

**The Highland Council**

**Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee  
16 May 2013**

Agenda Item	<b>17</b>
Report No	<b>TEC 50-13</b>

**20mph Speed Limit Avoch**

**Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services**

**Summary**

This report invites Members to approve the 20mph speed limit within the village of Avoch in accordance with the Draft Road Traffic Order (DRTO) entitled The Highland Council (Avoch Village) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2013. One objection has been received in response to the DRTO.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 As part of the Council's strategy to introduce 20mph speed limits as a measure to improve road safety and provide an environment to encourage walking and cycling, plans were drawn up to introduce a 20mph speed limit on High Street and various residential streets on the older part of the village of Avoch.
- 1.2 A draft order entitled The Highland Council (Avoch Village) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2013 was prepared.
- 1.3 A drawing showing the area of the proposed 20mph speed limit is shown in **Appendix 1**.

**2. Statement of Reasons**

- 2.1 Following representation from the public and consideration by the local Ward Members it was considered appropriate, in the interests of road safety, to promote a 20 mph speed limit on part of the A832 Road and some of the roads that make up the village of Avoch.

**3. Consultation**

- 3.1 The following were consulted on the proposals for a 20mph speed limit on High Street and other streets in Avoch:
  - Ward Members
  - Community Council
  - The Emergency Services
  - Freight Transport Association
  - Bus Companies

- 3.2 There were no objections to the proposals from any of the above.
- 3.3 The proposals were then advertised in the local press and letters were sent to all premises on the affected streets.

#### **4. Objection to the Draft Road Traffic Order**

- 4.1 One objection to the DRTO has been received from Nr Neal Drummond.
- 4.2 Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, the power to make a permanent Road Traffic Order is delegated to the TECS Committee where there are unresolved objections.
- 4.3 The Committee has three options:
1. Approve the proposed 20mph speed limit as advertised and instruct its implementation
  2. Order a formal local hearing in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 to decide the matter.
  3. Accept that the objection is valid and instruct that the Draft Order be withdrawn and redrafted.

#### **5. Objections - in Summary**

- 5.1 Mr Drummond's objection is that the 20mph speed limit should not apply to High Street, A832 as it would cause driver frustration and increase journey times. Correspondence from Mr Drummond and the Council's response is included at **Appendix 2**.

#### **6. Response – in Summary**

- 6.1 In response to his correspondence Mr Drummond was informed that the Council had a policy in relation to 20 mph speed limits in town and village centres and residential areas and the benefits gained from the introduction of these measures. He was made aware that the desire for a 20mph speed limit in the village was initiated by the community through the Community Council.
- 6.2 Mr Drummond has been informed that the proposal, including all correspondence, will be included on the agenda for a future TECS Committee meeting.

