

To: Maidstone Joint Transportation Board
By: Tim Read, Head of Transportation
Date: 18th July 2012
Subject: Charlton Lane, West Farleigh – Speed Limit Proposals
Classification: For Decision

Summary: The purpose of this report is to provide members with updated results of the Charlton Lane 30Mph Speed limit consultation and ask Members to decide whether to implement the proposals.

1. Background

Over many years West Farleigh Parish Council has been campaigning for a reduction in speed limit on Charlton Lane to reduce vehicular speed improving highway safety. Meetings have been held between Kent County Council Officers and West Farleigh Parish Council regarding these issues. Due to the way Kent County Council prioritises funding, this item historically has not been deemed safety critical when compared with locations countywide which have an existing personal injury crash record. West Farleigh Parish Council therefore approached Mrs Stockell to seek funding through her Member Highway Fund Budget.

Given the historical discussions and the strong desire of West Farleigh Parish Council, Mrs Stockell agreed to fund this request.

The speed limit on Charlton Lane is currently de-restricted; the lane is 0.6 miles in length, half of which is residential at each end. There is currently a children's play area located at the southern end of the lane. There is no continual footway on Charlton Lane resulting in pedestrians being forced to walk in the carriageway.

2. Proposals

A public notice of intention to implement a 30Mph speed limit on Charlton Lane was published in February 2012. The notice requested comments and objections be made to the Highway Authority by 30th March 2012 for consideration. Details of these proposals can be seen in the drawings attached to Appendix 1 of this report.

The reasons stated for the restrictions were as follows:-

- 1) Avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road
- 2) Preserving the character of the road especially suitable for walking
- 3) **Results of the Consultation**

Notices were erected on-site identifying the proposals asking for comments during the consultation period.

Summary of Results

	Support	Object
Proposed 30Mph limit	18	14
Alternative Suggestions	8	16
Kent Police	1	
Total	27	30

Kent County Council received results of a local survey that was undertaken during the consultation period, the results of the consultation are provided above. The results provided show the overall results of the consultation showing that 27 supported the proposal and 30 objected to the proposal. The main reasons given for supporting the proposals were the improvement of highway safety on the lane. The main reasons given for objecting was the urbanisation of the lane due to the amount of additional signage associated with the speed limit change.

Consultation responses also identified alternative measures to be introduced on Charlton Lane, the results above show the support/objection in principle but due to data protection reasons full copies of the representations made can not be attached to the report however, and copies can be viewed by appointment. The alternative measures mainly consist of various traffic calming measures in order to physically reduce traffic speed. These proposals are not part of the consultation.

3. Discussion

As there have not been any recorded personal injury crashes at this location in the last three years the Highway Authority can not state that the proposals will statistically improve road safety in the area.

The environmental impact of a 30Mph limit will result in 30Mph repeater signs being installed every 200m on alternative sides of the road. This will result in approximately 10 additional signs installed on Charlton Lane inclusive of the proposed terminal points.

4. Conclusion

The purpose of this report is to provide members with updated results of the Charlton Lane 30Mph Speed limit consultation. Members are therefore

