

Item: 3

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 21 June 2023.

20 mph Speed Limits at Isles Schools.

Report by Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider an objection following statutory and public consultation in relation to The Orkney Islands Council (Variable 20 mph Speed Limit) (Island Schools) Order 2023.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, on 7 December 2021, the Council considered a Notice of Motion regarding the installation of a 20 mph zone or speed limit on the roads in the vicinity of each of those schools in Orkney that still did not have one, and thereafter resolved:

- To install, as soon as practicable but no later than the end of 2023, a 20 mph zone or speed limit on the roads in the vicinity of each of those schools in Orkney that still did not have one.

2.2.

That one letter of objection, from a Flotta resident, a summary of which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report, was received during the consultation process in respect of the proposal referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

2.3.

The proposed extents of the variable 20 mph speed limit at Flotta Primary School, as shown on the drawing attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

2.4.

That traffic counts were carried out in February 2022, which indicated that the 85 percentile speed approaching Flotta Primary School from the west was 29.8 mph and 34.1 mph when approaching from the east.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That mandatory, variable 20 mph speed limits be introduced at all island schools, in accordance with the Notice of Motion approved by Council on 7 December 2021.

2.6.

That the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure make the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order, incorporating the proposal referred to in paragraph 2.5 above.

3. Background

3.1.

On 7 December 2021, the Council considered a Notice of Motion, lodged by Councillor Stephen Clackson, which stated:

“We, the undersigned, hereby give notice of the following motion to be lodged at the Council’s General Meeting of the 7th December 2021:

That the Council install before the end of 2022 a 20mph zone or speed limit on the roads in the vicinity of each of those schools in Orkney that still do not have one.

Signed Stephen G Clackson

Countersigned by J T Richards, S Sankey, John A R Scott, A Cowie, Steven Heddle, Norman R Craigie and David Dawson”.

3.2.

The Council noted:

- That, in November 2003, the Scottish Government made funding available for the creation of safer routes to schools which subsequently led to the introduction of part-time 20 mph speed limits around some schools in Orkney, as detailed in section 4 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services.
- That there was no identified budget to introduce 20 mph part-time speed limits at the island schools, estimated to be £478,000.
- That, on 16 February 2017, when reviewing speed limits at island schools, the Development and Infrastructure Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers, that, subject to availability of funding, mandatory, variable part-time 20 mph speed limits be introduced at the following island schools:
 - North Walls Primary School.
 - Sanday Junior High School.
 - Stronsay Junior High School.

- Westray Junior High School.
- Shapinsay Primary School.
- Rousay Primary School.
- Eday Primary School.
- Papa Westray Primary School.
- That the Development and Infrastructure Committee also recommended that the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure should progress a Stage 1 Capital Project Appraisal in respect of a phased programme for the introduction of mandatory, variable part-time 20 mph speed limits in the vicinity of island schools.
- That, in order to accommodate the timescale for introducing 20 mph part-time speed limits at the island schools as required by the Notice of Motion, existing planned programmes of work for 2022/23 would be significantly impacted.
- The options for progressing the project to introduce variable part-time 20 mph speed limits around island schools, should the Notice of Motion be supported, as detailed in section 6 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Environmental, Property and IT Services.

3.3.

The Council considered the Notice of Motion and thereafter resolved:

- To install, as soon as practicable but no later than the end of 2023, a 20 mph zone or speed limit on the roads in the vicinity of each of those schools in Orkney that still did not have one.
- That, in order to progress the project to install a 20 mph zone or speed limit around island schools, Option 1, namely the submission of a Stage 1 Capital Project Appraisal to the Development and Infrastructure Committee, be adopted.

4. Engagement and Consultation

4.1.

Consultation on the proposals has taken place with the following:

- Police Scotland.
- Road Haulage Association Limited.
- Freight Transport Association.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- Disabled Drivers' Association.
- Orkney Disability Forum.
- Scottish Ambulance Service.
- NHS Orkney.
- HM Coastguard.
- Orkney Tourism Group.

- Kirkwall BID Limited.
- Stromness Community Business Forum.
- Local bus operators.
- Relevant Community Councils.

4.2.

The proposals were advertised publicly in accordance with the statutory requirements to consult.

4.3.

Police Scotland has confirmed its support for the proposals and that it is consistent with Police Scotland's Road Safety Strategy.

4.4.

As part of the standard process of amending speed limits, traffic counts were carried out at all of the locations under consideration. These can be used to confirm whether there is a speeding issue and provide a baseline for any counts carried out after the speed limits are changed.

4.5.

The traffic counts for Flotta were carried out in February 2022, which indicated that the 85 percentile speed approaching Flotta Primary School from the west was 29.8 mph and 34.1 mph when approaching from the east.

4.6.

One letter of objection was received. All points raised within this letter are related to Flotta. This is summarised below and attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.7.

The objector felt that introducing a variable 20 mph speed limit in Flotta would represent a poor use of Council funds and would not make measurable difference to children's risk when walking to school.

4.8.

Having considered the objection, it is proposed that the variable 20 mph speed limit should be introduced in Flotta at the same time as the other island schools. This will allow the Order to be made and implemented at the earliest opportunity. Transport Scotland guidance states that 20 mph should be the standard speed limit in the vicinity of all schools. This will provide consistency across all of Orkney's schools and comply with Transport Scotland guidance.

5. Corporate Governance

5.1.

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

5.2.

In terms of the Scheme of Administration, the making of new traffic orders, where any objection has been raised through statutory consultation procedures, is delegated to the Development and Infrastructure Committee.

