

Committee	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	22 February 2010
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Petition for reduced speed limits in Burwash
Purpose of Report	To consider a petition campaigning to slow down traffic for a safer Burwash Parish.

RECOMMENDATION:

To advise the petitioners that the County Council will review the speed limits on the A265 through Burwash Common and Burwash Weald in the 2010/11 financial year, with a view to implementing lower limits where appropriate during 2011/12.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no specific financial implications in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report. The cost of implementing a lower limit is likely to be in the region of £30,000 and will be met from the capital programme allocation for Speed Management in 2011/12, subject to availability of resources.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 8 December 2009 Councillor Barnes presented a rolling petition to the Chairman calling upon the County Council to introduce lower speed limit restrictions along the A265 through Burwash, Burwash Weald and Burwash Common.

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 The A265 High Street, Burwash was ranked 2nd on the County Council's traffic calming priority list for 2009/10. As a result, suitable traffic calming measures are currently being investigated with a view to implementation in 2010/11, subject to the availability funding. Any traffic calming measures would have an impact on vehicle speeds on the A265.

3.2 The petitioners have requested that we review the speed limits on the A265 through Burwash Weald and Burwash Common at the same time as Burwash High Street. The County Council is committed to reviewing the speed limits on all A and B class roads and implementing any changes by 2011/12. A four year programme was approved by Lead Member on 17 December 2007, which prioritised the work based on the casualty record in each of the rural electoral divisions. The A265 through Burwash Parish is located within the Rother Northwest electoral division, which is due to be reviewed and implemented in 2011/12.

3.3 The County Council's policy on local speed limits (PS4/02) states that the principal determinant of a proposed speed limit should be the appearance and character of the road. The policy also states that speed limits should be set in accordance with existing mean speeds. As a result, initial speed surveys have been carried out at various locations along the A265 to establish appropriate speed limits in principle.

3.4 Considering the section of the A265 that passes through Burwash Weald and Burwash Common, the length through Burwash Weald matches the definition for a 40mph speed limit, i.e. "built up areas, and properties with frontage access indicating to drivers the need to reduce their speeds". Mean speeds of 42.9mph (eastbound) and 43.9 mph (westbound) were recorded at the centre of the built-up area, which suggests that 40mph would be an appropriate speed limit in this area. The precise extent of this limit will be subject to further investigations.

3.5 The speed surveys were carried out just before the adverse weather conditions and as a result it was only possible to obtain 3 days of useable data. Therefore, officers propose to commission further speed counts later in the spring when the weather has improved, in order to ascertain suitable extents for the reduced speed limit. County Council officers will then consult the Parish Council and Sussex Police on the proposals with a view to implementing the changes in 2011/12, in accordance with the programme that was approved by Lead Member in December 2007.

4 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 Following the review, the revised speed on the A265 through Burwash Common and Burwash Weald, will, where appropriate, be implemented in 2011/12, as part of the speed limit review programme which was approved by Lead Member on 17 December 2007. The programme needs to be followed to match the available budget and resources.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Transport and Environment
12 February 2010

