

## 20mph limits – A guide to principle and process

This was discussed at a recent meeting of Bere Regis Parish Council and may well be of interest to other Parish Councils who would like to know what is involved. Below is a template for the items that need to be addressed and considered before a project can be approved. Although the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is referred to it will have little effect as far as I can see for Purbeck based schemes. For those of you interested in this the IMD details can be found on line at <https://apps.geowessex.com/insights/Data/Topic/Deprivation>

The Department of Transport has encouraged highway authorities to introduce 20mph limits in urban areas and village streets that are primarily residential. Dorset Council supports in principle the introduction of 20mph speed limits and zones where appropriate to do so. For speed limit changes to be considered by Dorset Council a formal request should be received from either the local Dorset Councillor and/or the parish/town council. This policy sets out the background to such limits and the criteria that the Council will use to consider whether to introduce such limits and how potential schemes would be prioritised across the county. Department for Transport (DfT) criteria underpins all speed limit reduction requests. The main reference document is DfT. circular 01/2013 'Setting Local Speed Limits'.

Threshold criteria for initial consideration of potential 20mph limits/zones. The Council will evaluate schemes against this methodology on a location by location basis. Unless in exceptional circumstances, locations will not be considered for 20mph schemes where any of the following apply:

1. they are on A or B class roads;
2. they have existing mean speeds above 30 mph;
3. there is no significant community support as assessed by the local County Councillor. In assessing community support, Councillors should review the views of town/parish councils and local residents' views.

Locations will then only be considered for 20 mph limits or zones if two out of three of the following criteria are met:

1. current mean speeds are at or below 24 mph; unless in exceptional circumstances towns/parish councils should pay for traffic surveys to take place.
2. there is a depth of residential development and evidence of pedestrian and cyclist movements within the area;
3. there is a record of injury accidents (based on police accident data) within the area within the last five years.

Locations within conservation areas and other areas of high visual amenity will not normally be considered suitable for sign only 20mph limits unless there will be minimal adverse visual impact. In these areas any 20mph restrictions will normally be through 20mph zones. Dorset Council aims to ensure that any 20mph schemes have the maximum benefit for the affected communities. The promotion of healthier lifestyles, sustainability benefits, improvements to the social interaction and economic wellbeing of an area are important considerations alongside reduction of accidents or traffic speeds. With these factors in mind a Priority Criteria Matrix incorporating these factors will be used to prioritise schemes using a scoring and weighting mechanism.

### Prioritising criteria

Assuming a potential scheme meets the requirements below there is a need for a mechanism to prioritise these for consideration to be funded from budgets that may be available from the Council. The Council aims to ensure that any 20mph schemes have the maximum benefit for the affected communities. The promotion of healthier lifestyles, sustainability benefits, improvements to the social interaction and economic wellbeing of an area are important considerations alongside reduction of accidents or traffic speeds. With these factors in mind a priority criteria matrix incorporating these factors will be used to prioritise schemes using a scoring and weighting mechanism. A copy of the matrix is shown below. For each priority criterion, the score allocated will be multiplied by the weighting against that criterion to give a weighted score. The total priority score for the proposal will be the total of the weighted scores. The higher the total score, the higher the priority.

Priority Criteria Matrix – 20mph limit

Criterion	Definition	Low score (0-3)	Mid score (4-7)	High Score (8-10)	Weighting (1-5)
Injury collision history	Relevant fatal or injury collision recorded by the police	No collision recorded within last five years	1-3 collisions recorded within last five years	4+ collision recorded within last five years	5

Conservation area	Designated conservation area by Dorset Council	No designated area with little architectural or historic interest	Not designated but with some architectural and historic interest	Designated conservation area	2
Deprived areas	Index of multiple deprivation (IMD). National ranking (2010) by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). IMD includes a range of economic, social and housing indicators into a single for one area.	25,000+	10,000 – 25,000	0 to 10,000	3
Police support	The formal view from Dorset Police Road Safety Officers on any scheme	Objection of little support	Some support but with reservations	Full support	2

### Climate Change (Consultation)

Climate and Ecological Change is the greatest existential threat we have ever faced. The great majority of scientific evidence, built up over many years, shows that the planet is getting warmer and that human activity is the main contributor to this warming. If we act to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions now, there's a good chance that we can limit average global temperature rises to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This doesn't mean that there will be no more changes in the climate – warming is already happening – but we could limit, adapt to and manage these changes.

