

OBJECTIONS / COMMENTS TO ADVERTISED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

Scheme:	Brookers Row, Crowthorne – 30mph speed limit proposal		
Date Advertised:	04.08.2021	No. of objections / comments received:	2

Objector	Summary of Objection / Comment	Officers Comments	Decision Abandon/Modify / Proceed as advertised.
Thames Valley Police	<p>Thames Valley Police are not opposed to lowering speed limits providing they are appropriate to the road environment and likely to have casualty reduction benefits. All aspects of the proposed speed limit are taken into account i.e. collision history, speed of existing traffic, road environment, enforcement, road character function with driver perception.</p> <p>There is a proven link between road environment/character and drivers speed. Drivers must respect the need for a speed limit. If not accepted as realistic, from our experience, a limit will quickly be abused and be the source of constant demands for police action. Communities not privy to this response will thereafter be unhappy and dissatisfied with the situation which Police activity would never satisfy.</p> <p>The current speed of traffic is a reliable indicator of how acceptable a new speed limit would be. The recognized way of ascertaining this level of self-compliance is the 85th percentile speed. From the data I am able to view the 85th percentile speeds are higher than I would wish to see. When making a decision on a speed limit the Highway Authority should still take into account the 85th percentile speed.</p> <p>I have reviewed the collision history for Brookers Row and can find no injury collisions along the length of Brookers Row, only two serious injury collisions at the junction with B3348 Bracknell Road meaning this proposal is an environmental, not casualty reduction led scheme.</p> <p>Having read and considered the reasons a reduced limit is proposed. I do not believe that a reduced speed limit will deter motorists from using Brookers Row as a through route, and I disagree with the statement that Brookers Row is predominantly residential in nature. There are no properties on the south side of the road which is made up of densely</p>	<p>85th percentile speeds were taken in Brookers Row before proposing the Order. The speeds recorded show that despite Brookers Row currently being signed as a 60mph limit, drivers are choosing to drive at much lower speeds. Indeed, whether comparing the recorded combined average speed of 30.7mph against the proposed speed limit of 30mph, or the combined 85th percentile speed of 35.9mph against the ACPO threshold of 35mph, the recorded speeds are within 1mph of that which would be considered suitable for a 30mph limit. The proposal was made on the assumption that the newly signed reduction in speed limit may achieve a 1-2 mph reduction in speeds, bringing the speeds within the thresholds expected within a 30mph.</p> <p>However, In light of the objection from Thames Valley Police (TVP) the Council considers there are three options on how to proceed with the speed limit proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Proceed as advertised, however as TVP are against the proposal, and are the enforcement agent for such an Order, we are not considering this option given the potential negative impact on future requests for enforcement; 2) Abandon the order and reconsult for a 40mph limit – this will incur the additional cost of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) adverts and will also delay the process as the statutory 21day process will need to be started again. The result of this process could not be the installation of a 30mph limit as TVP have objected, so even if local residents were to object to a proposed 40mph and request a 30mph, a 40mph limit would be the lowest speed limit that could now be considered. 3) Amend the order – Proceeding with a 30mph limit is not an option as TVP are not in support. Under current TRO procedure's the 	Modify proposals as per Drg 5072/245A

	<p>wooded area for the length of the road. There are only eight residential properties set in the middle of the north side of the road, either side is again wooded area. Brookers Row is less built up than Old Wokingham Road which is subject to 40mph speed limit.</p> <p>The look and feel of Brookers Row in my opinion is more in line with a 40mph speed limit which if proposed would tie into the current 40mph speed limit on Old Wokingham Road and would be acceptable to Thames Valley Police based on the speed data I have seen.</p> <p>For the reasons set out above Thames Valley Police will object to the proposed 30mph speed limit.</p>	<p>Council are able to make changes to a TRO without the need to re-consult providing the changes are not considered 'significant'. Therefore, we consider we have the option to amend the Order to a 40mph limit (a slightly lesser restriction) before making the TRO. This change is not considered 'significant' as it is still a reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 40mph, and avoids the potential negative outcomes associated with the other two options. A reduction in speed limit to 40mph is the lowest we can achieve and so the best outcome for all concerned. The residents of Brookers Row will be sent a letter to explain the situation.</p> <p>Given the Council's commitment to reduce the speed limit in Brookers Row and TVP support for a 40mph; it is our recommendation that the existing proposals and Order are amended to a 40mph speed limit (Option 3) and the Order be subsequently made and brought into operation.</p>	
X X XXXXXXXXX	<p>As a resident of Brookers Row, X XXXXXXXXX thinks that the proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30mph is a great idea as it will hopefully deter motorists continuing to use it as a cut through.</p> <p>X adds that working from home has made X realise how many drivers use the road as a cut through not only in the rush hours but throughout the day. It may also assist drivers to keep to their own side of the lane at this lower speed as lots of drivers tend to use the middle of the road.</p> <p>X concludes by saying this is a great proposal.</p>	Comments noted.	Modify proposals as per Drg 5072/245A

Local Member Comments on Consultation responses:

Cllr R Wade - Thank you for your email with the Police concerns.

From memory the Archer Strip test on Brookers Row performed this year indicated a mean speed of around 34-35 mph.

Although the road has been described as a rat run, the above analysis does not support this. Clearly, some drivers will drive too fast!

Brookers Row spans between Old Wokingham Road (40 mph limit) and the Bracknell Road (50 mph).

It makes sense, based on the above results, that Brookers Row should be 40 mph (rather than 30 mph)

Cllr T MacKenzie-Boyle - I am disappointed that TVP do not seem to be at all aware of the speed of the traffic that occurs down this small road. It is a rat run.

There is little evidence of TVP presence there or in Crowthorne.

It is a mainly residential road and their interpretation of a residential street is purely semantics.

If there is woods on one side and houses on the other – forgive me – the road can be classed as residential. Not woodland. Nor can it be in any way compared with the Old Wokingham Rd.

However if the officers of the council support the 40mph because of the objections by TVP then it has to be on those terms.
But note that I personally don't support the 40mph and find the response from TVP less than useful.