



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION AND STREETSCENE
SERVICES CABINET BOARD

20th January 2023

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Neath North, Neath South and Neath East

**B4287 CIMLA ROAD, CIMLA, NEATH (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) -
ORDER 2022**

Purpose of the Report:

To consider the comments and objections received following the advertisement of the B4287 Cimla Road, Cimla, Neath (30mph speed limit) - Order 2022, as indicated in Appendix A.

Executive Summary:

The report outlines the proposed 30mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Orders which were formally advertised resulting in objections being received.

Background:

The Welsh Government are proposing to implement a national roll out of a revision to the current default speed limit of 30 mph.

The new default speed limit in lit areas across Wales will be 20 mph not 30 mph as currently. This is planned to happen in September 2023 when the new default limits become operational.

Local Authorities are able to convert back from the default of 20 mph speed limit to the current 30 mph speed limit on agreed strategic roads by creating a traffic regulation order.

The proposed 30mph speed limit traffic regulation order has been agreed with the Welsh Government and the local members as an exception to the general default 20 mph speed limit as indicated in Appendix A.

The traffic regulation order is necessary to maintain the existing speed limit of 30 mph on the B4287 Cimla Road, Cimla within the borough after the Welsh Government has passed legislation to implement a 20mph default speed limit in urban areas nationally throughout Wales in the interest of road safety.

The Council as Local Highway Authority considers that these roads are strategic routes with higher volumes of daily traffic compared to urban residential streets and as such does not meet the criteria or the nature of a road or roads with a speed limit of 20 mph.

The Council considers that the existing 30 mph speed limits are appropriate speed limits in order to maintain a reasonable traffic flow on higher traffic volume strategic routes.

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 orders 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 proposals were advertised for a 21-day period between 23rd September 2022 and the 14th October 2022.

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 23rd September 2022 and 14th October 2022.

There were 182 letters and plans hand delivered to the properties on the B4287 Cimla Road, Cimla detailing the proposals. Following a three-week consultation exercise, 11 objections were received.

A summary of the objections received are given below:-

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

- 1) Residents are against this proposal due to the already excessive speeds along the route.

If traffic is travelling in excess of the legal speed limit then this is a matter for the Police to consider because they have the statutory Powers of enforcement not the Council.

- 2) Residents have stated that they have difficulty exiting their drives onto Cimla Road due to poor visibility from indiscriminate parking and the speed of traffic.
- 3) Residents have requested a controlled crossing for the lower section of Cimla Road as it is almost impossible to cross the road safely due to the speed of traffic.

The Council has agreed to investigate indiscriminate parking and the location and viability of a controlled crossing.

- 4) Residents have stated that 20 mph is a lot safer and less polluting as this is a walking route for school children to numerous schools located just off Cimla Road.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation going forward.

- 5) Residents can't seem to understand the logic behind making Cimla Road 30mph as a strategic route yet Windsor Road in Neath will remain default 20mph.

The Council considers that Windsor Road is more commercial and the properties including residential are closer to the carriageway plus there is greater footfall than Cimla Road.

The local members have been consulted on the feedback received and support that the objections be overruled with the scheme being implemented as advertised in Appendix A.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that the objections are overruled to the B4287 Cimla Road, Cimla, Neath (30mph speed limit) - Order 2022 (as detailed in Appendix A to the circulated report) and that the scheme is implemented as advertised.

The objectors are to be informed of the decision accordingly.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Orders are necessary to maintain the existing speed limit of 30 mph on sections of the B4287 Cimla Road, Cimla, Neath within the borough after the Welsh Government has passed legislation to implement a 20mph default speed limit in urban areas nationally throughout Wales 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 – B4287 Cimla Road, Neath – Proposed traffic regulation order.

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers:

None.

Officer Contact:

Mr Martin Brumby, Engineering & Transport
Tel. No. 01639 686013
Email m.brumby@npt.gov.uk

Mr Jonathan Davies, Engineering & Transport
Tel. No. 01639 686494
Email j.davies11@npt.gov.uk