

Osballdwick 20mph Speed Limit Removal Petition

Summary

1. To consider a petition submitted by Cllr Warters on behalf of residents of Osballdwick village requesting the removal of the 20mph speed limit.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended:
 - To retain the 20mph speed limit.

Reason: Removal of a 20mph limit is likely to result in an increase in speed. Evidence shows that even small increases in speed of 1mph raise the potential for incidents.

- To review the provision of the existing signs in Osballdwick to determine if there are any that could be removed and still comply with the signing regulations/guidance.

Reason: To reduce street clutter and future maintenance costs.

Background

3. The front sheet of the petition is shown in Annex A. The view expressed is that the number of 20mph signs are a blight on the street scene and that the speed limit is unenforceable.
4. The 20mph speed limit in this area was part of a wider project across the city to introduce 20mph limits in residential areas. The limit would require driver compliance rather than having physical measures such as road humps, chicanes, etc that had been used for smaller 20mph zones up to that point. Nationally the speed limit in street lit built up areas is 30mph and these do not require signing because it is standard across the country and drivers are expected to know and comply with this. Any deviation from 30mph built up areas with street lights has to be signed appropriately in order for drivers to be aware the limit is not the standard 30mph. Hence in areas where the speed limit is changed to 20mph there is a requirement for repeater signs regularly within the area designated as 20mph.

5. Enforcement of the 20mph speed limit can be carried out by the Police providing the signing is correct. Resources targeted towards tackling speeding are limited however and tend to be used in areas where speeds are higher.
6. Whilst lower vehicle speeds are known to contribute to lower accident rates and severity, typically in residential areas the accident rate is already very low and comparisons between before and after the introduction of a 20mph speed limit cannot be relied on statistically for such a small area over a brief time period. What officers can report is that from the monitoring carried out across the city there has been a modest 1 to 2mph reduction in vehicle speeds where the 20mph speed limit has been introduced.
7. Broadly 20mph speed limits are popular with residents in residential areas and whilst there may be some concerns over compliance, 30mph as a maximum speed is considered by the residents as inappropriately high for streets used by families and unaccompanied children. Although we are able to re-introduce the national standard 30mph maximum speed limit for street lit built up areas there will be opposition to such a move. We can also be reasonably confident that if there were to be an accident following the raising of the speed limit there would be a view that the higher speed limit was a contributory factor - even if from the details of the incident this is not the case.
8. The concerns regarding signage street signage considered as clutter is a matter of personal perspective, this perspective may be more prevalent in rural urban areas or conservation areas. The signing regulations and guidance does change over time and the removal of old signs can contribute to an improved street scene and also lead to a reduction in ongoing maintenance costs. It is suggested that this is an area of work that could be taken forward with the Parish Council / local ward member.

Consultation

9. Any changes to Traffic Regulation Orders would have to be formally consulted on (advertised in the local press, on street, to organisations and details delivered to adjacent properties).

Options for Consideration

10. Option 1 – Take forward a revision to the speed limit Traffic Regulation Order to remove the 20mph speed limit and re-instate a 30mph speed limit. This is not the recommended option because there will be significant number of resident and road safety objections to such a proposal as this

will provide an incoherent approach to 20mph in residential area's in the city and risk the 5-10% reduction in traffic speeds that has been achieved.

11. Option 2 – Take no action. This is not the recommended option because there may be scope to reduce the number of signs in the Osbaldwick village area.
12. Option 3 – Carry out a review of traffic signs within the village area and consult with a representative of the Parish Council and / or local ward Member to determine if there are any traffic signs that are surplus to requirements. This is the recommended option because it recognises local concerns regarding the urbanisation of the village area and contributes to reducing ongoing maintenance costs. This can be funded using the existing annual new signing and lining schemes budget.

Council Plan

13. The above proposal contributes to the Council Plan of:
 - A prosperous city for all,
 - A council that listens to residents

Implications

14. This report has the following implications:

Financial – None

Human Resources – None

Equalities – None.

Legal – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Information Technology - None

Land – None

Other – None

Risk Management - None.

Contact Details

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Date:

09/1/2018

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

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Wards Affected: Guildhall

All

For further information please contact the author of the report.

Background Papers: None.

Annexes:

Annex A Petition Front Page

Annex A

Petition Front Page



The last Labour run York Council saw fit to waste £500,000 on installing ugly, pointless and unenforceable 20mph speed limit signs throughout York.

Ward Councillor Mark Warters has offered to remove the blight of this street clutter from the streets of Osbaldwick at no cost, the only thing needed is for the City of York Council to issue the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders and revoke the 20mph limit in Osbaldwick.

We the undersigned call on the City of York Council to make the necessary arrangements to allow for the removal of the 20mph signs in Osbaldwick.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE