

Agenda item no.	
Subject	20mph speed limit – High Street Burwash.
Author	Councillor Betty McBride
Report to	Burwash Parish Council
Meeting date	12 March 2019

Background

Actions are ongoing to deliver the initial aspects of the Burwash Parish Council traffic strategy – and principally the implementation of a 20mph limit on Burwash High Street. Following advice from our independent Traffic consultant and the placing of co-funded radar speed tests at the east and western ends of the High Street, the Chair of Council and Parish Clerk met with Brian Banks, East Sussex County Council Road Safety Team Manager.

Progress

1. **Eastbound** – speed limits at the test points were in the required range to have a 20mph limit. It was agreed that we would recommend to Council that the 20mph zone should start with the new ‘village gates’ which are likely to be placed just past Rectory Close on the A265. The flashing speed sign on the left-hand corner as drivers enter the village could possibly be adapted to flash ‘20’ rather than ‘30’. It might also be possible to put red-road sections with 20mph road markings at some point along this part of the A265.
2. **School Hill** – it was agreed that we would recommend that the 20mph zone would extend down to the point at which the national speed limit starts.

The challenge is the range – and starting points – of the speed limits going in/out of the village at the Heathfield end.

3. **Westbound** – the key issue here is where the reduced speed should start. We were advised that, were the 20mph limit to start just past Oakleys, as originally envisaged, the 30mph stretch would be too short to meet road management and police criteria. We were told that the start point of the 50mph section of the A265 was fixed and that therefore our options are to:
 - a. Extend the 40mph to the proposed 20mph start point, outside Oakleys
 - b. Remove the 40mph section on the A265 towards Heathfield and extend the 30mph out to join the 50mph.

Option 3.a. is unlikely to be viewed favourably, particularly by Highfields residents. We will need to conduct another radar speed test to establish whether speeds are already in the appropriate range (40mph and below) to go for Option 3.b.

Funding

Exploring Option 3.b. will require one (or perhaps two) speed tests. We are waiting to hear if ESCC will match fund the test(s) again. There is likely to be an additional co.st of £400 for BPC. This is covered in the 2019/20 budget, which has £23,000 allocated for the traffic calming measures.

Next steps prior to public consultation on the 20mph limit:

1. Council to confirm the recommended start point of the 20mph limit for the eastern section of the village, and the inclusion of School Hill as a 20mph zone.
2. Council to agree to get some additional technical advice from the independent engineer and a further traffic survey(s) at £400 to look at implementing an extended 30mph in the westbound section of the A265 out of the village. Delegation to the Clerk for spending up to £800 of the £23,000 budget from the 1st April.