

Committee	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	24 February 2009
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Petition for a 30mph speed limit on the A267 through Five Ashes
Purpose of Report	To consider a petition requesting the County Council to reduce the speed limit through Five Ashes to 30mph over the whole stretch that currently has a 40mph limit.

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

- 1. The County Council is currently investigating proposals to lower the speed limit within Five Ashes to 30mph, in accordance with its approved policy on setting local limits, for possible implementation during 2009/10; and**
 - 2. The Director of Transport and Environment is requested to take the concerns of the petitioners into account during these investigations, and to work with the local Member and Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council as part of this process.**
-
-

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 Dowling presented a petition to the Chairman requesting that the County Council reduce the speed limit through Five Ashes to 30mph over the whole stretch that is currently a 40mph limit.

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 As part of its Review of Rural Speed Limits the County Council is looking at the limits on all A and B class roads, and in villages with limits in excess of 30mph, with a view to implementing changes where appropriate phased over a four year programme. Five Ashes is within the Framfield and Horam electoral division which is scheduled to be treated during the 2009/10 financial year.

3.2 The Review is being carried out in accordance with the criteria set out in the County Council's policy for Local Speed Limits which was approved by the Lead Member on 25 June 2007. Five Ashes meets the definition of a village within that policy in as much that it has more than 20 properties adjoining the main road and clearly visible to drivers, and

therefore it qualifies to be considered for the introduction of a 30mph speed limit. However, a careful examination is needed as to the length of road over which a 30mph limit might be appropriate, taking account of the existing free flow mean speed of traffic. This is a busy A-class road passing through a residential community and, therefore, it is unlikely that physical traffic calming measures would be an appropriate means of reducing traffic speeds if they exceed the threshold level appropriate for a 30mph limit in accordance with the policy.

3.3 It is important that the criteria of the policy are applied in a fair and consistent manner across all the sites being reviewed. This will not only ensure that all villages are treated on an equitable basis, but it will also result in limits appropriate to the character and role of each road to which they are applied. Such limits will be more easily understood and respected by the majority of drivers.

3.4 It is recommended that the review of the speed limit through Five Ashes should develop in accordance with the County Council's current approved policy while taking into account the concerns of the petitioners. Officers should continue to liaise with the local Member and Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council to explain the reasoning behind their proposals and consider whether any amendments may be appropriate. In due course the necessary Traffic Regulation Order for the recommended changes to the speed limit will be advertised, and any unresolved formal objections arising from this process will need to be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee.

4 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 The County Council has an existing approved policy for setting local speed limits and it is important that this is applied to all sites being reviewed in order to ensure a logical and consistent outcome. Five Ashes will therefore be reviewed in accordance with the policy, but officers will work with the local Member and Parish Council to seek a satisfactory outcome.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Transport and Environment
16 February 2009

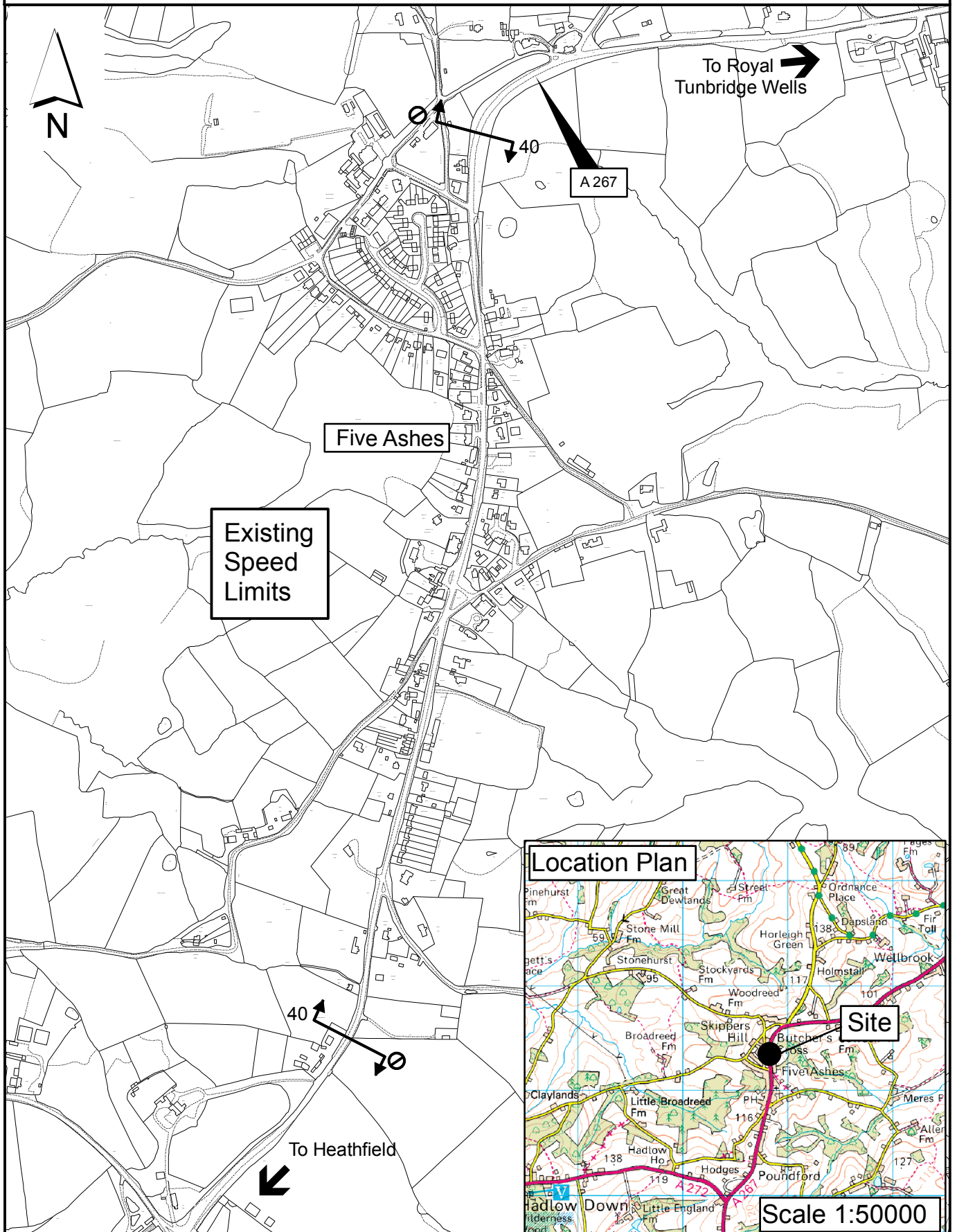
Contact Officer: Michael Oates Telephone 01273 482110
Local Member: Councillor Chris
Dowling

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Petition

County Council Policy Summary PS4/2 – Local Speed Limits

Petition for a 30mph speed limit on the A267 through Five Ashes



Scale 1:7500

Rupert Clubb
BEng (Hons) CEng MICE
Director, Transport and Environment
East Sussex County Council

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. East Sussex County Council, 100019601, 2009