Dorset Council has a key leadership role to play in tackling climate change and dealing with its consequences, but we can only hope to make a real impact by working closely with communities, organisations and individuals. Part of this is finding out what you think about our proposed Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan, which sets out exactly how we intend to help tackle climate change. We need to work together to overcome this monumental challenge. What we all do – or don't do – to address this climate and ecological emergency will impact our children, grandchildren and every other generation for centuries to come. What we agree now will set out how we – both as a council and a county – will do in the future.

Please take the time to read our strategy and action plan, then let us know what you think. Thank you, in advance, for your help. This consultation about the proposed new Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy began on Thursday 29 October and closes on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at midnight. We invite your comments to make sure we have considered a wide range of views, which will help shape the final Dorset Strategy. We want to hear from as many organisations and individuals as possible.

What happens next? All responses to the consultation will be collated. The responses will be used to help shape the final Climate Strategy. Councillors will then agree the final details of the strategy which the council adopts. It is intended that the new strategy will be adopted by Dorset Council in Spring 2021.

You can download the survey at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-survey-offline](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-survey-offline). Please pass this on to whoever you feel might want to respond. The strategy and all supporting documents can be downloaded and printed at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-strategy](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-strategy). Just click the box labelled "Download our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy as PDF" to view/print/download the full strategy document. PDF files for each section, as well as action plans and technical papers can also be found on the website.

### Covid Marshals

Dorset Council recently sent out newly-recruited 'COVID Marshals' in Weymouth to help residents and businesses keep safe during the pandemic and current lockdown. Working closely with Dorset-based company Event Security Southern LTD, the Council is using recently awarded government funding to fully train and deploy dedicated staff to work with the public and business owners in specific local areas to ensure they are "COVID-19 secure". Dorset Council has spent most of the year supporting local businesses with their COVID-19 secure guidance through telephone conversations and non-visible contact. These methods have been found to be effective and efficient, so this important work will continue. The Marshals will help support these efforts by providing an effective 'frontline' presence that the Council hopes will increase public confidence when visiting Dorset's high streets and town centres.

While the police and select council officers will continue to have enforcement powers, COVID Marshals have been tasked with engaging, explaining and encouraging best practice and national COVID-19 secure guidance. The marshals will also promote social distancing and encourage people to follow COVID-19 public health measures, while educating and explaining guidelines to businesses and the general public. They will work with local businesses on measures like queue management, advising on one-way systems and social distancing in queues. The marshals will also remind people to wear face-coverings where required and encourage social distancing in busy areas. They can also help prevent mixing between groups in night-time economy areas, raising any issues to local authority compliance and enforcement officers if guidelines are not being followed.

While the Marshals are currently active in Weymouth, their operating area is flexible, and Dorset Council can deploy them anywhere in the county where it is felt they are needed. They will continue to be active over the next few months.

### **Business Grants during the second lockdown**

Businesses in the Dorset Council area which were ordered to close from 5 November 2020 due to the current national COVID restrictions may be eligible for financial support through the government's Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSO). Dorset Council is administering the grant on behalf of the government. An online application form and further information is available on our website. Eligible businesses will be paid a single fixed amount to cover a four-week period. If a business has a rateable value of:

- exactly £15,000 or under on November 5, it will receive a payment of £1,334 per 28 day qualifying restriction period
- over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on November 5, it will receive a payment of £2,000 per 28 day qualifying restriction period
- exactly £51,000 or above on November 5, it will receive £3,000 per 28 day qualifying restriction period

To qualify, businesses must be in the Dorset Council area and must have been:

- open as usual before the November lockdown restrictions, and
- providing services in person to customers from the premises, and
- required to close due to restrictions imposed by government, and
- paying business rates for the premises before restrictions started

If a business premises has closed but is still operating a click and collect service, the business can still apply. This could be a pub or restaurant operating a takeaway service, or a shop offering home delivery as an alternative to your usual business. For businesses which do not have rateable values, the business pages on Dorset Council's website have details of other Government schemes and initiatives that businesses and organisations may be able to access and information on where to find additional support.

