



**PLANNING AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 4th JANUARY 2022**

**REPORT TO CONSIDER:
OBJECTION TO THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND (HALL
FARM, SILKSWORTH, HARRATON AND OXCLOSE
AREAS OF SUNDERLAND) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT
ZONE)**

REPORT TO PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

OBJECTION TO 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE ORDER FOR THE PROPOSED 20MPH ZONE IN HARRATON, WASHINGTON (WASHINGTON EAST WARD)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee regarding an objection received, by the Council, in respect of the 20mph speed limit zone order for the proposed introduction of a 20mph zone that is intended in Harraton, and to request the committee to not uphold the objection that cannot be resolved within the constraints of the scheme, as set out below.

2.0 SCHEME BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following recommendations from Sunderland City Councils', City Services Scrutiny Committee and Sunderland City Cabinet, the Council have approved a policy for the implementation of 20mph zones throughout the city in residential areas where issues have been highlighted.
- 2.2 After carrying out assessments a 20mph zone has been identified in the Harraton area which will benefit from the proposed scheme. Not only will it create a safer environment for the Harraton community, but it will also create safer conditions outside of Harry Watts Academy and potentially encourage more parents and pupils to walk to school, which is another objective of Sunderland City Council. Although the Harry Watts Academy in Harraton is currently being refurbished, it is anticipated to reopen as a school in September 2022 so the 20mph zone will create a safer environment in preparation of this.
- 2.3 A public engagement was carried out between 28th August 2021 to the 24th September 2021. As part of the public engagement process engagement documents were issued to local ward councillors and all organisations on the Councils list of statutory consultees, such as the emergency services and bus operators. No objections were received. Public engagement documents consisting of an explanation of the proposals, response form, and plan of the respective proposed scheme were issued to all residents and businesses considered to be directly affected by the proposals.
- 2.4 Drawings of the proposals are shown in Appendix A of this report.
- 2.5 The proposals were supported by the majority of residents who returned votes. The details of the responses are;
- 334 consultation packs were delivered.
 - 109 responses received a 32.6% return.
 - 104 (95.4%) were in favour (Yes against No Votes)
 - 3 (4.6%) were opposed. (No against Yes Votes)
 - 2 returns were received which abstained or were indifferent

- 2.6 From the 17th November 2021 to the 10th December 2021 the Traffic regulation Order (TRO) for the 20mph zone was advertised both on site and in the local press. The advertisement period gives persons who may object to the scheme, the opportunity to raise their objection formally with the Council.
- 2.7 In response to the TRO for the 20mph zone advertisement the council received one objection to the proposal. The objector stated that they were only objecting to the 20mph zone in Harraton, and not the other 20mph zones within the order. The full objection is shown in Appendix B.

3.0 CONCLUSION

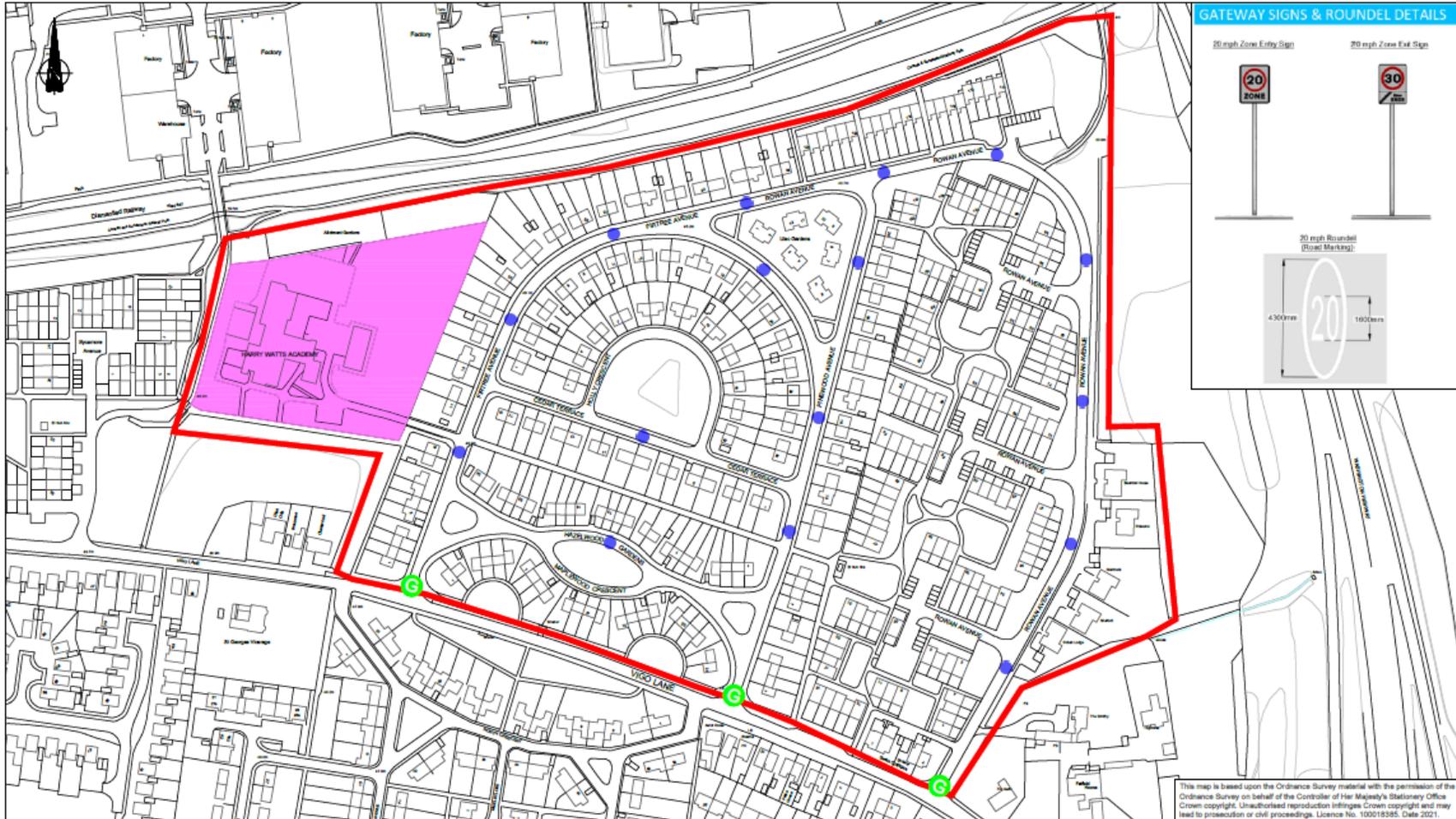
- 3.1 The Council has a duty under Section 122 of Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; “to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians).
- 3.2 It is expected to reduce the speed of the traffic so that the vast majority in the area are travelling at less than 24mph. The reduced speed would not only make the area a more attractive place to live but also further protect the vulnerable road users such as children, the elderly and those who have hearing and visual impairments.
- 3.3 It is therefore considered necessary to introduce a 20mph zone in Harraton. These improvements are considered necessary in order to improve road safety.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that the Executive Director of City Development be advised that:

- 4.1 **The objection to the 20mph zone order, for the proposed CITY OF SUNDERLAND (HALL FARM, SILKSWORTH, HARRATON AND OXCLOSE AREAS OF SUNDERLAND) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONE) not be upheld.**
- 4.2 **The objector is notified accordingly of the decision;**
- 4.3 **The Executive Director of City Development instruct the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to take all necessary steps to make and bring into effect the associated 20mph zone order and;**
- 4.4 **The Executive Director of City Development take all necessary action to implement the physical works associated with the 20mph speed limit zone order.**

APPENDIX A – Site plan



GATEWAY SIGNS & ROUNDTEL DETAILS

20 mph Zone Entry Sign:

20 mph Zone Exit Sign:

20 mph Roundel (Road Marking):

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City Development Directorate
Jack Crawford House
Commercial Road
Sunderland SR2 8QR

PROJECT: HARRATON - PROPOSED 20MPH ZONE

TITLE: PROPOSED AREA

DRAWN BY: J. BROWN	DATE: July 2021
CHECKED BY: D. HALL	SCALE: NTS
APPROVED BY: S. DIXON	SHEET SIZE: A3
DRAWING NO: IC/21/HAR/20AREA/001	REVISION: CD1

KEY

- Proposed 20mph zone.
- 20mph Roundel (See Gateway Signs & Roundel Details)
- G Gateway Signs (See Gateway Signs & Roundel Details)
- Vulnerable Road Users Site

Rev	Description	Date

APPENDIX B – Summary of the Objection

Objector	Nature of Objection	Consideration of Objection
<p>Objector 1</p>	<p>I am writing with regards to the proposed 20miles per hour zone in my area, on receiving a letter requesting as to whether or not I agreed with this, I returned my response as “ I do not agree” and having spoken to many of my neighbours they also stated that they returned the same.</p> <p>My objections are firstly it is a waste of council funds which I am sure could be used for much more urgent and important schemes in the area. Secondly, the area is currently a 30 miles per hour zone, and very few motorists stick to this limit now; so how would reducing the speed to 20 miles an hour make any difference. Unless you are proposing to police these limits in my opinion the money wasted would be a disgrace. Motorists will not stick to this as they totally disregard the current speed limit in place.</p> <p>Placing the light up smiling or unhappy faces make no difference as these are in place in other areas in Washington and drivers take not a jot of notice; an example of this is the ring road in Sulgrave currently supposed to be 30 miles per hour very few drivers stick to this.</p> <p>So if you intend to proceed with these planned zones, I feel that the policing of these areas would need to be very robust, or you may as well throw the money away. I have lived in this area for over 10 years and as a driver myself I have observed the speed that other drivers travel at past my home. So I would suggest that these schemes are</p>	<p>95.4% of votes received were in favour of the proposals.</p> <p>Of the specific street the objector lives we only received 1 no vote which was the objector</p> <p>Harraton has been highlighted as one of the areas that would benefit from a 20mph zone, creating a safer environment for all road users, especially for vulnerable road users such as children, the elderly and those who have hearing and visual impairments. The 20mph zone will also benefit the Harry Watts academy within Harraton. The Harry Watts academy in Harraton, is expected to repon as a school in September 2022, once refurbishment works are complete, so Harraton will see an increase in vulnerable road users, promoting the case for a 20 zone further.</p> <p>Policing speed limits is not a duty carried out by the council. Previous 20mph zones have shown to reduce vehicle speeds without the need for physical traffic calming. However, officers will carry out surveys after a bedding in period and if there is evidence of speeding vehicles further measures will be considered.</p> <p>With regards to the ‘light up smiling or unhappy faces’ these have proven popular across the city as we have had multiple requests for these to be installed elsewhere.</p>

	considered and debated in much more detail before wasting good money.	
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Regards