

B1149 Corpusty/Saxthorpe Link Road Speed Restriction

Report by the Director of Planning and Transportation

Summary

This report outlines the objections to the advertised speed restrictions for Corpusty and Saxthorpe associated with the new link road. This report follows previous approval by Cabinet to advertise the Orders at the 19 September 2001 meeting.

1. Background

- 1.1. The works associated with the B1149 Corpusty/Saxthorpe link road started on 6 August 2001. The link road will provide an alternative route for through traffic avoiding the core of the two villages and will bypass an existing 7.5t weight restricted bridge. This will remove the existing lengthy HGV diversions which impact on other communities at present.
- 1.2. The new section of road has been designed to current standards and has been subject to extensive consultation with the Parish Council and other organisations throughout its' development.
- 1.3. A petition was presented to the Planning and Transportation Review Panel at its 9 July meeting detailing concerns from residents of Irmingland Road that the speed of vehicles will be too high along the new link road. They contend that this will present a danger for motorists (and pedestrians when crossing) using the Irmingland Road and Norwich Road junctions. To improve safety, the residents would like a 40mph speed limit introduced on the new section of road, particularly at the junction. This is supported by the local County Councillor (Mr Wright).
- 1.4. At the 9 July Review Panel meeting, Members had sympathy with the request for a reduced speed limit. The Panel asked that Officers investigate the possibility of imposing a lower but realistic limit from the outset, with any appropriate traffic calming measures, and report back.
- 1.5. At the 19 September Cabinet meeting, details of the consultation with the Parish Council and local County Councillor were reported. Cabinet agreed the recommendations presented, namely that:-
 - A 50mph speed limit be introduced along the length of the link road with a 30mph limit extending from Saxthorpe village to encompass the new roundabout.



If you would like this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact David Allfrey on 01603 224313 minicom 01603 223833.

- Authority be given to advertise the Orders for the speed limits (as above and also including consolidation of the existing 30mph restrictions in Corpusty & Saxthorpe).
- The additional measures comprising warning signs, road markings and pedestrian refuge be introduced at the Irmingland Road junction as part of the initial construction.
- A speed assessment study should be completed within 3 months of the opening of the link road to determine whether additional traffic calming measures (such as rumble strips and flashing signs suggested by the Parish Council) are required.
- An agreement in principle is to be made to a financial commitment to implement any additional traffic calming measures if required by the study.

An amendment to the above was requested by Cabinet, namely that rumble strips should not be introduced but a 40mph limit should be considered, if appropriate, following completion of the speed assessment study.

2. Consultation

- 2.1. The speed limit Orders were advertised in the local press on 12 October with written objections being requested by 5 November 2001. Notices were also placed throughout Corpusty and Saxthorpe detailing the proposed speed limits during the above period. Copies of the Orders and drawings showing the extent of the speed limit ([see appendix A](#)) were also issued to the local store/post office in Corpusty.

3. Objections

- 3.1. One objection was received from Mr & Mrs Sinclair of The Manor House, Norwich Road, Corpusty. They reiterate the concerns previously raised by the Parish Council, local Member and Irmingland Road residents (reported to Cabinet). A copy of their letter is included at appendix B.
- 3.2. In addition, Mr & Mrs Sinclair also object to the 30mph speed restriction applied to Irmingland Road. They have concerns regarding the narrow and winding layout of the road, particularly with regard to pedestrian and cyclist safety. They request that the road be designated a Quiet Lane, with a 20mph speed restriction.

4. Discussion

- 4.1. The comments relating to the proposed 50mph limit on the new link road have been extensively discussed previously and presented to Cabinet. The recommendations in relation to this, agreed by Cabinet (see 1.5 above), provide additional safety measures at the Norwich Road/Irmingland Road junction to warn motorists and provide a safer crossing location for pedestrians. The speed assessment study following completion of the link road will also provide vital information with regard to the actual speeds of vehicles. This will form the basis for consideration of any additional safety features should they be required.

- 4.2. An existing 30mph speed restriction applies along Irmingland Road. Traffic conditions will not alter as a result of the new link road and the proposed speed limit Order simply consolidates the existing speed restrictions where they exist already in the area.
- 4.3. The Norfolk Quiet Lanes initiative is intended to provide a network of minor roads where vehicles are discouraged and walkers, cyclists and horse riders are encouraged. Individual routes are not currently promoted. A 20mph (or any other) speed restriction is not introduced on a Quiet Lane as approval for this is not yet available from the Department of Transport.

5. **Resource Implications**

- 5.1. **Financial:** There will be some additional budgetary requirement for the speed assessment study following completion of the link road. This is estimated at approximately £2K and has already been approved by Cabinet. There may also be a requirement for funding if additional safety measures are considered necessary (a costing for this would need to be established following the study). A commitment to provide this funding has already been made by Cabinet.
- 5.2. **Property:** None
- 5.3. **Staff:** None
- 5.4. **IT:** None

Recommendation

It is recommended that:-

Notwithstanding the objection received, the 50mph speed limit along the link road with a 30mph limit extending from Saxthorpe village to encompass the new roundabout and consolidation of the existing 30mph speed restrictions in Corpusty and Saxthorpe be introduced as advertised.

Officer Contact:

Philip Wishart

on: 01603 223461