### **Grants for people and communities in Dorset Council**

We are delighted to announce that the Government's Department for Transport has awarded £438,000 to Dorset Council as part of the Active Travel Fund. This funding will be used for walking and cycling improvements across the county as we move towards a greener, cleaner Dorset. This is part of the Emergency Active Travel Fund, together with further support from the Re-opening the High Streets Fund. The aim of these funds are to support more people to walk and cycling for recreation and for work.

### **A31 Dorset Drainage Improvements – Update - a message from Highways England**

The additional design elements of the drainage improvements along the A31 are in progress. As a reminder, these improvements to the drainage aims to improve flood resistance, increase drainage capacity and ensure safety of road users and the local community. The works are currently scheduled to take place over the following periods:

23 November 2020 for four weeks  
25 January 2021 for seven weeks

NOTE: Currently there are no planned closures between Monday 4 and Friday 22 January 2021, due to a road closure taking place on the local authority network near Blandford St Mary, where the diversion utilises the A31. Should these utility works be postponed/cancelled, we will bring forward the start of the 2021 closures. For the safety of our workforce and customers, we will need to close the A31 east and westbound carriageways between the Bere Regis roundabout and the Roundhouse Roundabout (Sturminster Marshall) overnight

between 9pm and 6am, when there are fewer vehicles on the road. Between 6am and 9pm the road will be open, and access will be unrestricted.

During the closures a signed diversion will be in place via the A35 and A350. In addition, crossing points at Almer, Worlds End Pub and Red Post will be in place using temporary traffic lights for residents to be able to travel north/south across the A31. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles during the closures; all drivers must observe the reduced site speed limits for our workforce's safety.

The planning of all roadworks is led by safety – for both road users and our customers. We appreciate that road closures and delays can be frustrating, but would ask for your cooperation during these closures, and advise that abuse towards our workers will not be tolerated in any form. Please note that these works are subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. We will advertise the closures on yellow signs placed in advance at the alongside the A31.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to know about our work, please contact us on 0300 123 5000 or email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk). Or you can visit our website at <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/travel-updates/daily-closure-report/> where you can find a weekly report of all full closures across the network.

### **Purbeck Local Plan**

The local plan relates to the Purbeck area of Dorset Council and was submitted for examination in January 2019. Public hearing sessions were held as part of the plan's examination in July, August and October 2019. After considering responses made on the local plan, and the matters raised in the course of the hearing sessions, the Planning Inspector who examined the plan provided the council with a Post Hearing Note in March 2020 ( <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/purbeck/post-hearings-note-20-03-2020.pdf> ). The fourth paragraph of the Inspector's note states that '...I am reasonably satisfied at this stage that with Main Modifications the Plan is likely to be capable of being found legally compliant and sound...'. The note then goes onto reference several changes that need to be made to the local plan in order to ensure that it meets the tests for soundness (described in the National Planning Policy Framework) and is compliant with planning law. Without these changes the Inspector will not recommend that the council can adopt the local plan.

Since receiving the note officers have been working closely with the Planning Inspector to prepare a 'composite schedule of proposed Main Modifications'. This schedule provides a list of the changes to the local plan that are needed in order to ensure that it is sound and legally compliant. The next stage of the examination process for the Purbeck Local Plan involves publishing the proposed Main Modifications together with a number of other documents including, updated: local plan policies map(s); Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA); 5 year Housing Land Supply; and an Infrastructure Development Plan.