6. Financial Implications

As Roads Authority, the cost of any Traffic Regulation Order, estimated at about £1,000, will be borne by the Council under the relevant section of the roads revenue budget.

7. Legal Aspects

If the Council wishes to introduce new speed limit restrictions, it must obtain a traffic regulation order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The requirements of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 have been observed as regards the form of the order and the procedure to date.

8. Contact Officers

Hayley Green, Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure, extension 2309, Email hayley.green@orkney.gov.uk

Lorna Richardson, Head of Neighbourhood Services, extension 2322, Email lorna.richardson@orkney.gov.uk

Kenneth Roy, Roads Support Manager, extension 2326, Email kenny.roy@orkney.gov.uk

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of objections to the proposals.

Appendix 2: Drawing No.Flotta-01

Appendix 1 – Summary of objections to the proposal

Objector Details:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


Received: 19 May 2023

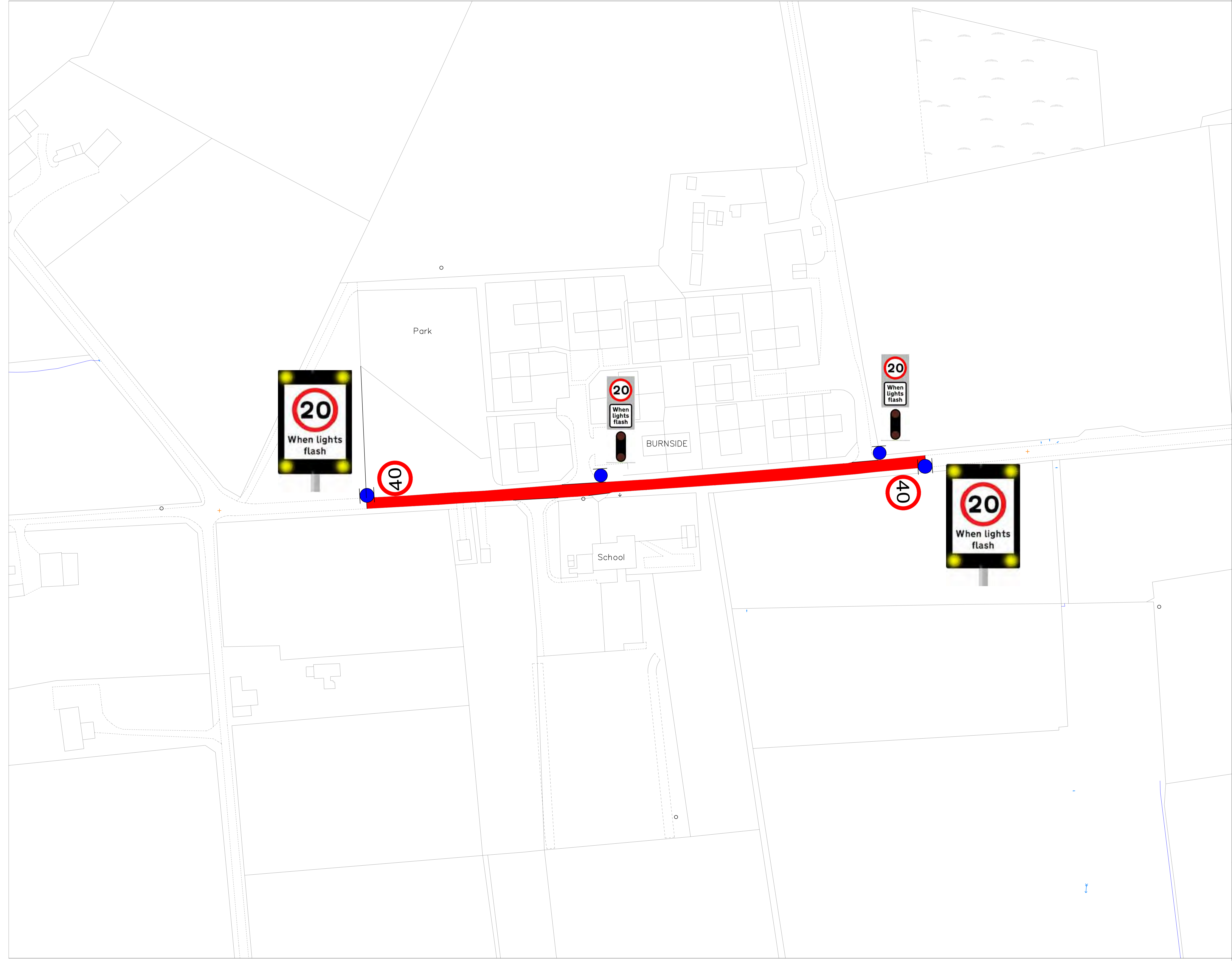
Objection:

“I would like to register my objection to the proposed 20mph zone outside the Flotta school.

20mph zones make sense where a large number of children arrive or leave at the same time. Only two children from a single family attend the Flotta school and only for three days per week. Furthermore, they do not walk but are dropped off and collected by car. Given the lack of empty habitable houses on Flotta there is little chance of the number of primary age children increasing.

Installing a 20mph zone outside the school represents extremely poor use of council funds and will not make a measurable difference to the children's risk.”

KEY
 Extent of variable 20 mph speed limit. 253m



Project
 THE ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL
 (VARIABLE 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT)
 (ISLAND SCHOOLS)
 ORDER 2023

Title
 B9046,
 Flotta

File Ref. R3.46.04.0321	Drawing No. Flotta-01
Revision	
Date 24 October 2022	Drawn JC
Scale 1:750 at A1	Checked KDR

Roads Services

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