

Consultation Response from Sussex Police Response

From Sussex Police

Sent: 15 August 2018 16:57

To: Neil Smith

Subject: RE: Plaistow (Ifold) - Plaistow Road - - Application for a 30mph speed Limit - Pre Consultation

Dear Neil,

As you are aware, Sussex Police formally objected to the policy easement Councillors gave themselves in relation to the lowering of 40mph speed limits in these circumstances because it is contrary to established practice and the advice and guidance contained within the Department for Transport's Circular Roads 1/2006 and 2013.

The concerns expressed by Sussex Police in their formal letter of objection at the time have been realised, in as much, that when such lower limits are introduced the compliance levels are generally lower than at those locations where the speed assessment criterion is met, resulting in Crime and Disorder Act issues, where there were none previously. As a consequence, the high expectations of the public are not met and this generates complaints to the police for speed enforcement activity to force compliance. There are a number of examples across the County where this is the case, on this occasion I will highlight two, Clays Hill, Bramber and Billingshurst Road, Ashington. Both examples have similarities to Plaistow Road, where there is very little frontage on one side of the road making it look less like a built-up area where a 30mph speed limit is the obvious default.

The philosophy of the DfT and WSCC, according to many of their consultation documents, is that speed limits should be self-enforcing. It is not the role of the police to make a badly sited, inappropriate or unrealistic speed limit work. That said, we would always enforce lawful speed limits and where drivers were detected by officers exceeding it, they would be dealt with as appropriate in the circumstances. I would add however, the Service has limited capacity and resilience and will assume that if correctly placed, speed limits will be self-enforcing and that the highway authority will be responsible for ensuring it meets those aims.

Therefore, if this matter were to be progressed, it is the expectation of Sussex Police that suitable engineering measures will be introduced to adequately influence driver behaviour to ensure the speed assessment criterion, normally associated with the introduction of a 30mph speed limit is met. If this is not the case, it is quite possible Sussex Police will formally object to the lowering of the speed limit.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Jeffrey

Traffic Management West

Road Policing Unit

Surrey Police and Sussex Police – Operations Command

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www.surrey.police.uk

www.sussex.police.uk

From: Neil Smith [

Sent: 15 August 2018 16:03

To: Jeffrey Ian 63711

Subject: Plaistow (Ifold) - Plaistow Road - - Appliction for a 30mph speed Limit - Pre Consultation

Hi Ian

The County Council received an application to reduce the speed limit on Plaistow Road Ifold

I have assessed the development criteria as being met

The County Council has speed data collected (2016) from the location shown on the attached plan, so it is within the required time frame to manage applications for a new TRO request and postdates the introduction of the 40mph Speed Limit Order made in 2004. The average speeds are between 36.8mph and 37.6mph, which exceeds the maximum average speed (32.9mph) intervention level defined in the County Council's Policy .

However the proposal falls within the area of Policy (Paras 1.6, 1.7 and 3.4) where the local CLC may depart from established criteria and instruct officers to promote a TRO for a lower speed limit.

The proposal is promoted by Plaistow Parish Council with local support. The Local Member (Janet Duncton) feels she has no option other than to support Parish as it is clearly falls within the stated aspirations of the policy, the location being within a named village currently subject to a 40mph speed limit.

This process requires an additional Report to go to the CLC so I write now to seek your formal view on the proposal to lower the existing 40mph speed limit on Plaistow Road to 30mph.

I attach a copy of the plan (existing and proposed) , speed data and my assessment of the proposal.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course .

Many thanks

Regards

Neil

Neil Smith

Traffic Engineer (Part Time Wednesdays and Thursdays)
Economy, Infrastructure and Environment
Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

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Location: Northleigh, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RG

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