

Committee:	Regulatory Planning Committee
Date:	16 January 2019
Report by:	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title of Report	Traffic Regulation Order – C208 Park Road and C343 New Road, Hellingly
Purpose of Report	To consider the objection received in response to the formal consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Order associated with the development off Park Road and New Road, Hellingly
Contact Officer:	Jodie Lulham – 01273 337052
Local Member:	Councillor Bennett and Councillor Bowdler

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Not uphold the objection to the draft Order as set out in paragraph 2.3 of this report**
 - 2. Recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the draft Traffic Regulation Order be made as advertised.**
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CONSIDERATION BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT:

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning permission for a residential development of 650 new dwellings, a new primary school, up to 300sqm of retail floorspace and employment provision at Land East of Park Road and South of New Road, Hailsham was granted by Wealden District Council in April 2014 (Planning application reference WD/2013/0637/MEA). The planning permission was accompanied by a Section 278 Agreement that secured the implementation of highway improvements and speed limit changes alongside the aforementioned development.

1.2 The speed limit changes need to be implemented through a Traffic Regulation Order, the cost of which is funded by the developer. The proposed changes are to lower the speed limit, with the intention to reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the new junctions (the development accesses).

1.3 To encourage compliance with the reduced speed limits a number of traffic calming measures will be installed on the surrounding roads. These will include new traffic signal controlled junctions on Park Road and Amberstone and gateway features on Amberstone and New Road. Appropriate road markers, roundels and repeater signs will be positioned throughout.

1.4 An initial consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was carried out between 17 May 2018 and 8 June 2018 with the local District and County Councillors, the Parish Council and statutory consultees including the emergency services. Objections that were received, which were unable to be resolved, made the request to introduce a 30mph speed restriction throughout Park Road and New Road, a restriction that Sussex Police would not support at the present time.

1.5 On the 23 November 2018, the County Council gave notice under the relevant section of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (as amended), that it was proposing to amend the existing TRO. A copy of the draft TRO is included in Appendix 1. Copies of the advertised Notice of proposals along with explanatory plans were placed at various locations along Park Road and New Road; and a copy of the proposals were also placed on deposit in County Hall reception and at Hailsham Library for viewing by members of the public. In addition, the Public Notice was advertised in the local newspaper (The Sussex Express) on 23 November 2018. The formal period for representations ended on 14 December 2018.

1.6 The proposed amendments to the TRO are as follows:-

- Implementation of 30mph speed limit on C208 Park Road from its junction with A271 Hawkswood Road for its entirety to its junction with C343 New Road.
- Implementation of 40mph speed limit on C343 New Road from its northern junction with C208 Park Road south-eastwards for its entirety to the junction with A271 Amberstone.
- Implementation of 40mph speed limit on C343 New Road from its Western junction with C208 Park Road eastwards for a distance of 130m.
- Implementation of 40mph speed limit on C208 Park Road from its Southern junction with C343 New Road northwards for its entirety to junction with U7692 Mill Lane.

These proposals are shown on the attached plan, Appendix 2

1.7 The proposed speed limit will reduce vehicle speeds on the approach to the new junctions that access the approved development sites. This allows for compliance with visibility guidance, increases pedestrian safety and minimises potential for collisions at the proposed site entrance.

2. Comments and Appraisal

2.1 During the consultation period, three items of correspondence were received objecting to the proposals.

2.2 The grounds for the objections received are as follows:

- The proposal does not reduce the speed limit low enough (the request is for Park Road to be reduced to 30mph). The reasons cited for this:
 - Damage to vehicles parked on the carriageway caused by vehicles alleged to have been breaking the speed limit;
 - Crossing the road between existing homes and parked vehicles can be difficult;
 - The 40mph speed limit will make joining New Road and Park Road difficult.

2.3 It is not considered that the objections provide sufficient grounds to warrant the modification or withdrawal of the proposals. It is not appropriate to introduce a further

reduced or extended 30mph speed limit as the road layout and lack of frontage development on Park Road, means that a lower speed limit is unlikely to have high levels of compliance. Sussex Police supported the length of the proposed 30mph limit and introduction of the 40mph limit for these reasons. The proposed speed limits will lead to improved highway safety and ensure that the development site access is policy compliant.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

3.1 This proposal seeks to address road safety concerns identified in the Stage 1 / 2 Road Safety Audit associated with the proposed development at Land East of Park Road and South of New Road, Hellingly whilst being mindful of the need to ensure the flow of traffic on C208 Park Road and C343 New Road. It should also be noted that the need for changes to the speed limits form part of the planning requirements for the development as part of the mitigation for it. It is considered that the concerns raised by the objectors should not be upheld and the proposals should proceed as per the advertised TRO.

3.2 In turn, it is recommended that the Planning Committee recommends to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the draft Order be made as advertised.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
3 January 2019

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None