

Committee	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	23 March 2009
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Petition for a 30mph speed limit on Deanland Road, Golden Cross
Purpose of Report	To consider a petition from residents of Deanland Wood Park seeking the introduction of a 30mph speed limit on Deanland Road in the vicinity of their residential park.

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:

- 1. Deanland Road is not an appropriate site for a 30mph limit in accordance with the County Council's approved policy on setting local speed limits; and**
 - 2. Consideration will be given to the introduction of a 40mph limit on this road as part of the review of speed limits on rural C-class and unclassified roads that is expected to commence after 2011.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no specific financial implications in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 9 December 2008 Councillor Garvican presented a petition to the Chairman requesting that Deanland Road should be designated as a 30mph restricted road.

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

3. Comments / Appraisal

3.1 Deanland Road is an unclassified road (UC7061) in the County Council's road hierarchy. It runs from the village of Ripe north-eastwards for a distance of about 3.8km to a junction with the A22 primary route at Golden Cross and provides the only means of access to Deanland Wood Park. This is a residential site with about 400 park homes and over 600 residents. It is currently subject to the national speed limit of 60mph along its full length.

3.2 The Park has one entrance and three exits onto Deanland Road, and on the opposite side of the road is the access to a business park that is used by large vehicles. The petitioners have expressed concern about the speed of traffic travelling along Deanland Road which they feel creates danger for vehicles emerging from the Park. In view of this, together with the issues of nearby properties with concealed entrances and large articulated vehicles turning in and out of the business park, they have requested that a 30mph speed limit be imposed on the length of the road in the vicinity of the Park.

3.3 The County Council's approved policy on setting local speed limits (Policy Summary PS4/2) indicates that the principal determinant of a proposed speed limit should be the appearance and character of the road. In rural areas a settlement can be considered for the introduction of a 30mph speed limit if it meets the definition of a village, which is "20 or more properties served by private accesses which adjoin the main road (on one or both sides), located over a length of not less than 600 metres, and clearly visible to drivers."

3.4 Deanland Wood Park is a very dense development but it is self-contained and does not front directly onto the main road. There are about eight other residential properties in the area which is clearly insufficient to meet the criteria for a village. This means that it would not be appropriate to consider a 30mph speed limit in this vicinity as the character of the road does not provide the necessary visual message to ensure that the limit would be observed and respected by the majority of drivers.

3.5 There is clearly a significant amount of turning traffic generated by the accesses to the residential park and business park and therefore it may be appropriate to consider a 40mph limit to highlight this area. The County Council is at present reviewing the speed limits on A and B-class roads and in villages, and this is phased over a four year programme up to 2011/12. As Deanland Wood does not meet the criteria for a village it will have to be considered as part of the next phase of the review process, covering speed limits on C-class and unclassified roads, which is anticipated to follow on after 2011.

4 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 Deanland Road does not meet the criteria in the County Council's approved policy to be considered for the introduction of a 30mph speed limit. It may be appropriate for a 40mph limit but this will need to be investigated as part of the next phase of the rural speed limit review, covering C-class and unclassified roads, which is expected to start after 2011.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Transport and Environment
13 March 2009

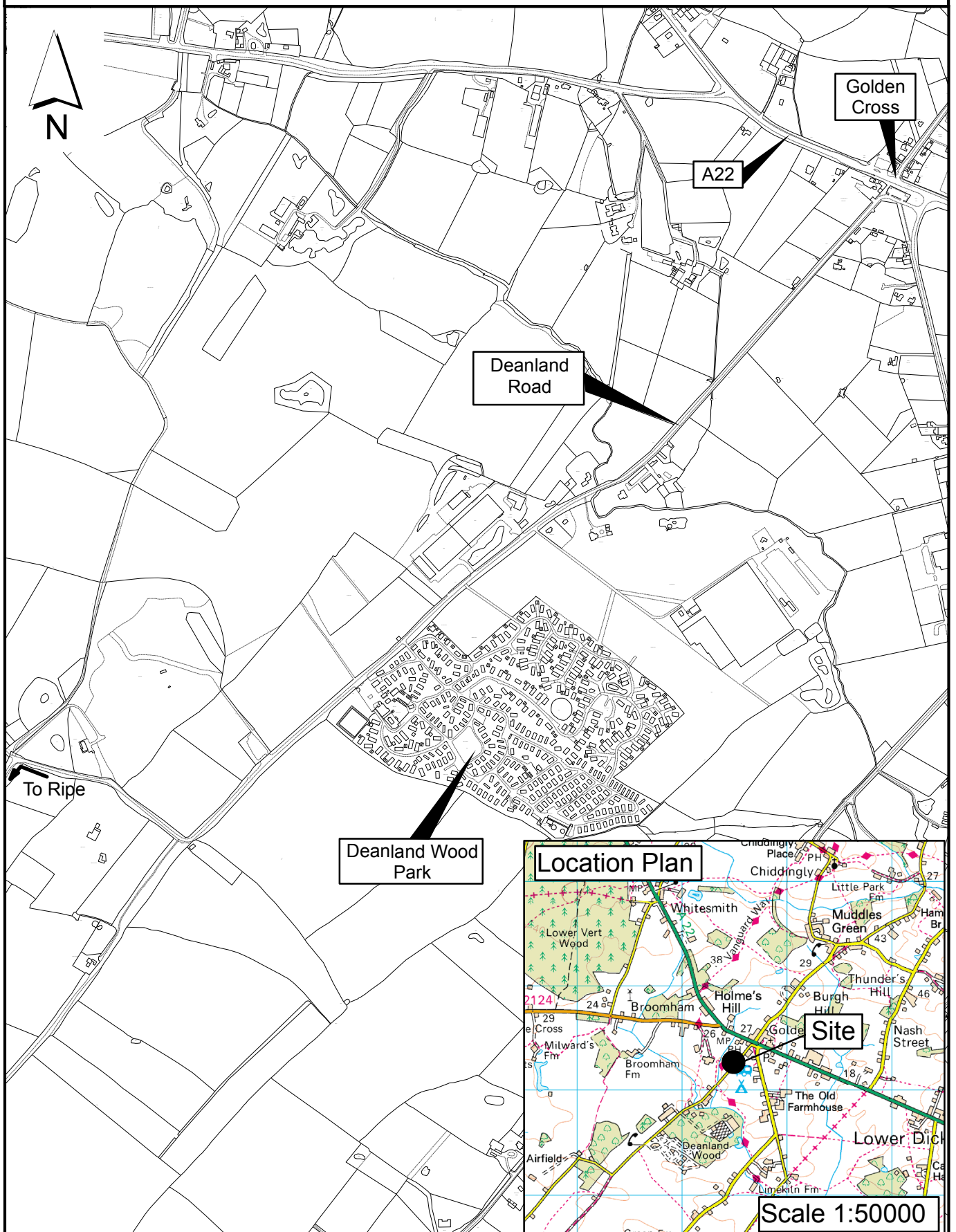
Contact Officer: Michael Oates 01273 482110
Local Member: Councillor John
Garvican

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The petition

ESCC Policy Summary PS4/2, Local Speed Limits

Petition for a 30mph speed limit on Deanland Road, Golden Cross



Scale 1:1250

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