

**Subject:** **New 20mph zone, Central Parade, Herne Bay**

**Director/Head of Service:** KCC Head of Transportation and Development

**Decision Issues:** These matters are within the authority of Kent County Council

**Decision:** Non-key

**Classification:** THIS REPORT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**CCC Ward / KCC Ward** **Heron/ Herne Bay**

**Summary:** *The report outlines results of the consultation that has been undertaken on a proposed 20mph zone in central Herne Bay.*

**To Recommend:** **That the Kent County Council (Herne Bay 20mph Speed Limit) Order 2010 be made as advertised.**

## **Introduction**

1. In October 2009 Councillors Jean Law and David Hirst submitted a Members Highway Fund application to introduce a 20mph zone to Central Parade, and the minor roads to the north of the High Street in Central Herne Bay. The extent of this area is shown on the drawing in Appendix 1.
2. Previously the speed limit on all of these roads was 30mph. There are several One Way streets in the proposed order including Charles Street, Mortimer Street, East Street, Bank Street, Beach Street, and Station Road. The narrowness and heavily parked nature of these roads do act as a speed reduction measure, and also make them highly unsuitable for vehicles travelling at high speeds. Mortimer Street is pedestrianised at times.
3. Central Parade is an area with high pedestrian flow and with a high volume of tourist shops/restaurants and the seafront. Along Central Parade there is existing traffic calming in place in the form of speed tables to help keep vehicle speeds low.
4. A total of fourteen crashes have been recorded in the named roads during the past three years. Twelve of these were slight crashes and two of them were serious. Of the fourteen two of these crashes were speed related one of those being a serious crash.
5. Eight letters of objection have been received in relation to the proposed new 20mph zone in Herne Bay along with two letters of support for the scheme. The main reasons for objection are that the scheme has very little merit as speeds in

most of the roads are already low due to their nature, and that there is not enough evidence to support the scheme in the way of speed surveys and crash statistics. These letters of representation are summarised in the table below

6.

<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OBJECT</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
X		Good idea but does not believe there is an obvious problem in the named roads.
X		The proposed 20mph limit will improve the overall safety of the roads included in the scheme.
	X	The scheme would be pointless the roads in question already have low speeds due to their nature.
	X	Scheme would be a waste of money and there are other roads where speeding is more serious.
	X	Strongly objects, believes it is impossible to reach excessive speeds in the named roads. Resident also believes that vehicle emissions would be higher due to increased fuel consumption.
	X	The scheme would be a waste of money and believes there is no crash record to justify the change.
	X	The Association of British Drivers strongly object, believe there are no reasons or evidence to back up the scheme (speed surveys, crash statistics). Thinks the proposed change will increase vehicle emissions.
	X	The scheme would not be cost effective and is not required.
	X	High speeds are non-existent due to the poor road surface and nature of the roads in question.
	X	Kent Police believe that there is a lack of physical calming features in the area and that parked vehicles will be over-relied upon to reduce vehicle speeds. More physical features need to be installed.

#### **Options available**

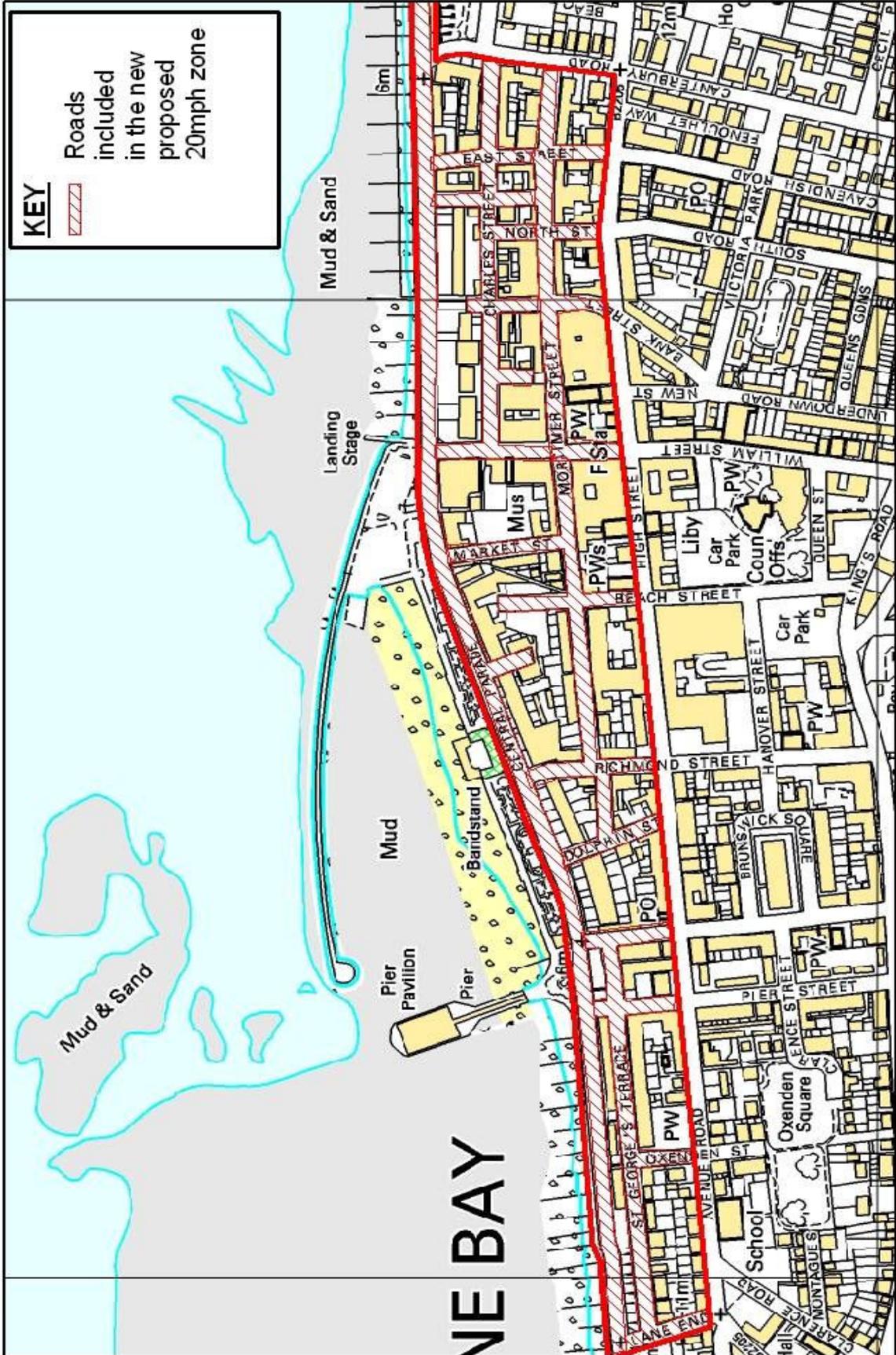
7. To make The Kent County Council (Herne Bay 20mph Speed Limit) Order 2010.
8. To abandon this Order and maintain the existing speed limit of 30mph.

## **Conclusions**

9. Speed limits should be appropriate to the conditions of the road so that motorists are not forced to adopt an unnaturally slow speed to drive legally. The constrained nature of the roads in Central Parade Herne Bay, the frequent junctions and the volume of pedestrians, many of whom walk in the carriageway all contribute to a natural slow speed which will be reinforced by the proposed 20mph speed limit. It is therefore recommended that the Traffic Order should be made as advertised.

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**Appendix 1:** Drawing showing roads included in 20mph zone



**KEY**

Roads included in the new proposed 20mph zone



# Herne Bay 20mph Zone

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