

Report to: **Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

Date of meeting: **22 June 2015**

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

Title: **Petition calling on the County Council to reduce the speed limit on Shortbridge Road and Golf Club Lane, Piltdown to 40mph.**

Purpose: **To consider a reduction from the existing national speed limit of 60 mph to 40mph**

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that the C10 Golf Club Lane and C9 Shortbridge Road, Piltdown have a relatively good safety record and that reducing the speed limit to 40mph is not presently a priority for the County Council.

---

## **1. Background Information**

1.1. At the County Council meeting on 10 February 2015 Councillor Galley presented a petition to the Chairman stating that '*We the undersigned support the Piltdown Residents Association petition to reduce the speed limit on both Shortbridge Road and Golf Club Lane to 40mph*'. A plan showing Shortbridge Road and Golf Club Lane, Piltdown is provided in Appendix 1.

1.2. A copy of the petition is available in the Members Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate that petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

## **2. Supporting Information**

2.1. Crash data provided by Sussex Police indicate that there have been two slight injury crashes recorded on the C9 Shortbridge Road in the latest 3 years. One of the crashes occurred at its junction with Golf Club Lane and the other crash occurred at its junction with the U7517 Sharpsbridge Road. Neither of the two crashes were directly related to the speed of the drivers. No crashes were recorded on Golf Club Lane in the same period. A plan showing the location of the crashes is included in Appendix 2.

2.2. Speed surveys were carried out on the C9 Shortbridge Road and C10 Golf Club Lane in January 2009. The results of the survey carried out on Shortbridge Road indicated the average speed of traffic to be 45.0mph westbound and 43.7mph eastbound outside Chapel Cottage, and 32.9mph northbound and 33.5mph southbound just to the north of Lower Morgans. The speed survey carried out on Golf Club Lane outside Pightle recorded the average speed to be 32.9mph northbound and 32.1mph southbound. The location of the speed surveys and a summary of the results are included in Appendix 3.

2.3. The predominant factors the Road Safety Team consider when determining an appropriate speed limit for a road are the number of properties that are clearly visible and the existing average speed of traffic. It is recognised nationally that the majority of drivers travel at the speed they consider to be safe for the conditions of the road. Effective speed limits look to reinforce good driver behaviour by aligning the posted speed limit close to the average speed of traffic, thereby reducing the spread of vehicle speeds. This has been found to produce the safest environment.

2.4. It is acknowledged that there are several properties visible to drivers on the C10 Golf Club Lane and on the C9 Shortbridge Road. The results of the speed surveys indicate that drivers are

recognising this as they are already traveling faster on the more rural part of the C9 Shortbridge Road, and slowing down on the narrower parts of the road where there are some visible properties.

2.5. If a 40mph speed limit were to be introduced on Shortbridge Road and Golf Cub Lane there is a risk that the average speed of traffic would increase on the narrower parts of the road where there are properties visible to drivers. This is because repeater signs would have to be provided at regular intervals along the road and experience has shown that some drivers see these as a target and increase their speed accordingly. There is no requirement to provide national speed limit repeater signs along a country lane.

2.6. Additional signs in country lanes are also not always popular with local communities as they add to the street clutter and spoil the character and appearance of an attractive rural lane.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 Due to its relatively good safety record, the C9 Shortbridge Road and the C10 Golf Club Lane are not a priority for a lower speed limit at the present time. In the Road Safety Team's experience, introducing a 40mph speed limit may not make the road any safer as it might actually increase the average speed of traffic on the narrower and more developed parts of the road. The Lead Member is therefore recommended to agree that the existing 60mph national speed limit should remain unaltered.

#### **RUPERT CLUBB**

**Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Contact Officer: Michael Higgs

Tel No. 01273 482106

Email: [Michael.Higgs@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Higgs@eastsussex.gov.uk)

#### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Roy Galley

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None