



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

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

14th April 2023

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera

**BRYN ROAD, CWMLLYNFELL, COEDFFALDAU ROAD,
RHIWFAWR, GWRHYD ROAD, RHIWFAWR AND HEOL Y
GOEDLAN, RHIWFAWR (REVOCATION) AND (30MPH SPEED
LIMIT) - ORDER 2023**

Purpose of the Report:

To consider the support and objections received following the advertisement of the Bryn Road, Cwmllynfell, Coedffaldau Road, Rhiwfawr, Gwrhyd Road, Rhiwfawr and Heol Y Goedlan, Rhiwfawr (Revocation) and (30mph Speed Limit) - Order 2023, as indicated in Appendix A.

Executive Summary:

The report outlines the proposed 30mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order which was 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 30mph.

The new default speed limit in lit areas across Wales will be 20mph not 30mph 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 20mph speed limit to the current 30mph 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 20mph speed limit as indicated in Appendix A.

The traffic regulation order is necessary to maintain the existing speed limit of 30mph on sections of Bryn Road, Cwmllynfell, Coedffaldau Road, Rhiwfawr, Gwrhyd Road, Rhiwfawr and Heol Y Goedlan, Rhiwfawr 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 the road is a rural route with the nature of a country lane 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 20mph.

The Council considers that the existing 30mph speed limit is an appropriate speed limit in order to maintain a reasonable traffic flow on this rural route.

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 Tuesday 17th January 2023 and Tuesday 7th February 2023.

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 Tuesday 17th January 2023 and Tuesday 7th February 2023.

There were 41 letters and plans hand delivered to the properties on Bryn Road, Cwmllynfell, Coedffaldau Road, Rhiwfawr, Gwrhyd Road, Rhiwfawr and Heol Y Goedlan, Rhiwfawr detailing the proposals. Following a three-week consultation exercise, 1 statement of support and 2 statements of objection have been received on the proposal.

A summary of the objection and support received are given below: -

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

- a) The South Wales Police fully support this proposal.

The South Wales Police have committed to the routine enforcement of speed limits as part of the new Welsh Government default speed limit initiative.

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

- a) Residents believe that the route should be 20mph.
- b) Residents have objected to the proposal due to concerns for pedestrian and cyclist safety along the route. Maintaining a 30mph speed limit increases the risk to pedestrians and cyclists.

Whilst the council acknowledges that speeding may occur along this route, the enforcement of any speed limit falls under the jurisdiction of the local constabulary and it is the responsibility of the South Wales Police to enforce said speed limits. The South Wales Police have committed to the routine enforcement of speed limits as part of the new Welsh Government default speed limit initiative.

- c) Residents have objected to the proposal due to concerns for animal safety along the route. Maintaining a 30mph speed limit increases the risk to animals.

Whilst the council acknowledges that speeding may occur along this route, the enforcement of any speed limit falls under the jurisdiction of the local constabulary and it is the responsibility of the South Wales Police to enforce said speed limits. The South Wales Police have committed to the routine enforcement of speed limits as part of the new Welsh Government default speed limit initiative.

- d) Residents have road safety concerns because sections of the road have no footways.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation going forward and may consider additional mitigation measures if required.

- e) Residents feel that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs and the speed limit should be reduced to 20mph.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation going forward and may consider additional mitigation measures if required.

- f) A resident feels that a reduced speed limit would contribute to improving air quality and noise pollution caused by vehicles.

It should be noted that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are currently converting over 92% of the available existing 30mph highway network within the borough to the default speed limit of 20mph as part of the Welsh Government Initiative.

The local members have been consulted on the feedback received and support that the objections are 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 Bryn Road, Cwmllynfell, Coedffaldau Road, Rhiwfawr, Gwrhyd Road, Rhiwfawr and Heol Y Goedlan, Rhiwfawr (Revocation) and (30mph Speed Limit) - Order 2023 (as detailed in Appendix A to the circulated report) and that the scheme is implemented as advertised and monitored going forward.

The objectors will be informed of the decision accordingly.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Order is necessary to maintain the existing speed limit of 30mph on the Bryn Road, Cwmllynfell, Coedffaldau Road, Rhiwfawr, Gwrhyd Road, Rhiwfawr and Heol Y Goedlan, Rhiwfawr 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 – Cwmllynfell to Rhiwfawr – Proposed 30mph Speed Limit Extents

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers:

None.

Officer Contact:

Mr. Hasan Hasan
Engineering & Transport
Tel. No. 01639 636463
Email h.hasan@npt.gov.uk

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

Mr. Ryan L. Jones,
Engineering & Transport
Tel. No. 01639 686771
Email r.jones15@npt.gov.uk