The consultation on the above is scheduled to take place between Friday 13th November 2020 and Friday 8th January 2021 over 8 weeks. Officers will be encouraging people to access the consultation documents electronically and make their responses digitally using an online form or through e-mails, this is in accordance with government guidance around social distancing to limit the spread of COVID-19. Where people are unable to access digital copies of consultation documents or make their response through the council's website/by e-mail, there will be an opportunity to loan a selection of the key documents from a number of libraries (including Upton, Lytchett Matravers, Wareham, Swanage, Wool and Dorchester) and make any responses in writing using a standard response form. When the consultation has concluded officers will collate and summarise the responses and send this summary (together with full copies of all responses) to the examining Planning Inspector for her consideration.

Subject to the Inspector's consideration of the responses, officers hope that she will find that the Purbeck Local Plan can be found sound and legally compliant with the proposed Main Modifications. If she reaches this conclusion officers will prepare a recommendation to Dorset Councillors that subject to Main Modifications the Council adopts the Purbeck Local Plan (2018-2034).

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule for Purbeck area**

The council has been reviewing the Purbeck CIL Charging Schedule in tandem with the Purbeck Local Plan. The Inspector has requested that some further modifications to the Draft CIL Charging Schedule are consulted on at the same time as the Purbeck Local Plan proposed Main Modifications. The further modifications to the draft CIL schedule result from proposed Main Modifications to the Purbeck local plan and changes in CIL Regulations and the planning use class order since it was submitted in January 2019 and provide clarification. CIL regulations only require limited consultation at this stage for 4 weeks (between the 13th November and 11th December 2020). Everyone on the council's original consultation database will be notified and

documents placed on the website. Responses to the proposed CIL modifications will be forwarded to the Inspector and inform the CIL hearing which we anticipate in the new year, probably around February time.

Below is a somewhat technical article on the CIL, which is a charge on developers to pay for Community infrastructure projects. It is all part of our goal to satisfy the Government Inspector as to the soundness of the Purbeck Local Plan (see earlier article)

The Council submitted the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and Priorities for Spending, 2019 (the Schedule) for examination in January 2019. At the same time the Council consulted on several minor changes in a Statement of Modifications which was subsequently submitted to the Examiner with the responses to that consultation. Additional minor changes are set out in a Statement of Further Modifications (the Statement) reflecting changes in CIL Regulations and addressing new evidence, changes in planning use classes and updates in the draft Purbeck Local Plan during examination. These are available to comment on until 11.45pm on 11th December 2020.

Alongside the Statement the Council has also published:

- A clean version of the Schedule incorporating both sets of modifications;
- A tracked version of the Schedule showing both sets of modifications; and
- Dorset Council CIL Viability- Extra Care Addendum.

Changes to planning use classes can be found on-line at:

[https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common\\_projects/9/change\\_of\\_use](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/9/change_of_use)

and the Proposed Modifications to Purbeck Local Plan can be found on-line at:

[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/plpmainmods](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/plpmainmods) .

The documents are available online at <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/cil-review.aspx> ,

The Council will forward all representations on the Statement of Further Modifications to the Examiner for consideration and publish them on the website. You can comment, preferably using the on-line form, by email to [planningpolicy@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) including 'Purbeck CIL' in the subject bar),

## Gritting Map

### PDF Gritting Map



Peter Wharf.pdf

I attach the winter gritting map. At its simplest, the red routes are the primary routes which are gritted when temperatures are forecast to be less than 1 degree and moisture is present; the blue routes are the secondary routes which are gritted when there is a snow event or temperatures fall below zero for 48 Hours continuously. Green routes are Highways England responsibility which are gritted by them and not Dorset Council.

This is the link <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/gritting/gritting-updates.aspx>

This year, a route-based forecasting system will be used to decide when and where to salt the gritting network – down to the exact routes needing treatment. Route-based forecasting will more accurately consider local conditions. Using weather forecasting information from Meteo Group, which includes data from the council's 11 roadside weather stations, individual decisions will be made for each of the 22 routes in the Dorset Council area. This significantly more targeted approach will reduce emissions from fewer lorry movements, it will use less rock salt, which is a finite resource, and it will save money by reducing the number of gritting runs needed.

