

Committee: **Lead Cabinet Member for Community Services**

Date: **26 October 2016**

Report By: **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Title of Report: **Petition to Reduce the Speed Limit on the B2169 Bayham Road**

Purpose of Report: **To consider the petition for a reduced speed limit on the B2169 between Bells Yew Green and the County boundary.**

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:

- (1) A reduced speed limit on this part of the B2169 Bayham Road is not a priority for the County Council due to its relatively good safety record; and**
 - (2) Frant Parish Council may wish to consider funding a lower speed limit on this part of the B2169 Bayham Road through the Community Match fund scheme.**
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1. Background Information.

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 17 July 2016 Councillor Standley presented a petition to the Chairman requesting:

“That the national speed limit on the B2169 Bayham Road be reduced as the features of the road make it unsuitable for a national speed limit and furthermore these combined with inappropriate speed, create safety issues for homeowners, their families, cyclists, pedestrians and delivery vehicles. The increasing frequency and severity of accidents on this section of road is a clear indicator that something is wrong and the risk of severe injury or death is rising”.

1.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members’ Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Community Services.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The petition is requesting that the national speed limit on the B2169 Bayham Road between the existing 30mph speed limit in Bells Yew Green in the east and the County boundary at Tunbridge Wells in the west is reduced. A Location Plan indicating the length of the road where the lower speed limit is requested is included as Appendix 1.

2.2 It should be noted that if a lower speed limit was introduced along the whole route it would be necessary to extend it into Kent to meet with the existing Tunbridge Wells 40mph speed limit that starts about 150m west of the County boundary. This would require Kent County Council to support and progress a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to lower the speed limit on the part of the road within Kent.

2.3 The section of road in East Sussex is about 1.4km long and predominantly rural in nature. There are approximately seven residential properties and one rural business visible to drivers along the length of road where the lower speed limit is being requested.

2.4 This part of the B2169 Bayham Road is in good condition as it was resurfaced last year over most of its length. The road markings were refreshed and the catseyes were also replaced as part of this work.

2.5 Crash data provided by Sussex Police indicates that there has been one serious and one slight injury crash recorded on this part of the B2169 in the latest three years. A plan indicating the location and severity of these crashes is included as Appendix 2.

2.6 The ten year crash data provided by Sussex Police indicates that there has been one serious and three slight injury crashes on this part of the B2169 Bayham Road. There is no consistent causation factor recorded for the crashes, nor was excessive speed identified as the main factor in any of the incidents. A plan indicating the location and severity of the crashes in the latest 10 years is included as Appendix 3.

2.7 As this part of the B2169 Bayham Road has a relatively good safety record, a lower speed limit is not a priority for the County Council. However, it will be retained on our list of lower speed limit requests, so its safety record can be monitored as part of our speed management programme.

2.8 Alternatively Frant Parish Council may wish to consider making an application for a lower speed limit on this part of the B2169 Bayham Road through the Community Match fund scheme.

2.9 The Road Safety Team would have no objection, in principle, to a lower speed limit on this part of the road if a speed survey indicated that a reduced limit would be appropriate and effective. There is presently no speed data available for the B2169 between Bells Yew Green and the County boundary. If Frant Parish Council supported the principle of funding a lower speed limit, the Road Safety Team would share the cost of a speed survey, which is around £400.

2.10 It is difficult to be certain how much a lower speed limit would cost on the B2169 Bayham Road until some speed surveys have been carried out and we have agreed the most appropriate approach with the Police and Frant Parish Council. However, from experience in other locations, a lower speed limit would cost in the region of £5,000 to £10,000.

2.11 A copy of the petition has been forwarded onto the Senior Asset Engineer (Drainage) and the Highway Steward for the area to make them aware of the petitioners' concerns in respect to the surface water flooding onto the carriageway. It should also be noted that the B2169 Bayham Road is on a primary gritting route.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 Due to its relatively good safety record a lower speed limit on the B2169 Bayham Road is not a priority for the County Council at the present time. However, the County Council would not object, in principle, to a lower speed limit if an application through the Community Match fund scheme was successful.

3.2 If Frant Parish Council would like to consider supporting a lower speed limit through the Community Match fund scheme it is recommended that they initially contact the Road Safety Team to arrange for some speed surveys to be carried out. The speed surveys will help us to make a more detailed assessment as to whether a lower speed limit would be effective and help to improve road safety on this part of the B2169 Bayham Road.

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LOCAL MEMBER
Councillor Standley

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
None