

Appendix C - Formal Support

I	Terry Hodgson (Sandlings Safer Cycling Campaign)
I	David and Jane Walker, Leiston Road
II - III	Professor Peter and Bridget Dickinson
III	Edmond Rivet, North Warren
IV	Lionel Lax, North Warren
IV	Sarah Somerset, Leiston Road
V	Peter Smith, Warren Hill Lane
V	Terence Mallinson, Warren Hill Lane
VI	Colin and Elaine Bermingham, Warren Hill Lane
VI	Jill and Nic Stuchfield, Warren Hill Lane
VII	Richard & Vera Newton, Warren Hill Lane
VII	Mark and Victoria Baillie, Warren Hill Lane
VII	Melissa Baker, Fairfield Road
VIII	Richard and Rita Walker, Leiston Road
IX	Dr Janet Tait, Aldeburgh
IX	Dr Stephen Lock, Aldeburgh
X	Francis Dickinson, Park Road
X	Rosie Barker, Aldeburgh
XI	Inga Grimsey, Leiston Road
XII	Wilfred George, Linden Road

Terry Hodgson (Sandlings Safer Cycling Campaign)

17 January 2017

Dear Heather, on behalf of the Sandlings Safer Cycling Campaign, I would like to express our support for the reduction of the speed limit along this section of road.

Because of the undulating nature of this road, vehicles travelling at 60 mph can come upon cyclists (and walkers) very quickly and unlike walkers cyclists are unable to get onto the bank and are often subjected to very close passing manoeuvres. This means that cyclists feel unsafe along this particular stretch of road.

David and Jane Walker, Leiston Road

24 January 2017

I write in support of the two proposed speed reductions along Leiston Road, Aldeburgh. We are the homeowners of High Warren, located at the "top of the hill", along Leiston Road, and we are well aware of the dangers associated with this stretch of the highway. The dead straight configuration encourages vehicles to reach (and exceed) the current speed limit, and the multiple dips make it very difficult to see oncoming traffic for those of us who are turning onto or from, the highway. There are numerous such access roads and driveways on both sides of the carriageway and I have personally experienced several frightening incidences where oncoming traffic has failed to slow in good time to allow these turnings. I have also noticed a considerable increase in cycle traffic along Leiston Road (both day and night) in the past few years. Due to the hills, these cyclists are often slow moving, and can be completely hidden to motorists when they are in one of the many dips. It is common for vehicles to abruptly swerve out into the oncoming lane to avoid the previously hidden cyclists!

It is also very important to consider the safety of pedestrian traffic along Leiston Road. Although there is no formal footpath, the grassy verges are used frequently by pedestrians. Some of these verges slope steeply towards the roadway, and it is not uncommon for pedestrians to avoid these stretches by walking onto the road, a situation utterly incompatible with a 60 mph speed limit.

I look forward to a positive resolution to these longstanding and heartfelt concerns of local residents.

Professor Peter and Bridget Dickinson

23 January 2017

Dear Heather Miller,

40 mph speed limit & revocation order B1122 201- Leiston Road, Aldeburgh. Thankyou for posting information about this proposal. The residents on this road have been campaigning for a speed limit since the year 2000 and are very pleased that plans are being made at last. I had hoped to have a word with you but the Suffolk County Council has no telephone numbers at all. We are now anxious to know details of any objections and should like to have sight of them in order to react. Perhaps you can let me know how this can be done.

Professor Peter and Bridget Dickinson

24 January 2017

We are writing to express our strong support for the speed limit reduction on the B1122.

Thankyou for sending us one objection. It is neither valid nor coherent and also contains serious inaccuracies. We should like to draw attention to the following:

Accidents – there have been at least two serious accidents in recent years where cars had to be written off, and serious injury was only narrowly avoided. The objector concedes that speed is a factor in such accidents and it is clear that such accidents could be avoided with the new limits. The risks to cyclists in particular, but also pedestrians, are almost entirely due to speeds which reach motorway levels on this stretch of road.

