



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

10th July 2024

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport – D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Resolven and Tonna

**B4242 NEATH ROAD, ABERGARWED
(REVOCAATION) AND (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2024**

Purpose of the Report:

To consider the objection received following the advertisement of the B4242 Neath Road, Abergarwed (revocation) and (40mph speed limit) order 2024, as indicated in Appendix A.

Executive Summary:

The report outlines the proposed 40mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order which was formally advertised resulting in the objection being received.

Background:

The Welsh Government have implemented a national roll out of a revision to the default speed limit of 30mph.

The new default speed limit in lit areas across Wales will be 20mph not 30mph as previously. This happened in September 2023 with the new default limits becoming operational.

Where roads have a new default speed limit of 20mph it has created a situation such as the B4242 Neath road, Abergarwed where you have a section of road that is national speed limit immediately dropping to a 20mph default speed limit. It is proposed to create a buffer speed limit of 40mph in advance of the existing 20mph default speed limit to deter heavy braking which could in turn lead to collisions.

Financial Impacts:

The scheme is to be funded by the Welsh Government.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix B, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below: -

A full impact assessment is not required as the proposed traffic regulation order will provide a safe environment for all highway users.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

The proposal was advertised for a 21-day period between the 2nd February 2024 and the 23th February 2024.

Risk Management Impacts:

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

A consultation exercise was undertaken for a period of 21 days between 2nd February 2024 and the 23rd February 2024.

A letter with a plan was hand delivered to the properties in the surrounding areas near to the proposed 40mph buffer speed limit.

We received 1 objection to the scheme which is summarised below :-

Objections:- *Any officer observations/ comments are illustrated in italics in response to the points raised.*

- a) A resident states that they strongly object to the 40mph buffer speed limit as they are already suffering due to the

20mph default speed limit being introduced in the area. They raise concerns around bus times and chemist deliveries suffering as a consequence. They also state that the road is wide enough for 60mph.

Whilst the local highway authority appreciates the residents' concerns, the scheme is only proposing to introduce a short section of 40mph buffer speed limit in advance of the default 20mph speed limit located in the village of Abergarwed. By lowering the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph in advance of the 20mph speed limit, this allows a short section for deceleration rather than breaking harshly at the 20mph speed limit terminal signs which are located just before the first row of houses in Abergarwed.

The local member's has been consulted and they support over ruling the objection and implementing the scheme as advertised.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that the objection is overruled to the B4242 Neath road, Abergarwed (revocation) and (40mph speed limit) order 2024, as indicated in Appendix A to the circulated report) and that the scheme is implemented as advertised.

The objector will be notified of the decision accordingly.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Order is necessary to provide a buffer speed limit of 40mph in advance to the 20mph default speed limit on small sections of the highway that were previously national speed limit in the interest of road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Plan – Proposed 40mph buffer speed limit, B4242 Neath road, Abergarwed.

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers:

None.

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