



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Highways Committee

Report of: Executive Director, Place

Date: 10 January 2013

Subject: Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy:
Objections to proposed 20mph speed limits in the Lowedges
and Woodthorpe areas

Author of Report: Simon Nelson, 2736176

Summary:

To report the receipt of objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limits in the Lowedges and Woodthorpe areas.

Reasons for Recommendations:

Reducing the speed of traffic in residential areas will, in the long term, reduce the number and severity of accidents, reduce the fear of accidents, encourage sustainable modes of travel and contribute towards the creation of a more pleasant, cohesive environment.

The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in these areas forms part of the City's approved 20mph Speed Limit Strategy.

Recommendations:

Overrule the objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Lowedges, and make the Speed Limit Order in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Overrule the objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Woodthorpe, and make the Speed Limit Order in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Inform the objectors accordingly.

Background Papers: NONE

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Matthew Bullock
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Deborah Eaton
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Ian Oldershaw
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
South and East Community Assemblies
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Leigh Bramall
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Culture, Economy and Sustainability
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

SHEFFIELD 20MPH SPEED LIMIT STRATEGY: OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS IN THE LOWEDGES AND WOODTHORPE AREAS

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 To report the receipt of objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the Lowedges and Woodthorpe areas.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE?

2.1 Reducing the average speed of drivers in residential areas would, over time, bring about a reduction in the number and severity of traffic accidents, thus helping to create *safe and secure communities*. Implementing the schemes described in this report together with an ongoing programme of publicity and driver education would contribute to the creation of a safer residential environment and a *Great Place to Live*.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 These schemes represent a first step towards influencing driver behaviour and establishing 20mph as the default maximum appropriate speed in residential areas. This will contribute to the delivery of:

- the *'sustainable and safe transport'* objective of the Corporate Plan;
- Policy W of the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2011-2026 (*To encourage safer road use and reduce casualties on our roads*); and
- the Council's Vision For Excellent Transport In Sheffield (*a better environment; a culture where the car is not always the first choice*)

4.0 REPORT

Introduction

4.1 On 8th March 2012 Cabinet Highways Committee approved the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy, the long-term aim of which is to establish 20mph as the maximum appropriate speed in residential areas of Sheffield. It was agreed that the first stage of implementation of the strategy would be the introduction of seven 20mph speed limit areas, one within each Community Assembly, during the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14. The new speed limits would be indicated by traffic signs and road markings only, that is, they would not include any additional 'physical' traffic calming measures such as road humps.

4.2 On 13th September 2012 Cabinet Highways Committee approved an implementation programme for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in seven areas: Lowedges, Woodthorpe, Steel Bank, Upperthorpe, Parson Cross (west), Spink Hall (Stocksbridge) and Charnock. It was agreed that

the Lowedges and Woodthorpe 20mph areas would be introduced first, ideally by the end of the current financial year.

Consultation

- 4.3 Approximately 5,000 households within Lowedges and Woodthorpe received leaflets informing residents about the proposals and inviting comment or objections to the introduction of the 20mph Speed Limit Order (see [Appendix A](#)). The responses are summarised below:

	Lowedges	Woodthorpe
Support	8	8
Object	1	3

The four objections relate to the principle of introducing sign-only 20mph speed limits. The objectors each feel that the new speed limit will not be observed and would therefore be a waste of money.

- 4.4 The Head of the Road Policing Group has issued the following statement on behalf of South Yorkshire Police:

“The South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership has worked hard to achieve significant reductions in the numbers of collisions on our local roads. We have achieved all our agreed targets in reducing the number of people who are killed or seriously injured over the last few years however, we know that this success brings little comfort to the individuals, friends and families of those who are victims of such collisions.

It is well known that speed is a primary cause of collisions that result in death or serious injury and pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable road users when in the presence of speeding vehicles. Within our local residential areas we know that the collision rates, when these factors come into play, are too high and need to be addressed.

South Yorkshire Police working alongside their colleagues in the Safer Roads partnership share the clear commitment to address the causes of collisions and support new initiatives that help to achieve this goal.”

