

Shoreham Road, Shoreham – Request for Reduction of National Speed Limit to 40MPH

To: **Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, 15th September 2020**

Main Portfolio Area: **KCC – Growth Environment and Transport**

By: **Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste**

Classification: **For information**

Ward: **Otford and Shoreham**

Division: **Sevenoaks North**

Summary: This report summarises the outcome of an investigation by Officers into the feasibility of reducing the existing National Speed Limit along Shoreham Road to 40mph. It is concluded that the location and existing speed vehicles do not meet the criteria to install an enforceable 40mph limit. As such, the current proposals are not considered for installation by KCC.

For Information

1.0.1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Kent County Council has received a report from Shoreham Parish Council requesting a reduction in the existing National Speed Limit along Shoreham Road to 40mph. The report details the local communities' concerns with road safety at this location and requests numerous highway improvements to be carried out.

2.0 Investigations

2.1 The A225 is in a unlit rural location and caters to a high volume of a variety of road users. There are few properties along Shoreham Road which are set back away from the carriageway with no existing footways.

2.2 Traffic surveys were carried out at four sites along the Shoreham Road to ascertain existing vehicle speeds. Data from the speed surveys have been provided to Shoreham Parish Council with a summary of the findings.

2.3 The key factors considered when making decisions on setting local speed limits are existing speed, collision history, road environment, road users and purpose. Most of Kent's rural network is subject to a National Speed Limit. The posted limit is an absolute maximum and drivers are encouraged to respond in accordance to the environment and the geometric characteristics of the road. National Speed Limits are set with terminal signs placed at the start of the restrictions with no additional repeater signage required. With any reduction in the speed limit it will be necessary to install additional signage to remind drivers throughout the route of the set limit. There is a risk a driver may believe that it is safe to consistently drive at the new stated speed limit throughout the route which is likely to be inappropriate when negotiating hazards such as bends.

2.4 Within the report the Parish Council have expressed concerns with pedestrian safety and requested the installation of pedestrian refuge islands between the bus stops at Shoreham Railway Station and the Public Rights of Way. Further investigations would be required to establish the demand in pedestrians crossing within the vicinity, without the presences of existing footways in would be difficult to install the islands. It would also be necessary to identify funding for the investigations.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The data retrieved from the traffic survey did not support the reduction to 40mph without the use of engineering measures. To implement a successful self-enforcing 40 limit along Shoreham Road it would be necessary to change its environment, so the driver understands the need to reduce speeds.
- 3.2 The proposed 40mph speed limit does not receive support from Kent County Council following investigations and the existing traffic speeds, we do not feel it would be appropriate to install at 40mph knowing compliance of the limit is unlikely which could itself lead to future safety concerns:
- 3.3 If the Parish Council would like to discuss in further detail their concerns at this location and would like to explore the possibility of exploring other types of highway improvements a meeting can be arranged with a the Schemes, Planning and Delivery Team however this work may be delayed until 2021, due to SPD's priority work on the Emergency Active Travel Fund.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Kent County Council are not able to support the proposals to lower the speed limit to 40mph. A meeting may be required with the Schemes, Planning and Delivery Team and the Parish Council to discuss other available improvements that will aid in alleviating their concerns with road safety.

Future Meeting if applicable: N/A	Date: 17 th August 2020
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