

To: Maidstone Joint Transportation Board

By: Tim Read, Head of Transportation

Date: 18th July 2012

Subject: Boxley Road and Beechen Bank Road – Proposed 40mph Speed Limit

Classification: For decision

Summary: Following a request from Boxley Parish Council to reduce the speed limit on Boxley Road and Beechen Bank Road from National Speed Limit to 40mph, the Traffic Regulation Order was advertised and formal consultation was carried out. One objection was received from Kent Police and it is summarised below. The Board is asked to decide whether it supports the introduction of the reduced speed limit in spite of the objection, whether the proposed additional measures should be introduced in order to gain Police support, or whether a 50mph speed limit should be introduced instead.

Background

1. Boxley Parish Council requested that the speed limit on Boxley Road and Beechen Bank Road be reduced from National Speed Limit to 40mph. As this was not a priority for KCC Highways and Transportation funding, the Parish Council are funding the reduced speed limit.
2. A Public Notice confirming the proposed change in speed limit on Boxley Road and Beechen Bank Road was open for comment between the 24th June 2012 and 16th July 2012. A plan showing the proposed 40mph Speed Limit is attached as Appendix 1.
3. One objection was received from Kent Police. They stated that they feel “that if this proposal were to be introduced drivers may not view the road environment as a 40mph speed limit, and this may lead to inappropriate overtaking and excess speed”.
4. Kent Police stated that in order to support the proposed 40mph speed limit, they require additional engineering methods to be introduced to encourage compliance. This would consist of speed roundels painted on the carriageway with the vertical repeater signs and edge of carriageway markings if there is sufficient road width.
5. If the engineering methods are not implemented then Kent Police would only support a 50mph Speed Limit.

Comment

6. Boxley Road and Beechen Bank Road are semi rural in nature with a number of bends throughout and residential properties set back from the carriageway. The increased use of roundels and white paint on the carriageway will take away from the aesthetics of the road.
7. Boxley Parish Council is funding these works, and if further lining is required, the Parish will have to agree to fund the additional costs.
8. The implementation and maintenance of the additional road markings would require a more complicated method of traffic management, with further disruption to residents and road users.
9. Kent Police look for all new Traffic Regulation Orders to be self enforcing and state that with high demand on their resources, the enforcement of this speed limit will be a low priority.
10. If the additional measures are not implemented, and a 40mph speed limit is introduced, then the scheme will not have the support of Kent Police, and as such the Police will not enforce the lower speed limit.

Decision

11. Members are asked to consider the objection submitted by Kent Police and the impact on the Parish Council resources and rural nature of the road, against the requirement for speed limits to be enforced.
12. Members are asked to decide either:
 - a. To implement the 40mph speed limit as proposed with no additional measures, and therefore without Police support.
 - b. To implement the 40mph speed limit with the additional road markings. This would then require approval from Boxley Parish Council who would need to meet the additional cost.
 - c. To implement a 50mph speed limit which would have Police support and not require any additional measures. This would also require the approval of Boxley Parish Council who are funding the scheme.


Background documents: Nil

Contact Officer: Lisa Gillham
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Appendix 1: Plan showing Proposed 40mph Speed Limit

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Ordnance Survey 100019238.



 <p>Kent County Council Ashford Highway Depot Hemwood Industrial Estate Ashford TN24 6AD Tel: 08453 247 800</p>		<p>Drawing title</p> <p>40MPH SPEED LIMIT PROPOSED LAYOUT</p>	
<p>Project</p> <p>BOXLEY ROAD, WALDESSLADE MAIDSTONE</p>		<p>Drawing status</p> <p>FOR CONSULTATION</p>	
<p>Rev</p> <p>0</p>		<p>Scale</p> <p>NTS at A4</p>	
<p>Revision Date</p> <p>11/06/12</p>		<p>Do not scale</p>	
<p>Purpose of revision</p> <p>FIRST ISSUE</p>		<p>Drawing number</p> <p>12-ITS-MA-03/801</p>	
<p>Drawn</p> <p>LJG</p>		<p>Rev</p> <p>A</p>	
<p>Checked</p>		<p>Approved</p>	
<p>This drawing is not to be used in whole or part other than for the intended purpose and project as defined on this drawing. Refer to the contract for full terms and conditions.</p>			
<p>Sign Faces Shown</p>			
<p>16/07/12</p>			