- 4.5 The South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have confirmed it has no objections to the proposals. No response has been received from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.
- 4.6 South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive has indicated its support in principle for the 20mph Speed Limit Strategy. It has consulted with bus operators about the proposals for Lowedges and Woodthorpe and has received no objections. TM Travel has indicated its support for the Lowedges scheme.

Discussion

- 4.7 The March 2012 report summarised the available research into the likely effects of sign-only 20mph speed limits. It was acknowledged that similar schemes in other cities had yielded only marginal reductions in speed, typically between 1 and 2mph.
- 4.8 It went on to suggest that the key to realising substantially lower speeds on our residential roads lies less in traffic signs and enforcement than in affecting a fundamental shift in attitude. The aim therefore is to build a widespread and longstanding community acceptance that 20mph is the appropriate maximum speed to travel in residential areas. Ultimately, the success or otherwise of these schemes lies primarily in the hands of the residents of Lowedges and Woodthorpe.
- 4.9 As it will be some time before the long term benefits of 20mph speed limits can be fully realised and evaluated it was suggested that a sensible approach would be to make progress on a staged basis, particularly given the current budget constraints. The seven pilot sign-only 20mph schemes will allow time for further evaluation of the enduring speed reduction and safety benefits of schemes implemented elsewhere.

Relevant Implications

- 4.10 The two 20mph areas described in this report are to be funded from an approved allocation from this year's 2012/13 Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme. The financial allocations include an allowance for:
- a commuted sum to cover the cost of the future maintenance, payable to Amey under the terms of the Streets Ahead contract; and
 - ongoing publicity to promote the benefits of lower speeds in residential areas
- 4.11 The Council has a statutory duty to promote road safety and to ensure that any measures it promotes and implements are reasonably safe for all users. In making decisions of this nature the Council must be satisfied that the measures are necessary to avoid danger to pedestrians and other road users or for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. Providing that the Council is so satisfied then it is acting lawfully and within its powers.
- 4.12 An Equality Impact Assessment was conducted for the September 2012 report and concluded that safer roads and reduced numbers of accidents involving traffic and pedestrians would fundamentally be positive for all local people regardless of age, sex, race, faith, disability, sexuality, etc. However, the most vulnerable members of society (i.e. the young, elderly, disabled and carers) would particularly benefit from this initiative. No negative equality impacts were identified.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The objections relate to the principle of introducing sign-only 20mph speed limits into residential areas, and therefore the approved Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy. As such, no alternative options have been considered.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Reducing the speed of traffic in residential areas will, in the long term, reduce the number and severity of accidents, reduce the fear of accidents, encourage sustainable modes of travel and contribute towards the creation of a more pleasant, cohesive environment.

6.2 The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in these areas forms part of the City's approved 20mph Speed Limit Strategy.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Overrule the objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Lowedges, and make the Speed Limit Order in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

7.2 Overrule the objections to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Woodthorpe, and make the Speed Limit Order in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

7.3 Inform the objectors accordingly.

Simon Green
Executive Director, Place

10 January 2013

Why are we doing this?

Reducing the speed limit to 20 mph will mean:

- There are likely to be fewer accidents.
- People are more likely to cycle and walk.
- Anyone involved in a collision is less likely to be seriously injured. You are far less likely to be seriously injured if struck by a vehicle travelling at 20 mph than at 30 mph.

What happens next?

We plan to start the new speed limit in Spring 2013.

Have your say
If you have any questions or comments please contact:

Simon Nelson, telephone: 0114 273 6176
email: simon.nelson@sheffield.gov.uk
www.sheffield.gov.uk/20mph

If you wish to object, please put this in writing to:
Transport, Traffic & Parking Services
2-10 Carbrook Hall Road
Sheffield S9 2DB

