

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: THE FALKIRK COUNCIL (40MPH SPEED LIMIT)(A905
GLENSBURGH TO SKINFLATS) ORDER 2013**
Meeting: PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date: 30 OCTOBER 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Ward: Grangemouth

**Local Members: Councillor David Balfour
Councillor Allyson Black
Councillor Joan Paterson
Councillor Robert Spears**

Community Council: None

Council Officer: Russell Steedman - Network Co-ordinator

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks a decision on The Falkirk Council (40mph Speed Limit)(A905 Glensburgh to Skinflats) Order 2013, the purpose of which is to implement a 40mph speed limit on the section of carriageway between Skinflats and the newly installed Helix lifting bridge at the River Carron. In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this decision requires to be made by Committee as an unresolved objection has been received to the making of the Order. In terms of the relevant legislation, the authority requires to consider all objections made and not withdrawn before making the Order.
- 1.2 Members should be aware that it is available to them to call for a hearing on the Order should they find themselves unable to determine whether the Order should be made or not at this stage. Such a hearing would be conducted by an independent party appointed by the Council from a list of persons compiled by the Scottish Ministers for that purpose. Members would then need to consider the report and recommendation of the Reporter before making a determination.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is in the best interests of road safety and is appropriate following an assessment carried out under the Scottish Government guidance entitled Enterprise, Transport & Lifelong Department (ETLLD) 01/2006 Setting Local Speed Limits. In addition, the reduction in speed limit will assist with the operation of the new Helix lifting bridge at the River Carron.
- 2.2 The extent of the proposed 40mph speed restriction is shown on the drawing numbered TRO/001 attached.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 One objection was received to the proposed order. This objection was made on the basis that the area is not a built up area.
- 3.2 Development Services responded to the objector on 10 September 2013 explaining:-
- a) that ETLLD 01/2006 indicates that the *“underlying aim of speed management policies should be to achieve a ‘safe’ distribution of speeds which reflects the function of the road and the impacts of the local community. This should imply a mean speed appropriate to the prevailing travelling conditions, and all vehicles moving at speeds as close to the posted speed limit as possible.”*
 - b) Average vehicle speeds were measured as part of the ETLLD 01/2006 assessment and indicated an average speed of 38mph on the A905 between Skinflats and Glensburgh. Consequently, it is considered appropriate in terms of the ETLLD guidance, to promote a 40mph speed limit.
 - c) Whilst development between Skinflats and Glensburgh is limited, ETLLD 01/2206 permits the use of “buffer zone” speed limits between areas of development, i.e. where development is sporadic. The distance between Skinflats and Glensburgh is less than 1km in length. In interests of road safety, particularly associated with the Helix lifting bridge at the River Carron, it was considered appropriate to implement a 40mph speed limit Order on this section of carriageway.
- 3.3 The objector was asked to formally withdraw their objection.
- 3.4 The objection has not been withdrawn.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The purpose of The Falkirk Council (40mph Speed Limit)(A905 Glensburgh to Skinflats) Order 2013 is to reduce the speed limit on this section of the A905 to a suitable speed at which motorists currently feel comfortable travelling at. In addition, it is considered appropriate in the best interests of road safety following the construction of the Helix lifting bridge at the River Carron.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 **Members are asked to consider the terms of the report including the objections and determine whether the Order should be made.**

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Director of Development Services

Date: 16 October 2013

Contact Officer: Russell Steedman, Network Co-ordinator Tel: Ext 4830

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Falkirk Council (40mph Speed Limit)(A905 Glensburgh to Skinflats) Order 2013
2. Objection
3. Response to objection

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 504830 and ask for Russell Steedman, Network Co-ordinator.