Salt is stocked up ahead of the winter period, with 13,500 tonnes of salt stored across five highways depots, ready for the colder weather to arrive. Roads included in the 22 main gritting routes are those used by the majority of the travelling public. They cover 684 miles and account for around 28 per cent of the Dorset Council road network. Where prolonged cold weather is forecast, additional community routes are also treated to ensure more rural communities can continue to travel safely. Dorset Highways carries out gritting on the A35 trunk road on behalf of Highways England. This can often be at different times to the Dorset Council network.

## Electric Charging points

Dorset Council Transport Planning Team is delighted to announce work is to start on the installation of 44 electric vehicle fast charge points that use 100% renewable energy at 18 sites across the County. It marks a significant step towards Dorset Council's response to tackling the climate emergency. With Government plans to ban the sale of internal combustion engines by 2035, now is the time to be investing in the charging infrastructure for the benefit of Dorset's residents and visitors. A feasibility study of all 120 Dorset Council owned public car parks was carried out to identify the priority locations. Work at the first sites (phase 1) will start in January 2021 and they were chosen based on several factors including cost of connection to the electricity supply network, proximity of existing charge points, and expected demand. The installation and management costs of the charge points is being met by external contractors. In return Dorset Council receive an annual 10% profit share generated by each charge point for the next 15 years. Unfortunately, some towns/locations will miss out on the first phase of installation. If a site is not included in phase 1 then new charge points might still be delivered in later phases. Some locations face greater difficulties due to the cost of installing charge points at those locations.

Charges per kilowatt hour for using the charge points have been set at the competitive rate of 30 pence per kilowatt hour (enough to drive about 40 miles). Normal car parking charges will apply whilst charging. Once active, the charge points will appear on Zap Map, an industry standard publicly available application for finding charge points.

### **Dorset County Car Park Permits**

Dorset residents are being asked for their views on a new parking permit. The permits would provide a money-saving, convenient and cash-free way to park in Dorset Council-owned car parks around the county. Residents in the former West Dorset District Council area have been able to purchase permits for several years. All Dorset residents are now being asked if this should be extended across the Dorset Council area, or if the existing scheme should be ended. It is estimated the cost to Dorset Council for the permits would be at least £50,000 per year (administration costs and reduced parking revenue). However, with many town centres struggling due to COVID-19, the introduction of shopper's permits could encourage people to visit their local towns more frequently. The consultation runs from 30 October to midnight on 6 December 2020. It will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and is on the Dorset Council website Paper copies of the survey will be available in Dorset libraries from early November. Please phone ahead before visiting or check here for opening times.

Shopper's parking permit holders in the former West Dorset District Council area currently get 2 hours' parking per day (or 3 hours if a disabled badge is also displayed), 7 days a week. At extra cost to the purchaser, the permit can be used in a second vehicle but not on the same day. The consultation asks if shoppers would like the permit to allow them to park for more than 2 hours. If a decision is made to stop the scheme, the western Dorset permits will remain valid until their expiry date.

PLEASE NOTE: Only feedback provided via the online form will be included within the consultation. If you want to have your say, please fill out the form – thank you.

### **Children and Young people**

We are delighted to confirm that the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-23 was adopted by Dorset Council at the Full Council meeting held virtually recently; there was strong support for this from Elected Members. The full plan, Easy Read version and on-line accessible plan can be accessed following this link <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childrens-plan/childrens-plan.aspx>

This is a partnership of a wide range of bodies including the Police, both local authorities, the Youth Offending service and children's and charitable organisations across Dorset which has been brought together to ensure these various organisations work together for the benefit of our young people. I am delighted and honoured to have been asked to chair this Committee on behalf of all the partners.

### **Surgery**

We are not holding face to face meetings now. However, we would be delighted to ring and talk to you. Please ring or email us with the subject matter so that we can prepare ourselves. Peter's email address is [peterwharf@hotmail.com](mailto:peterwharf@hotmail.com) telephone 07986 600799 and Laura's is [cllr.laura.miller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.laura.miller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) telephone 07814 569563.

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