

Councillor Kathryn Field
By email only

24 May 2021

Dear Councillor Field,

Your recent enquiry 8641074

Thank you for your email of 12 May 2021 requesting that the proposal to extend the 40mph speed limit a short distance to cover the Millwood Homes development on the A2100 London Road is extended further to cover the Canada Road junction.

The Millwood Homes development (Lillybank Farm, planning application reference RR/2016/725/P) was approved with a Section 106 legal agreement. Part of this agreement requires an extension to the existing 40mph speed limit on London Road to the north of the proposed access to the development. This measure was, and still is required to make the access to this development acceptable in highway standards terms. A Traffic Regulation Order to implement this 40mph extension was made by the County Council in 2018. As the implementation of the related Millwood Homes development was subsequently paused, it was not necessary to implement the made Traffic Regulation Order from 2018 and extend the 40mph speed limit. This Traffic Regulation Order has subsequently lapsed and with Millwood Homes now wishing to implement the housing development, there is a need to put a Traffic Regulation Order in place again to ensure the previously agreed extension to the speed limit can be implemented.

The new Traffic Regulation Order, which is due to be advertised later this Summer, will still be in respect of the Millwood Homes development and solely relate to it being a mitigation measure for it. The Traffic Regulation Order that will implement this speed limit extension is not to address any existing road safety concerns and its implementation is paid for by the developer. Given that the County Council has previously made a decision for a Traffic Regulation Order on London Road, and that there has not considered to have been a change in circumstances in the subsequent years, the Traffic Regulation Order that will be advertised will be for an extension of the 40mph speed limit that replicates the previous lapsed Traffic Regulation Order. To see a map of this extended 40mph speed limit, see:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/documents/s21024/PC%20250718%20TRO%20A2100%20Plan.pdf>

I appreciate your view that if the 40mph speed limit is extended to a point beyond the Canada Road junction that drivers will understand and see a need for it, however this would extend the 40mph speed limit by at least another 600m from the proposed position of the 40mph speed limit agreed for the Millwood Homes development. As this section of road has very limited development set back from the road, mostly screened by vegetation and not clearly visible to a motorist, the reasons for the speed limit would not be obvious to a driver and could make the road more dangerous as it would likely increase the level of overtaking on this stretch of road.

Experience nationally has shown that setting speed limits so that they are significantly below the speed that most drivers consider appropriate only leads to them being widely ignored. This produces a large margin between the slowest and fastest vehicles which is recognised as a significant contributor to crashes. This can only be addressed with significant engineering measures

We presently have very limited resources available for road safety, including the investigation of lower speed limits. The funding that we do have for assessing appropriate speed limits and any associated engineering measures is from a wider road safety project that is targeted at locations that offer the most benefit in terms of their contribution towards casualty reduction.

I can confirm that this stretch of road currently has an excellent safety record with no recorded personal injury crashes in the most recent three year period (up to 30/04/2021), between Virgins Lane and the end of the footway to the north of Canadia Road. This does however mean that this section of the A2100 would not be a priority for further investigation at the present time.

While I realise that my response will be disappointing to both you and your constituents, I trust that you will understand the reasons for it. I would like to thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Skelton', written in a cursive style.

Nick Skelton
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