“Frustration” factor – the objector appears to wish to remove overtaking restrictions on blind crests of this undulating road, in order to allow overtaking at speed in restricted visibility. This is a very irresponsible suggestion. With the dangerous dips in the road, nobody should be thinking of illegally overtaking against double white lines – some people do - and if some motorists cannot control frustrations that is not a ground on which to allow them to drive faster. As to the time the current dangerous speeds save, in a test this week the difference in time taken between the new proposed 40 mph speed limit and driving at 60 mph to Leiston was no greater than 24 seconds – this is a negligible amount of time lost.

Continued overleaf.....

Professor Peter and Bridget Dickinson continued....

Cost – the objector does not explain what he regards as “significant”. On the contrary, Councillor Smith has done so, supports the limits after careful assessment, and has already set aside the funds.

Enforcement – the objector questions the proposed new speed limit on the grounds that “there is absolutely no way in which it can be enforced”. It is irresponsible to argue that were there to be an enforcement difficulty it should simply be accepted and reckless speeds allowed.

Additional access – in fact there have been several new access points made. One owner even had to move a driveway because the speed of motorists entering the 40 mph limit towards Leiston made it dangerous to get out. In addition more vehicles are using the nature resources at North Warren, with an increase in the numbers of RSPB groups using or crossing that stretch of road.

Changes of speed limit – the objector complains of multiple changes of speed limit – however the 40 mph speed limit will reduce the number of limits on this road.

In a local door-to-door consultation a few years ago 92 out of 96 residents asked for this speed limit. This shows massive democratic support and a large number of local residents are anxious to see the planned speed limit introduced without any further delay.

Edmond Fivet, North Warren

24 January 2017

I am writing as a resident of North Warren which leads into the Leiston Road, which I use on a regular basis towards both Aldeburgh and Aldringham.

I am very supportive of the proposals, particularly as many cars using the current 60mph stretch of the road, travel at well beyond this speed and I am frequently overtaken by cars crossing the double white line, especially turning into North Warren. This is potentially very dangerous and lowering the speed to 30mph and 40mph will help in making this stretch of road safer.

Hopefully this proposal will become reality in the near future.

Lionel Lax, North Warren

27 January 2017

At a recent Meeting of the North Warren Residents Association the subject of the excess speed and the total disregard for the Double White Line Law was again mentioned. It is a great cause for concern to all the Residents. Some three years ago I on behalf of the Members wrote to the Chief Constable. After a very limited survey it was deemed unnecessary on the grounds that few people broke either of the two Laws under survey. Highly unlikely if the survey was conducted using a marked Police car sitting in the entrance to North Warren. Unfortunately the only way any action may be achieved is if 'heaven forbid' there is a fatal accident.

We all here in North Warren give you our support and wish you well.

Sarah Somerset

31 January 2017

I live at Aldehaven, Leiston Rd. just south of Warren Hill Lane. My husband and I should like to express our very strong support for the proposed speed limit reduction on the B1122.

The exit from our drive becomes increasingly dangerous as traffic from Aldeburgh accelerates past the de-restriction sign. In 2010 I was hit as I turned into our drive by a car overtaking; my car was written off, though very fortunately neither I nor the driver of the other car was hurt.

In the last week alone, I have been passed on the double white lane near North Warren where one cannot see oncoming traffic due to the humps in the road. If the limit is not reduced, I fear there will be a bad accident very soon.

There are number of cyclists who use the B1122 regularly; they are often difficult to see - wearing dark clothes and without high vis. jackets/bands etc.

I understand that funds have already been set aside for changing the speed limits. This is very good news, and I hope that it will go ahead as soon as possible.

Peter Smith, Warren Hill Lane

31 January 2017

I should like to convey my support for the proposition to extend the 40 mph speed limit on the Leiston Road all the way from Aldeburgh to Aldringham. That will make turning into and out of Warren Hill Lane, where I live, much safer.

Terence Mallinson, Warren Hill Lane

31 January 2017

Mr. Peter Smith has sent this message to all residents along Warren Hill Lane. We are owners of Crag Pit House, Warren Hill Lane and have been so since 1996.

We have frequently found cars and motor bikes passing the entrance to the Lane at very high speeds, not only endangering cars exiting or entering the Lane but also pedestrians who use the well advertised public right of way from the Leiston Road to the Nature Reserve and the Sea, crossing from or to the Golf Course. There is a marked entrance opposite the Lane. This is highly dangerous and the very least should be a restriction to 40 miles per hour if not, more sensibly to 30 Miles per hour especially because there is a mail box just within the 40 mph limit at which vehicles pause to post letters and then there is the entrance to The Red House, frequented by visitors to Aldeburgh.

