Submission ID: 16602

Comments from Kirkby Thore Parish Council for Deadline 8

Document REP7-142 "Scheme 0405: Temple Sowerby to Appleby, TR010062, 5.23 Traffic Regulation Measures (Speed Limits) Plans (Rev 2)― was submitted to Deadline 7 on 9th May. Kirkby Thore Parish Council (KTPC) notes that the majority of the length of the current 40mph speed limit along the existing A66 is proposed to be reduced to a 30mph limit. However, as shown on the attached Sheet 2 of the document, a short length to the west will be raised to a 60mph limit. This length includes the access to a working farm, Street House Farm, a junction with a road into Kirkby Thore along Piper Lane and a dwelling adjacent to the Piper Lane junction. KTPC requests that the current 40mph limit along this short length be retained, in order to maintain the same level of safety for ingress/exit of tractors to the farm and to provide a more natural slowing of the traffic from 60mph to 30mph as it approaches the village.

In addition, KTPC understood that the DCO proposed the designation of Priest Lane as a Quiet Lane, a mixed-use road suitable for the use of walkers, cyclists and horse riders as well as vehicles and was very supportive of this change owing to the current poor provision of off-road PRoW in this area. Linked to this suggestion, KTPC also thus very much supported the proposal in the recent National Highways proposal re. DC-10 (which is not now being taken forward) to reduce the speed limit from 60 to 30mph along Priest Lane in the same way that is still proposed in DC-14 for Sleastonhow.

KTPC still considers that a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph is necessary along Priest Lane, as well as along Sleastonhow, and that this suggestion is consistent with the approach Highways are taking along Sleastonhow in DC-14 which shares similar issues. Priest Lane is the main route taken for people walking from the village to the Health Centre in Temple Sowerby, it is also much used for circular walks from both Temple Sowerby and Kirkby Thore villages, with routes running along Priest Lane to Temple Sowerby and back round via Newbiggin village, returning to Cross Street. Priest Lane is also part of the promoted long distance walking route called Lady Anne's Way which runs from Skipton to Penrith and has become very popular in recent years and brings many walkers from all over the country into Kirkby Thore and Temple Sowerby along this ancient routeway with its well-known associations with Lady Ann Clifford. Priest Lane is a much-cherished walking route with magnificent views along its length of the striking and highly distinctive scarp face of the North Pennines AONB, and it deserves highly sensitive treatment in the proposals, including a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph. This would ensure that this popular route became far safer than it is currently for the many walkers who use this road. In addition, KTPC wishes to see the Rural Road Design Guide being used for Priest Lane in the same way that is proposed for Sleastonhow. We do not wish to see a design which would result in widening and the loss of the current rural character of this ancient route, or the introduction of inappropriate urbanising infrastructure.

