



Stapleford Parish Council

CLERK Belinda Irons

14 Crawley End, Chrishall, Nr Royston, Herts, SG8 8QL

M:07840 668048 e-mail – clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Steve Cox
Executive Director, Place & Economy
c/o Policy & Regulation
Box no. D8E
Huntingdon Highways Depot
Stanton Way
Huntingdon
PE29 6PY

9th November 2021

Dear Mr Cox,

Re. Cambridgeshire County Council (A1307 Babraham Road/Cambridge Road and Haverhill Road, Stapleford and Babraham) (50mph Limit) Order 20—

Stapleford Parish Council writes with respect to the County Council's proposals to introduce a 50mph speed limit on the abovementioned roads. Whilst we welcome any reduction in speed on these roads and the concomitant improvement in road safety that this is intended to bring, we do not feel that the proposals for the Haverhill Road approach into Stapleford village go far enough. Indeed, we are concerned that road safety along this particular route may actually be compromised by confusing drivers with too many max. speed limit changes and proliferation of road signs across a distance of just over 1 mile.

We are very well placed to comment on the proposals since they directly relate to routes through and within the Parish of Stapleford. Our concerns are set out in detail below.

Haverhill Road, Stapleford, from a point 35m SW of its junction with A1307 Babraham Road in a south-westerly direction for 330m

Stapleford Parish Council does not support this proposal.

Our distinct preference is for a uniform 40mph max. speed limit from the junction with Haverhill Road all the way to the 30mph sign immediately east of Stapleford village. If this is not considered practicable – and we would like to understand why – we request a uniform 50mph

max. speed limit from the junction with the A1307 to the 40mph sign east of Stapleford. Our justifications for this are:

1. Turning into Haverhill Road from the A1307, the max. speed limit would change from 50mph, then increase to 60mph, then reduce to 40mph and then to 30mph upon entering Stapleford village from the east. If turning immediately right into Gog Magog Way, drivers would then face a further speed reduction to max. 20mph. Such multiple speed limit changes on a stretch of road 1.1 miles in length, taking approx. 2 minutes to drive by car, are confusing and dangerous. Without any means of enforcing them, they are unlikely to be adhered to by many drivers.
2. The road is unlit and narrow, has multiple deep 'runnels' on either side (albeit partly infilled of late) and no road markings, and several residential driveways coming off it. It is inexplicable how a 50mph max. speed limit can be in place (and proposed to be extended) on the wide, comparatively well-lit and segregated A1307, yet much of Haverhill Road is considered appropriate for the national speed limit.
3. The path (used by cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders) along the south side of Haverhill Road is narrow and unmade, with notable potholes, mud and stony outcrops. Users must move onto the verge or into the road to pass each other and other obstacles in their way. As such, vehicles going past them at 60mph pose a very real danger. The path is extremely well-used, being the shortest non-driving route from Stapleford and Great Shelford to Magog Down and Wandlebury Park.
4. The increase in speed from 50mph to 60mph 330m from the junction with the A1307 comes just before the driveway to Magog Cottages and Stapleford Parish Pit. Vehicles will, therefore, be accelerating just at the point where homeowners and visitors to the Pit will be leaving their access road.
5. The surface of Haverhill Road is sufficiently poor that cyclists are forced into the path of oncoming vehicles to avoid potholes and deep runnels alongside the verge. With a lack of street lighting and road markings on such a narrow road, a 60mph max. speed limit is extremely unsafe.
6. Multiple speed limits give rise to increased vehicle emissions. In contrast, smoother driving, with fewer accelerations and decelerations, generates fewer particulate emissions from tyre- and brake-wear. In the environmentally sensitive area of Magog Down, this is something which we are very keen to achieve, and there are health benefits to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders sharing the route. Additional health benefits of reduced max. speed limits come from the associated rise in non-motorised users on safer roads.
7. Haverhill Road is a local rat run between the A1301 and A1307, and vice versa, frequented by cars, farm vehicles, delivery vehicles and heavy lorries. The volume of traffic travelling at 60mph during busy periods is dangerous and jeopardises other road users' safety.
8. Some visitors to Magog Down park on the verge along Haverhill Road rather than in the pay-to-use car park, and park there after dark when Magog Down car park is closed, which further reduces road width and visibility. Often, multiple cars are parked on the verge for much of the day.
9. Should the proposed CSET guided busway gain planning permission, further changes to the max. speed limit along Haverhill Road will be needed to accommodate buses crossing the road every few minutes. Sensible changes to the max. speed limit on Haverhill Road following the current consultation will reduce any need to make significant changes again at a later date.

The Parish Council has on several occasions over many years pressed the County Council to review the max. speed limit along Haverhill Road into Stapleford, requesting either a single max. limit of 50mph or, ideally, 40mph from the junction with the A1307 travelling west into Stapleford. Most recently, in June 2021 we received an assurance from a panel of Mott McDonald and GCP representatives at a Local Liaison Forum chaired by Tony Orgee that this would be investigated. We are, therefore, very disappointed to note that our concerns have not been addressed and we request feedback on why a single max. speed limit for the majority of Haverhill Road has not been considered appropriate.

A1307 Babraham Road/Cambridge Road from a point 60m SE of its junction with Haverhill Road to a point 75m NW of its access to Copley Hill Business Park

Stapleford Parish Council supports this proposal.

Should you wish to discuss any of our concerns in further detail, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Belinda Irons

On behalf of Stapleford Parish Council

Sent by email to Steve Cox at policyandregulation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.