While residents of Warren Hill Lane are trying to get planning permission permanently to surface the entrance to Warren Hill Lane to stop loose gravel getting onto Leiston Road, which also results in these fast driven vehicles on Leiston Road throwing gravel onto vehicles emerging from the Lane, it seems essential that a speed restriction should be applied for all these reasons.

Colin and Elaine Bermingham, Warren Hill Lane

1 February 2017

We wanted to let you know our strong support for the speed limit reduction on the B1122. My wife and I live on Warren Hill Lane, an unmade track which leads onto the B1122, we are regular users of this road in both directions. There are numerous dips and hills on this stretch of road, drivers do not always observe the no overtaking lines on parts of it and we have witnessed some close calls as cars pulling out or into drives have been faced with other cars travelling at speed over the ridges.

In the big scheme of things a reduction from 60 to 40mph on this stretch of road will not materially change journey times but it would help create a safer environment for all.

Jill and Nic Stuchfield, Warren Hill Lane

1 February 2017

We write to add our voice of support to the proposed speed limit of 40 MPH along Leiston Road, replacing the derestricted speed limit. We live on Warren Hill Lane and find that the speed of some traffic along the stretch of Leiston road excessive and potentially dangerous. There are numerous entries onto the road both from individual properties and tracks such as Warren Hill lane. These require turning traffic to slow down very substantially, drivers unfamiliar with the road seem unaware that this is necessary.

We walk along this stretch of road and can be quite frightened by the speed of traffic.

We do hope that the speed limit will finally be reduced to 40 mph.

Richard & Vera Newton, Warren Hill Lane

1 February 2017

My Wife and me moved to Brindles, Warren Hill Lane some 15 months ago and I must admit that the journey to and from Leiston can be somewhat daunting at times. One has to be very careful when leaving our Lane as cars coming down the hill from Leiston are very likely to be travelling at 60 mph if not more and they can be on you in a flash. It has been known that cars coming from Aldeburgh are starting to overtake each other after the 40 mph sign which means in effect that the road is blocked. Probably the worst area where cars are travelling too fast is on the hilltop by Warren Hill and going down that the other side of the hill where there are at least 6/7 blind drive ways coming onto the road.

With more and more cars and cyclists now on all roads, we feel that the road from both towns should come under the 40mph limit.

We would ask you to kindly consider our proposal.

Mark and Victoria Baillie, Warren Hill Lane

4 February 2017

We would like to put forward our support for the proposed extension of the 40mph speed limit on Leiston Road from Aldeburgh through to Aldringham. Thank you

Melissa Baker, Fairfield Road

7 February 2017

I understand that you are looking at reducing the speed limit on this piece of road from 60 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour. I think that this would be a good idea as this road is very hilly which makes for poor visibility. And I find that people tend to drive too fast or try and overtake those of us who do to wish to] drive at 60mph which is dangerous. Perhaps speed calming measures would be more effective ? Have the Highways Agency been asked to assess the road ?

By the way – There is no mention of this consultation on the Suffolk County Council website so I get the impression that very few people are aware of it. I only know as a colleague has just told me about it.

Richard and Rita Walker, Leiston Road

5 February 2017

I attach a copy of my letter to Suffolk Highways last September.

It is self explanatory but of course now a bit out of date since the formal requests for objections to the Legal Proposal to amend the Leiston Road speed restrictions after all our years of trying.

I cannot comprehend how any rational or wholly sane resident could wish to oppose the scheme. There are very many arguments against the letter from the one objector

I have had sight of, (courtesy of our good neighbour, Professor Peter Dickinson), and we would wish to totally associate ourselves with his arguments against the views and "facts" from the objector.

I can add one more piece of information regarding the danger we are in as residents looking to safely leave their drives and turn on to the road. Six years ago, on a rainy Saturday lunchtime we were hit by a young male driver travelling at 60mph or more from Leiston, when cautiously leaving our splay to go to Aldeburgh.