Contact Officer: Michael Oates 01273 482110
Local Member: Councillor Barnes

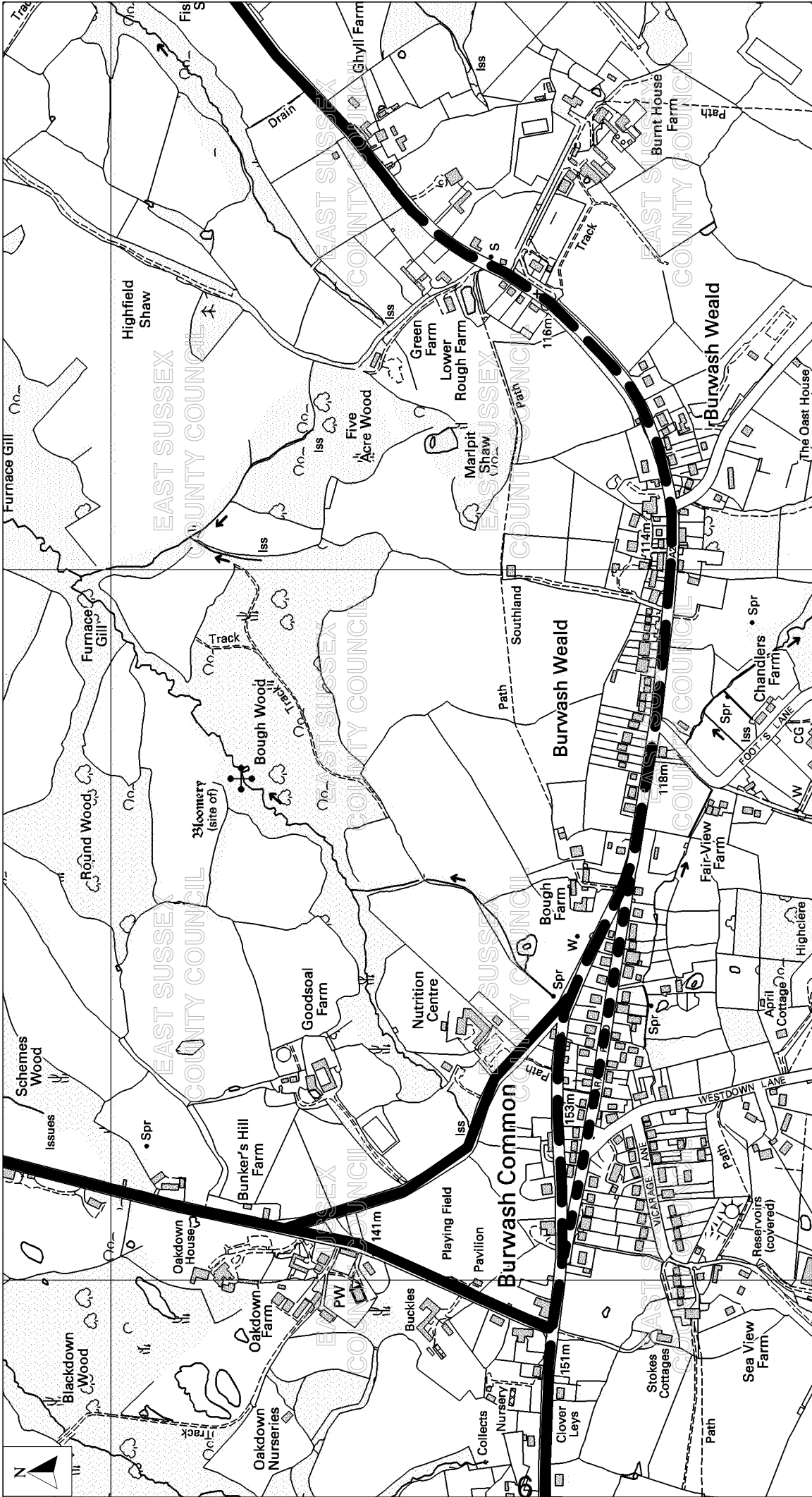
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Proposed Implementation Programme

Appendix A

Rural Electoral Divisions	Programme year				Budget
	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	
Forest Row	✓				
Alfriston, East Hoathly and Hellingly	✓				
Buxted Maresfield	✓				£400,000
Hailsham and Herstmonceux	✓				
Wadhurst	✓				
Battle and Crowhurst		✓			
Ringmer and Lewes Bridge		✓			
Framfield and Horam		✓			£400,000
Chailey		✓			
Northern Rother		✓			
Brede Valley and Marsham			✓		
Heathfield			✓		
Polegate, Willingdon and East Dean			✓		£400,000
Ouse Valley East			✓		
Rye and Eastern Rother				✓	
Newhaven and Ouse Valley West				✓	
Pevensey and Westham				✓	£400,000
Rother North West				✓	