#### **7. Implications**

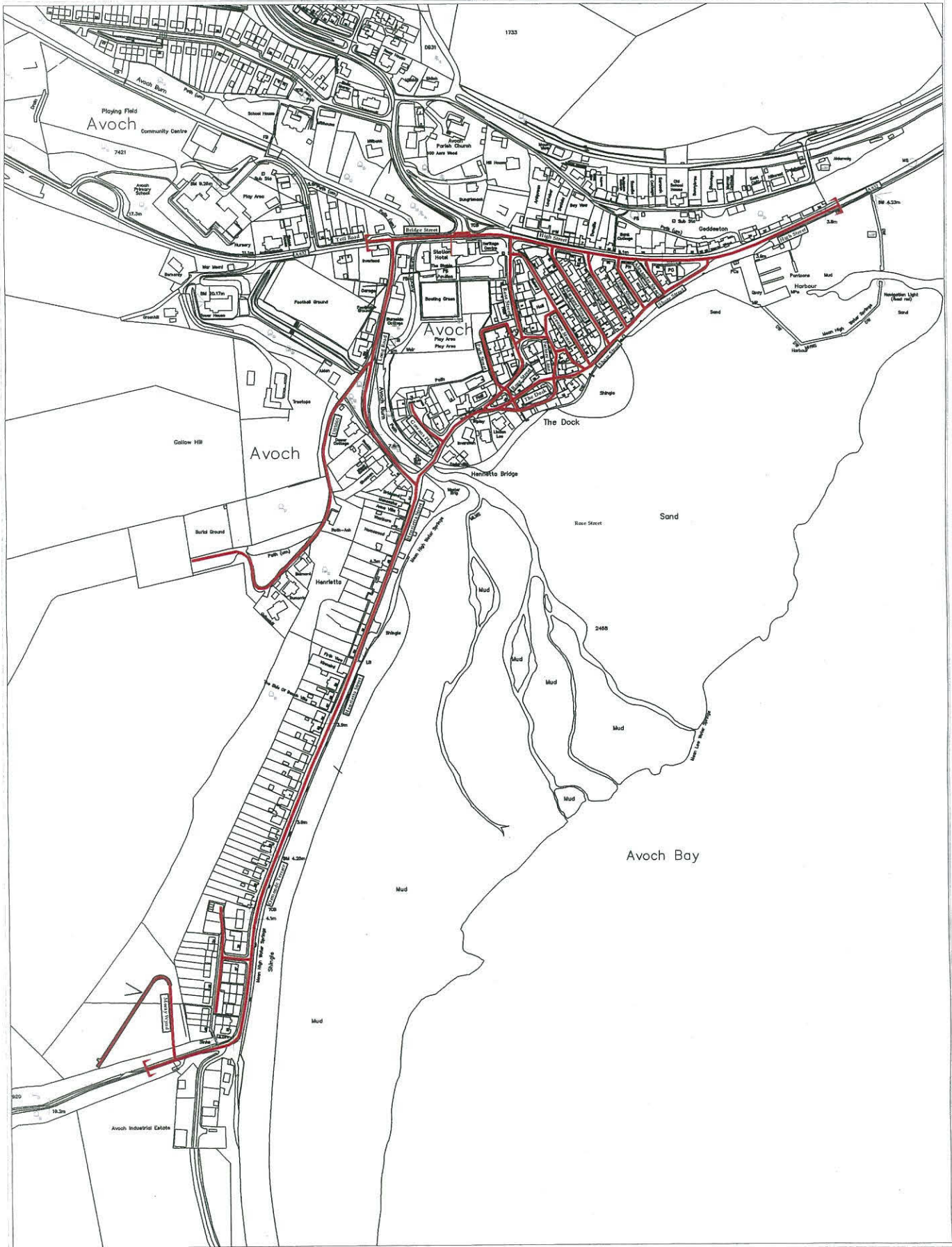
- 7.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report, as the work is included in existing budgets.

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report
- 7.3 There are no equality implications this report
- 7.4 Reduced vehicle speeds through will reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere.
- 7.5 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

**8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 Members are invited to approve the 20mph speed limit in Avoch in accordance with the Draft Road Traffic Order entitled The Highland Council (Avoch Village) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2013.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services  
Date: 4 May 2013  
Author: Drew Anderson



**20mph Speed Limit**



**The Highland Council**  
 Councils in the Highlands  
 Improving the Highland Community

PLANNING SERVICES  
 115 ESNA

**AVOCH. PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT**

SCALE **1/4000**

PLAN **6**

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This plan is a technical drawing and is not to be used for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared. It is not to be used for any other purpose without the prior written permission of the Highland Council.

**Drew Anderson**

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**From:** Hugh Logan  
**Sent:** 16 April 2013 13:17  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Drew Anderson  
**Subject:** RE: 20 mph speedlimit-avoch

Dear Neal

I refer to the various email correspondence below regarding the proposed 20mph speed limit on High Street in Avoch and your objection to it.

As Drew has intimated, the local community, represented by the community council intimated a strong desire to have a 20mph limit in the village, both to replace the existing advisory 20mph limit in Henrietta and Ormonde Terrace and to cover the streets in the dock area.

The initial proposal submitted did not include High Street, but the Community Council were concerned by the number of signs required to highlight the speed limit change at the High Street end of every street. This was exacerbated by the fact that it was often difficult to find a suitable location to erect the signs due to the variable pavement widths. To remove the need for all the speed limit signing on the High Street/ side street junctions, it was agreed to provide a 20mph limit on High Street. This was however kept as short as possible while still covering all the side street links which will have a 20mph limit.