Our Mercedes car was a write off and my wife and I had to receive medical treatment for six months. The assailant fled the scene on foot and was subsequently arrested in Leiston car park for drunken driving, (amongst other offences). As you might expect these days, he got off lightly, other than losing his girlfriend whose car was a write off too.

This is a very dangerous road at the moment and I hope that these few foolish objections do not stand in the way of reducing dangerous speed and the near certainty of death and injuries in the future.

Thank you for monitoring this case.

Dr Janet Tait, Aldeburgh

7 February 2017

I first saw the consultation document on the road between Aldeburgh and Leiston this evening when attending a talk in the Aldeburgh Library. I frequently travel along that road and I am strongly in favour of restricting the speed limit to 40 miles per hour.

It is a road with many dips where it is impossible to see oncoming traffic for more than a few yards ahead. A few weeks ago I was overtaken by a boy on a motor-bike who very nearly collided with the oncoming traffic. There are a great many houses with entrances to the road and several by-roads serving housing estates, such as North Warren.

A restriction of the speed limit would incur an insignificant increase to the time of the journey and render it far safer. I would be grateful if you could convey my wishes to the Council.

Dr Stephen Lock, Aldeburgh

8 February 2017

Please forgive the lateness of this comment, but I have only just seen the consultation document in the Aldeburgh Library. I would argue strongly in favour of restricting speeds to 40 mph.

The distance of the road at unrestricted speed is short and the amount of time gained at any higher speed must be trivial. In fact, the road is also fairly densely occupied with houses a short distance away, given those on North Warren and on the Aldeburgh side of Aldringham. Any entry from these by-roads as well as from the properties directly fronting the road itself must be considerably risky, particularly if the direction entails crossing one carriageway down which a car is coming at great speed but concealed by a dip.

There are currently also anomalies: to take one example, the road through Middleton Moor and again just before Yoxford has very few dwellings in relation to it yet has a prolonged restriction to 30 mph.

From conversations I know that imposing a sensible restriction to 40 mph has wide support locally and I hope the authority will see fit to acknowledge such wishes.

Francis Dickinson, Park Road

23 January 2017

I am writing to express support for the above proposal to reduce speed limits in both of the zones set out, and reiterate the safety grounds set out in my e mail below, as well as those identified in the proposals. These include the blind summits and hidden dips as well as multiple residential and other access on both sides of the stretch of road in question. Since last autumn I have personally seen several near miss potential accidents due to the very high speeds currently seen on this stretch of road.

Rosie Barker, Aldeburgh

5th February 2017

I understand there is a proposal to reduce the speed limits on the above road. I am a Saxmundham resident and work locally, and am a frequent user of this road.

I would like to support this speed limit reduction proposal - given the impaired visibility and nature of the road the current speeds on it seem excessive. The 40mph limit coming out of Aldringham is more suitable for the whole stretch to Aldeburgh for safety reasons and to simplify the limits.

I hope this proposal goes ahead.

Inga Grimsey, Leiston Road on behalf of the Aldeburgh Society

8 February 2017

I would like to write in support of the proposed reduction in the speed limit on the Leiston Road to 40 mph.

1. For years we have had to put up with dangerous driving along the road: drivers insisting on overtaking on solid white lines, just because they know the current speed limit allows them to go at that speed.
2. We repeatedly suffer from cars trying to overtake us as we come out of our drive cautiously when they are no cars visible. Because of the humps in the road and the speed they are travelling at they do not see us until they are on top of us. A reduced speed would eliminate the risk of us and other residents being hit.
3. We are walkers and walking along the Leiston Road is particularly dangerous as there are no footpaths. With the current speed limit, it is even risky crossing the road to reach the footpaths over to the reserve.
4. It is similarly risky riding a bike along the road with the current speed limit. Whilst we ride along the road and are aware of the speed of the traffic which overtakes too fast, many summer visitors are hugely disadvantaged as they would probably expect a lower speed limit in such an area.
5. Finally in such an area, where there is more and more traffic as a result of new housing and tourist traffic, the whole character of the road is changed by traffic hurtling along the road. This applies especially to business traffic, trucks and vans.

I do hope after years of trying to get the speed limit reduced you will look favourably on this change for the safety of all residents, visitors and locals.

I am sure you are aware of the support that the Aldeburgh Society (of which I am a Committee Member) have given to this change and believe that you have had a submission from them as well.