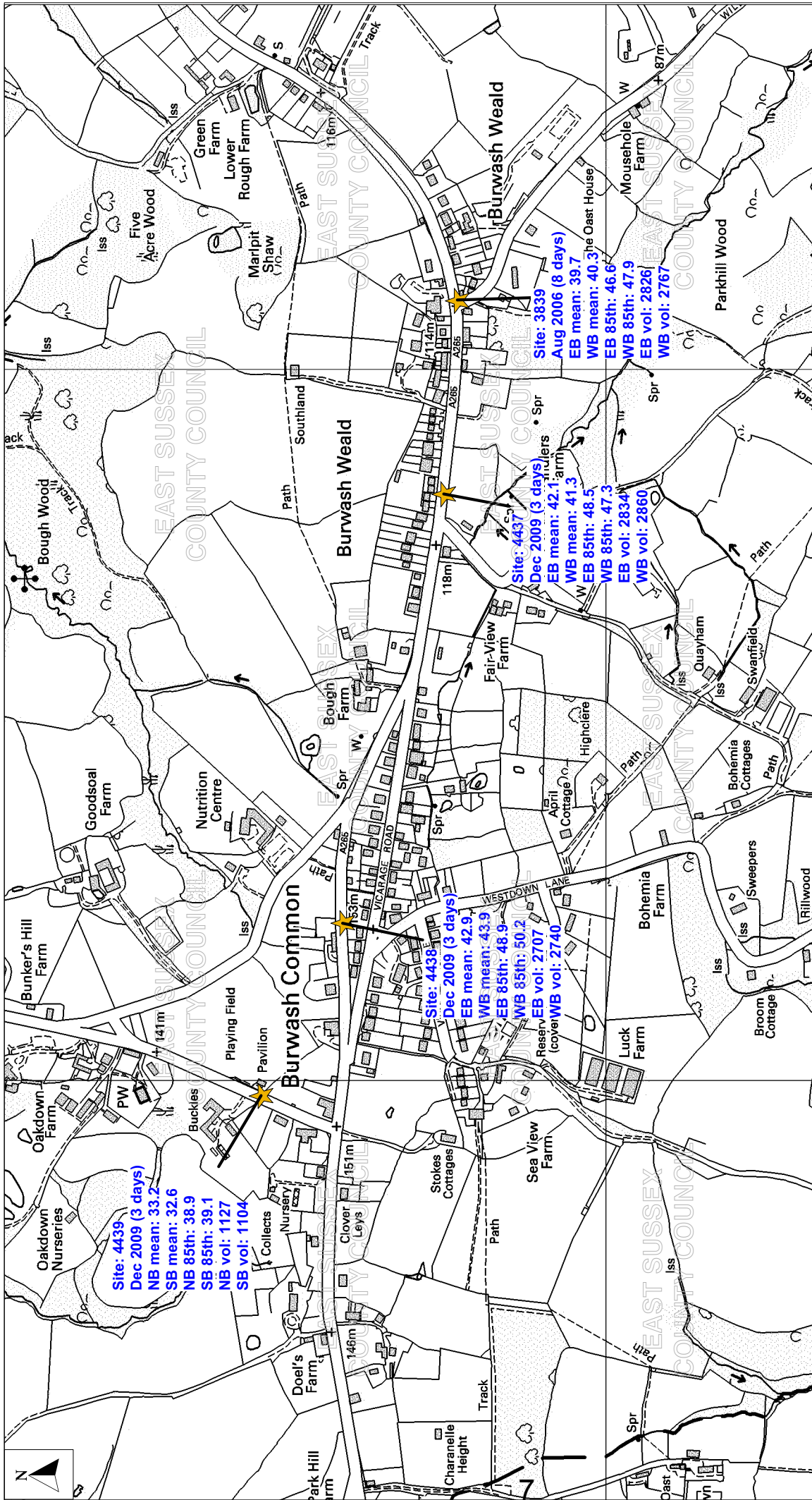
**Appendix B - Burwash Weald and Burwash Common
Existing speed limits**



SCALE	1 : 7500
DATE	29/01/2010
DRAWING NO.	Appendix B
DRAWN BY	PW

East Sussex
County Council





East Sussex
 County Council



Appendix C - A265 Burwash initial speed survey results

SCALE	1 : 7500
DATE	27/01/2010
DRAWING NO.	Appendix C
DRAWN BY	PW