Formal objections must be received by Friday 7 December 2012

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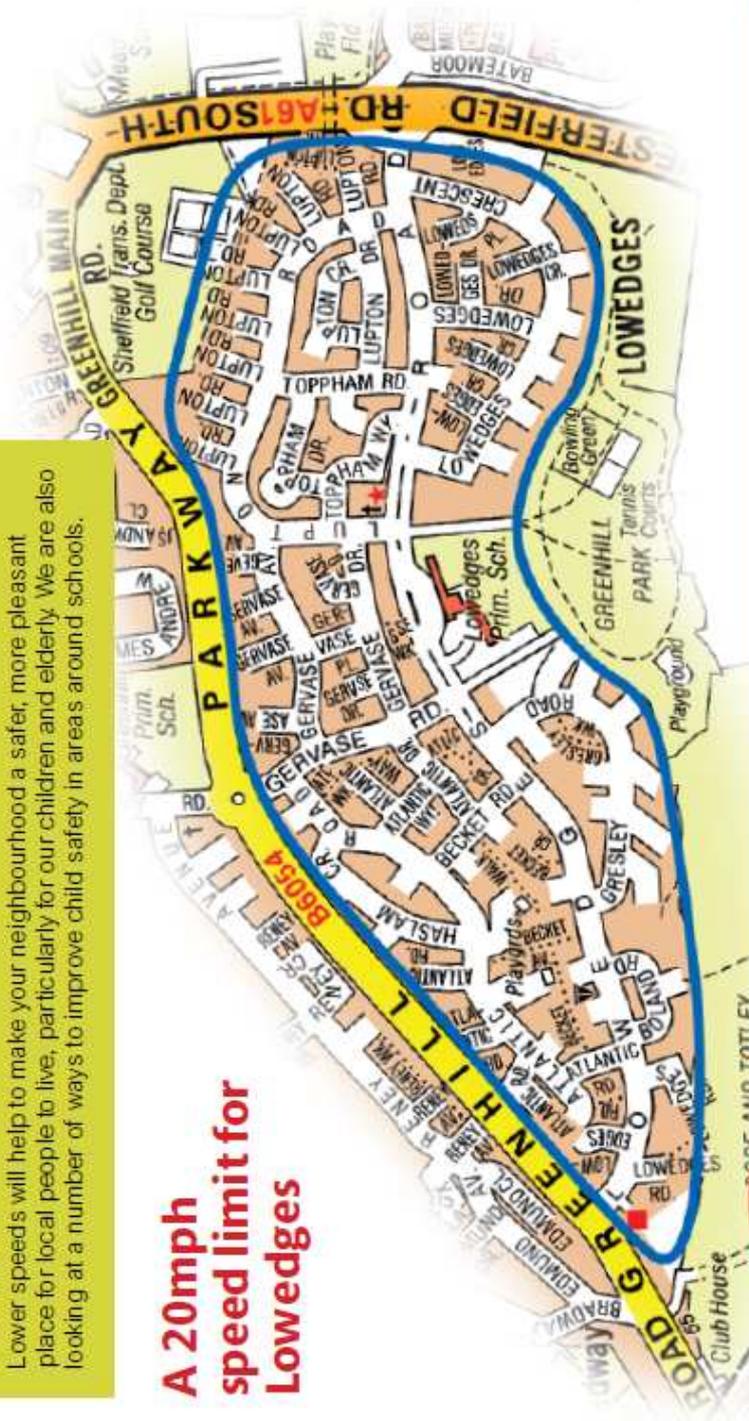
We really want to reduce the number of accidents on our roads in Sheffield.

To help us do this we want to reduce the speed limit to 20mph from 30mph in Lowedges.

Lower speeds will help to make your neighbourhood a safer, more pleasant place for local people to live, particularly for our children and elderly. We are also looking at a number of ways to improve child safety in areas around schools.

A 20mph speed limit for Lowedges

The boundary of the Lowedges 20mph speed limit is outlined in blue on the map below.



What will the new 20mph areas look like?

The entrance to the new area will have speed limit signs to let drivers know the new speed limit. The area will also have small signs mounted on lamp posts to remind drivers of the new lower limit. There will be no traffic calming measures such as road humps, as we don't have the funding available for these.





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DP10704





Help us make our roads safer!

