

## SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 14 DECEMBER 2010

### SPEED LIMIT REVIEW B2042 (A25 WESTERHAM ROAD, BESSELS GREEN, TO FOUR ELMS ROAD, FOUR ELMS)

Report of the: Director of Kent Highway Services

Status: For Consideration

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**Executive Summary:** This report describes the speed limit review along the B2042. Members are asked to consider whether to endorse the recommendations.

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**This report supports the Key Aim of** Reducing speed, encouraging safer driving and tackling known speeding crash hotspots. Also improving pedestrian safety, including measures to improve access for people with disabilities as indicated in the Sevenoaks Community Plan.

**Portfolio Holder** Mr David Brazier

**Head of Service** KHS – Head of Countywide Improvements – Behdad Haratbar

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#### Recommendations:

- i. That Members note receipt of the petition.
- ii. That Members endorse the speed limits illustrated in Appendix C, subject to funding and police approval.
- iii. The lead petitioner is informed of the board's decision.

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#### Background and Discussion

- 1 The receipt of the petition coincided with a speed limit review of the B2042. The petition was signed by 61 residents of Goathurst Common and others who reside along the B2042. A sample page of the petition is included as Appendix A. The petitioners are requesting a reduction in the speed limit along the B2042.
- 2 The B2042 is a lower tier B class road and travels predominantly through a rural environment and is generally orientated north to south, incorporating speed limits of 30mph and 60mph. The current speed limits along the B2042 are illustrated in Appendix B.
- 3 Proposed changes to speed limits need to demonstrate a quantifiable injury crash saving, and must have the support of the Police. Potential schemes will be prioritised for inclusion in the Crash Remedial Measure (CRM) Programme.

- 4 Due to strong residential support, officers carried out a survey of the speed limits along the B2042. Kent Highway Services follows national guidance laid down by the Department for Transport (DfT) in setting speed limits. The details are contained in a document called "Circular Roads 1/2006 Setting Local Speed Limits". An important principle of this guidance is that "Speed limits should be evidence led, self explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance and not be seen by drivers as being a target speed at which to drive in all circumstances."
- 5 In accordance with the Government Circular 1/2006, officers' assessment of the appropriate speed limits along the B2042 are illustrated in Appendix C.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial; Resource (non-financial); Legal etc.; Value For Money

- 6 None for Sevenoaks District Council or Kent County Council as a result of this report.
- 7 No funding has been identified to implement the recommendations.

### **Risk Assessment Statement**

- 8 None.

### **Conclusions**

- 9 In the future any proposed changes to speed limits will need to demonstrate a quantifiable injury crash saving. Such schemes will need to be supported by the Police and prioritised for potential inclusion in the Crash Remedial Measure (CRM) Programme for 2011 / 12.
- 10 Kent Highway Services are in consultation with the Police regarding the proposed changes to the speed limit along the B2042 indicated in Appendix C.
- 11 In light of the above Members are asked to agree the recommendations, but note that funding has not been identified to implement them.

**Appendices**

- A Sample page of petition.
- B Plan of existing speed limits.
- C Plan of proposed changes to speed limits.

**Sources of Information:** Circular Roads 1/2006 Setting Local Speed Limits.

The background papers pertaining to the report are held on KHS file.

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