

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SPEED LIMIT

**THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WELSH ROAD EAST, SOUTHAM) (40 MPH
SPEED LIMIT) (VARIATION NO.1) ORDER 2026**

**WELSH ROAD EAST, SOUTHAM, REDUCED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT TO BECOME 30MPH
BY VIRTUE OF SYSTEM OF STREET LIGHTING**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

1. BACKGROUND

To complement the construction of a new residential access road (Dakota Drive) off Welsh Road East, Southam, which has been approved through the planning process, Warwickshire County Council is proposing to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, on a short section of Welsh Road East, Southam, by the installation of a system of street lighting on the length of road described in the Schedule below.

The proposed highway improvement work is developer funded and will facilitate the construction of 43 homes. Access will be provided via a new priority tabletop junction to help control vehicle speeds and create a safe environment for all road users. An independent Road Safety Audit has been undertaken and confirmed compliance with current Department for Transport advice on setting Local Speed Limits. Warwickshire Police, the enforcing authority, is in support of the proposed lower speed limit due to the changing characteristics of the street scene, requiring drivers to reduce their speed through this new built-up area.

2. PROPOSAL

The proposed 30mph speed limit will reduce vehicle approach speeds through the new priority junction between Dakota Drive and Welsh Road East, thereby ensuring motorists approach the proposed new tabletop traffic calming feature at a safe speed.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 enables Warwickshire Council to make Orders prohibiting the driving of motor vehicles on a road at a speed exceeding that specified in the Order, or directing that a road on which there is provided a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than 183 metres apart shall become a restricted road (subject to a speed limit of 30 mph) or that it shall cease to be a restricted road.

Speed Limit Orders and Restricted Road Roads remain in force until superseded or revoked.

The Department for Transport's Circular 01/2013 'Setting Local Speed Limits' (updated March 2024) should be the basis for assessments of local speed limits, for developing route management strategies and for developing speed management strategies required as part of the Local Transport Plan process. Circular 01/2013 requires that "speed limits should be evidence-led and self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance. Speed limits should be seen by drivers as the maximum

rather than a target speed. Traffic authorities set local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is lower than the national speed limit.”

In deciding whether or not to make a Traffic Regulation Order, Warwickshire County Council is required to have regard to the matters set out in section 122 of the 1984 Act. Section 122(1) requires the Council to exercise the functions conferred on it by the 1984 Act as (so far as practicable having regard to the matters specified in section 122(2)) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. This requires the Council to weigh up several factors when deciding to proceed with a proposal.

The matters to which the Council must have regard are:-

- the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises
- the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run
- the national air quality strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1995
- the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of people using or desiring to use such vehicles
- and any other matters appearing to the Council to be relevant

Therefore, whilst the overall objective of the Council must be to secure the expeditious convenient and safe movement of vehicular traffic this will sometimes need to give way to the objectives in section 122(2) and a balance has to be achieved between the overall objective and the matters set out in section 122(2).

The Council, as the Traffic Authority, is required to have regard to its duty under section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, to manage the local road network to achieve as far as possible:

- securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the local road network; and
- facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the Traffic Authority,
- having had regard to its other obligations, objectives and policies as far as possible.

The Council is required to have regard to its duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 in the making of these proposals, and give regard to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and in particular, to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Thorough consideration was given to the factors set out in Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in proposing this Speed Limit Order.

Thorough Consideration was given to the equality's duty of the Council under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

3. SCHEDULE

Welsh Road East, Southam

(Existing 40mph limit -proposed reduction to 30mph Speed Limit – by virtue of a system of street lighting)

From a point 157 metres south-east of its junction with Hodnell Drive, in a south easterly direction along Welsh Road East for a distance of 85 metres

4. Existing Order to be varied.

The Warwickshire County Council (Welsh Road East, Southam) (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 2021

5. Plans

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Ends.