We want to reduce the speed limit to 20mph from 30mph in Woodthorpe



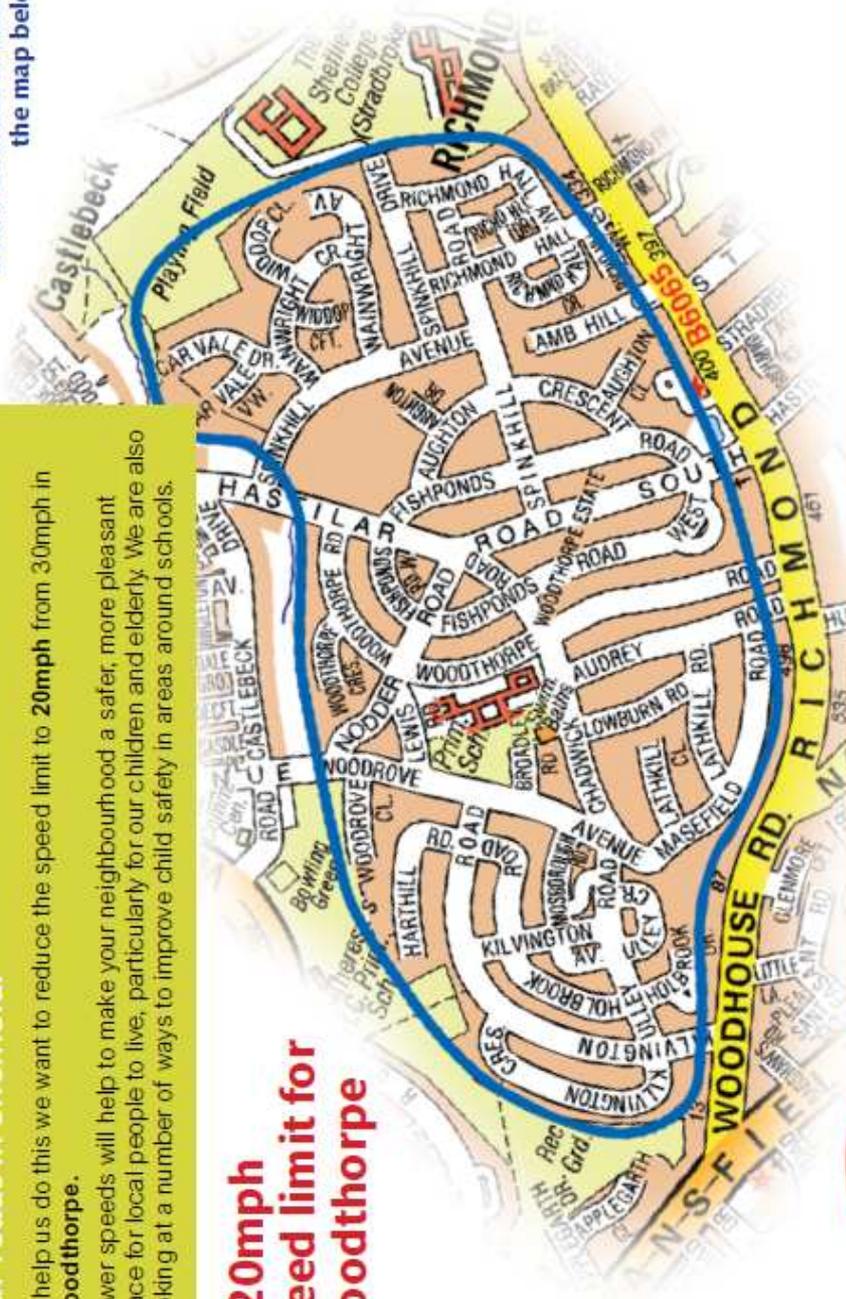
We really want to reduce the number of accidents on our roads in Sheffield.

To help us do this we want to reduce the speed limit to **20mph** from 30mph in **Woodthorpe**.

Lower speeds will help to make your neighbourhood a safer, more pleasant place for local people to live, particularly for our children and elderly. We are also looking at a number of ways to improve child safety in areas around schools.

A 20mph speed limit for Woodthorpe

The boundary of the Woodthorpe 20mph speed limit is outlined in blue on the map below.



What will the new 20mph areas look like?



The entrance to the new area will have speed limit signs to let drivers know the new speed limit. The area will also have small signs mounted on lamp posts to remind drivers of the new lower limit. There will be no traffic calming measures such as road humps, as we don't have the funding available for these.