REPORT NO 112/01

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

25 JANUARY 2001

PROMOTION OF PART TIME 20 MPH ZONES AT SCHOOLS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT
This report informs the Committee of progress on the proposals for trial sites for low cost part time 20 mph zones outside schools

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agree to:

(i) the provision of appropriate signs at the six school sites detailed below in order to implement a change in the speed limit to 20 miles per hour at set times of the school day.

(ii) the promotion of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to effect changes to the speed limit at the three sites approved by Committee on 8 June 2000 plus the three additional sites detailed in this report for an experimental period of 18 months.

(iii) seek authorisation from the Scottish Executive for the signing of the experimental part time 20mph zones at the six sites.

2 BACKGROUND

As intimated in the previous report to the Roads Committee of 8 June 2000 (Report No 647/00) Angus Council is participating in a study with four other local authorities (Glasgow City Council, West Lothian Council, City of Edinburgh Council and Aberdeenshire Council) to promote part time speed reduction measures outside schools. Three sites were originally proposed for inclusion i.e. Monikie PS, Northmuir PS, Kirriemuir and Grange PS, Monifieth. Since then it has been decided that it would be appropriate to include a further three schools. These are:

- Borrowfield Primary School, Montrose
- Arbroath High School
- Arbroath Academy
The reasoning behind the recommended inclusion of these three additional sites in the proposed trials is that local residents raised concerns regarding general road safety and in particular vehicle speeds within the vicinity of Borrowfield Primary School. It was also considered that the trials should include a secondary school. At Arbroath High School there have been a number of safe routes to school measures implemented around the school and the proposed part time 20mph limit here complements these other measures. Finally following the public meeting to discuss the proposed 20mph zone at Cliffburn where public concern was expressed about traffic speeds on Seaton Road at Arbroath Academy it was agreed that this site could be added to the list of sites to be included in the trials. Seaton Road itself is not included in the proposed full-time 20 mph zone in the Cliffburn area, which, members will recall, will apply only to the residential streets east of Seaton Road and north of St Ninians Road. A trial at the Arbroath Academy site will therefore allow the assessment of the effectiveness of a part-time 20 mph zone in close proximity to a full-time 20 mph zone.

DETAILS

Two meetings have taken place between the various Local Authorities included in the study and the consultants appointed to advise on the project. The first meeting, held in County Buildings, Forfar was to decide on a programme of events leading up to an implementation date of August 2001 to synchronise with the beginning of the new school term. This is an ambitious target date which depends on the progress of the necessary traffic regulation orders and the required authorisation from the Scottish Executive.

At the second meeting held in Linlithgow in December 2000 the consultants tabled 5 separate papers detailing:

- Design and cost options for the signs and the layout of the 20mph zone with regard to traffic management measures, repeater signs etc.
- Draft Traffic Regulation Order
- Criteria for site selection

It was agreed that the local authorities prepare drawings of their proposed sites utilising the "Activated" invariable message sign arrangement (favoured by the Scottish Executive). This option consists of a permanently displayed part time 20mph speed limit which is activated by flashing amber lights similar to those found at railway level crossings. This activation would be controlled automatically and would implement the speed limit only during school hours when children were exposed to danger i.e. going to school in the morning, at lunch time and at school finishing time in the afternoon.

It was also agreed that each Council would promote the part time 20mph order for their own sites. While the consultants proposed that a "Gateway" effect could be created at the start of the zones it was agreed that each authority should examine whether a Gateway or a sign only on the left hand side of the road was most appropriate for their sites. It is proposed that the sites in Angus adopt a single sided
approach similar to the existing flashing amber warning signing at all schools. It is normal practice to erect warning signs on the left hand side only and this also has the benefit of reducing costs considerably.

The Chief Constable anticipates that Gateway signs (ie signs on both sides of the road) would have a more immediate impact on driver behaviour and would be likely to be more effective in the long term. He accepts however that it is important that single sided signs be trialled to allow a comparison of effectiveness with other arrangements for the purposes of the study.

Site specific authorisation from the Scottish Executive for each part time 20mph site within Angus will be required.

Details of the six sites are shown in Appendices 1 to 6 of this report. Appendix 7 shows details of the proposed signs to be used at each site.

It is intended to monitor the effectiveness of these signs over a trial period of 18 months. Thereafter the results of the trials will be fed back into the study for comparison with the results of the trials carried out by the other participating local authorities.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of the works at the six sites is estimated at £36,000. Subject to a sufficient top-up contribution being approved in the forth-coming budget-setting process, this priority expenditure will be met from the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repair Fund in 2001/2002. An additional ongoing maintenance cost of £660 per annum will be require to be contained in future years Roads Revenue Budgets for as long as the signs remain in place.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights issues arising as a consequence of this report.

6 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, The Director of Law and Administration, The Director of Education, The Director of Finance and the Chief Constable have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 CONCLUSION

This project is intended to promote lower speeds on the public roads adjacent to schools thus reducing the risk of injuries to school children in line with Central Government advice.

Dr Bob McLellan
DIRECTOR OF ROADS
NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report (list papers concerned):-


Report no 647/00 - Promotion of Part Time 20mph Zones at Schools - Angus Councils Roads Committee, 8th June 2000.

RS/PP
REPORTS/20mph zones 23.01.01
5 January 2001
APPENDIX 1

Grange Primary School

Pedestrian Access to School

Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of HMSO © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Angus Council LAB0323, 1999.
Proposed Part Time 20mph Zone Outside Schools

Northmuir Primary School, Kirriemuir
Location Plan
Monikie Primary School

Pedestrian Access to School

Proposed Part Time 20mph Zone Outside Schools

Monikie Primary School
APPENDIX 6

Access

Borrowfield Primary School

Proposed Part Time 20mph Zones Outside Schools

Drawing Title: Borrowfield Primary School Location Plan

Drawing Size: A4

Drawing No.: 06

Revision: 01

Date: 16/01/01

Checked By: R Speirs

Approved By: 

Status: NTS

Based upon the Ordinance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of HMSO & Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Angus Council (AB002A, 2001).
APPENDIX 7

SCHOOL ZONE
When lights flash