceable or realistic for this type of road.

1.9 On receipt of the determination letter the petition spokesperson advised that they did not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and wanted it to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The recommended proposal in regard to the issues raised has already been approved and is detailed in the determination letter (copy in Appendix B to the report) and in paragraph 1.5 of the report.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 There is no proposed timetable as the request in speed limit has not been agreed.

5. Comments of Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

There is no financial implications associated with the recommendations.

5.2 Legal implications

There is no legal implications associated with the recommendations.

6. Other implications

- 6.1 **How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

- 6.2 **How is risk being managed?**

None

- 6.3 **What is the impact on the organisation?**

None

- 6.4 **Equalities / EIA**

No specific equalities impact assessment has been carried out.

- 6.5 **Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

None

- 6.6 **Implications for partner organisations?**

None

Report author(s)**Name and job title:**

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Directorate:

Place

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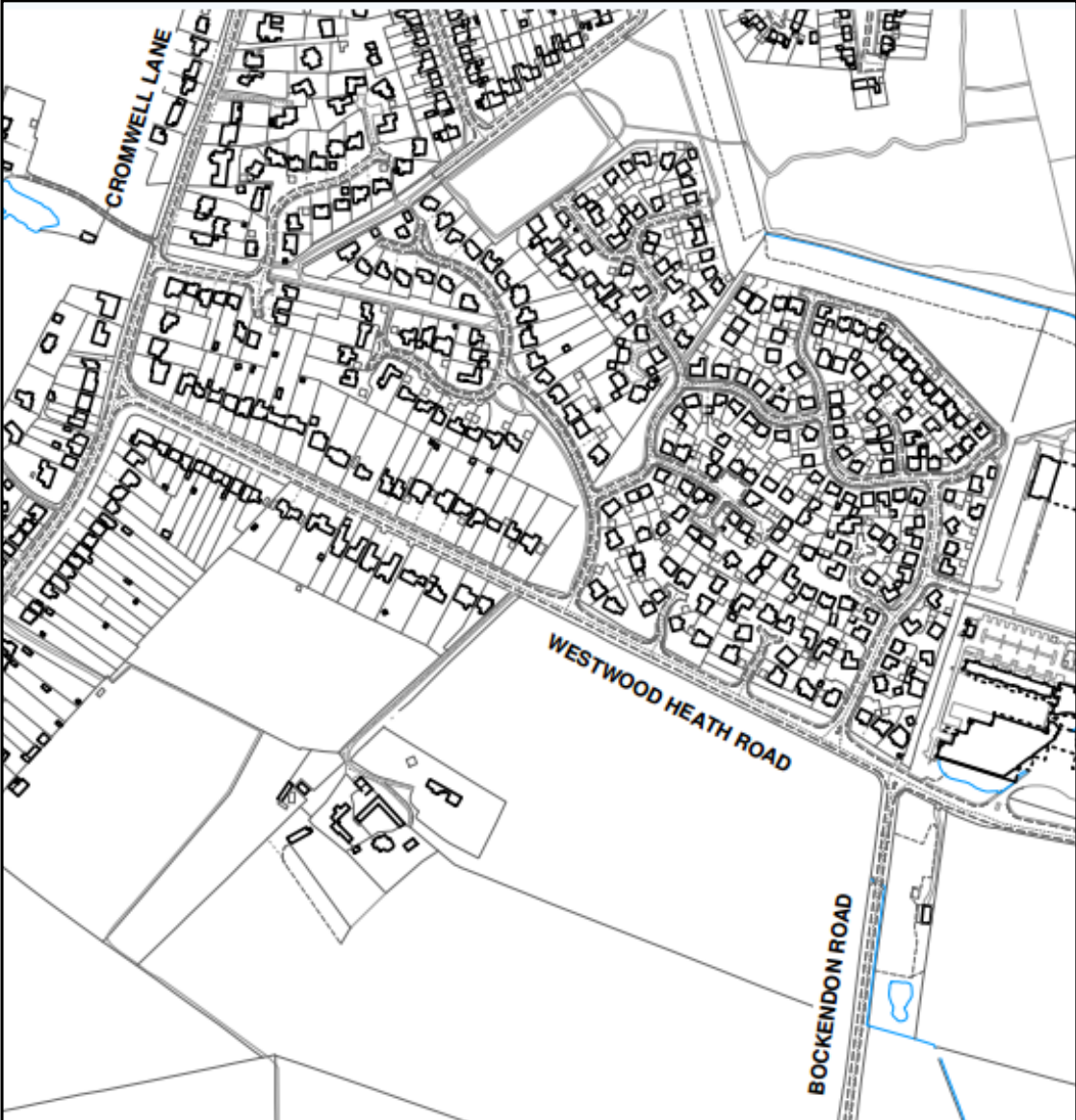
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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
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Karen Seager	Head of Traffic and Network Management	Place	08.06.2017	13.06.17
Sandra Berns	Senior Human Resources Manager	People	08.06.2017	13.06.17
Liz Knight/ Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Place	08.06.2017	13.06.17
Names of approvers: (Officers and Members)				
Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Place	08.06.2017	08.06.2017
Rob Parkes	Commercial Lawyer	Place	08.06.2017	09.06.2017
Councillor J Innes	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	08.06.2017	12.06.2017

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Appendix A – Location Plan



Appendix B – Copy of Text of Determination Letter

Re: petition submitted on 14 June 2016

Subject matter: Request to reduce the speed limit on 40mph Section of Westwood Heath Road to 30mph

I am writing with regard to the above petition and your request for a reduction in the speed limit on the 40mph section of Westwood Heath Road to 30mph.

The matter was discussed with Councillor Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, who has requested that this be dealt with by way of letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a future meeting so that this can be dealt with more quickly.

Following a speed survey conducted on the section of road that you have highlighted, we have concluded that the current 40mph speed limit is appropriate to the nature of the road and should be retained.

I would be grateful if you could please confirm in writing, either by email or letter, as soon as possible, that you agree that the petition be progressed by way of this letter. If you do not agree, a report responding to your petition will be prepared for consideration at a future Cabinet Member meeting. You will be invited to attend this meeting where you will have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the petitioners.