The proposal to have the 20mph limit on the High Street also reflected the council's policy to provide 20mph limits in town and village centres and in residential areas. The aim of this policy is to improve the quality of life for local residents and for the vulnerable users in our town and village centres where there is a general concentration of pedestrian movements. The lower speed limit is also aimed at encouraging the use of healthier and more sustainable transport modes such as walking and cycling. There may also be environmental benefits as, generally, driving more slowly at a steady pace will save fuel and reduce pollution.

I note and share your concerns about excessive use of traffic calming to provide a reduced speed limit and the effect this would have on the flow of traffic through the village. I can therefore assure you that all the physical works on the High Street have been completed apart from some lining works and the erection of the 20mph signing; depending on the resolution of objections. On the basis of this I maintain that delays will be minimal as previously outlined.

The scheme we developed did not change the available parking on the High Street but did remove where possible the chances of vehicles parking on the pavement at the east end to allow disabled users free passage along the street.

While I accept you are not really not in agreement with the proposals for a reduced speed limit on High Street, I would hope that you will see that the scheme will benefit the more vulnerable users in the village. On the basis of the above I hope you would feel able to remove your objection to the proposed speed limit.

Yours Faithfully

Hugh

*Hugh F. Logan*  
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Opinions expressed herein are my own and do not necessarily represent those of my employer.

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**From:** Drew Anderson  
**Sent:** 08 April 2013 10:40  
**To:** Hugh Logan  
**Subject:** FW: 20 mph speedlimit-avoch

*Drew Anderson*

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 18 March 2013 22:24  
**To:** Drew Anderson  
**Subject:** Re: 20 mph speedlimit-avoch

Drew your letter reinforced my belief that I should object to this proposal. It is ridiculous to propose a 20mph limit on a main road, simply to reduce signage on the side roads. This is especially the case when it is impossible to reach more than 20mph on many of these roads anyway! Your time calculations are also flawed as a reduced speed limit will include traffic calming measures and cars will be brought to a halt. You would be better employed ensuring safe and sensible roadside parking on the High St thereby improving pedestrian safety and preventing driver frustration

Regards, Neal Drummond  
Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Mar 2013, at 10:36, Drew Anderson <[Drew.Anderson@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Anderson@highland.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear Neal,

I refer to you recent e-mail lodging an objection to the proposed 20mph speed limit on the A832 Road in Avoch.

The Community Council have been for some time seeking a 20mph speed limit in the old part of the village to the south west of the A832 road. When plans were produced for them showing 20mph speed restriction signs on all side roads leading from High Street, the Community Council rejected them because of the sign clutter that was required to introduce an enforceable speed limit.

They were however happy to have the A832 Road included within the 20mph restriction because it removed the need for so many signs in their village and provided a safer and more pleasant environment for pedestrians. There have in fact been 4 reported road accidents on this section road in the 3 year period up to July 2012.

I cannot accept that the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in Avoch is going to be a disincentive to anyone wishing to live in the pleasant country environment that the Black Isle offers. The time penalty involved if travelling along the section of road mentioned is only 19 seconds if travelling at 20mph instead of 30mph, hardly a significant length of time in any journey.

Now that I have explained the reasons behind the proposed 20mph speed limit on the A832 in Avoch I hope that you will reconsider your position and withdraw your objection.

Kind regards,

Drew.

*Drew Anderson*

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**From:** [drew.anderson@highland.gov.uk](mailto:drew.anderson@highland.gov.uk)  
**Sent:** 22 February 2013 13:00  
**To:** Drew Anderson  
**Subject:** 20 mph speedlimit-avoch

Drew, I write to lodge my objections to the above proposal with regard to the main A832 inclusion. There have been no safety issues with a 30mph limit in this section and no accidents. Traffic has no alternative route and I see no reason restrict a main A-road to 20mph. The road from Rosemarkie to Munloch is tortuous enough at present and the lower limit will add to existing frustration from commuters and disenchant many considering living in the new housing schemes in the BlackIsle.

Yours Sincerely,  
Neal Drummond

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Mura h-eil na beachdan a tha air an cur an cèill sa phost-d seo a' buntainn ri gnothachas Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, 's ann leis an neach fhèin a chuir air falbh e a tha iad, is chan eil iad an-còmhnaidh a' riochdachadh beachdan na Comhairle, no buidhnean buntainneach, agus chan eil am post-d seo na phàirt de chunradh sam bith mura h-eil sin air innse.