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## **PROPOSED CHANGE OF SPEED LIMIT – DOVER HILL AND NEW DOVER ROAD**

To: **Folkestone and Hythe Joint Transportation Board – 2 July 2018**

By: **Tim Read, Head of Transportation, Kent County Council**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Wards: Folkestone Harbour Ward, Folkestone and Hythe District  
(Capel-le-Ferne Ward, Dover District)

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**Summary:** This report gives details of the statutory consultation for a proposal to reduce the speed limit in part of New Dover Road and Dover Hill as part of a Crash Remedial Scheme.

### **For Recommendation**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Proposal**

1.1 As part of the County's Crash Remedial Measures scheme for 2018/19, Dover Hill has been identified as a location for measures.

1.2 Based on the crashes that have taken place, it was considered that reducing the speed limit on Dover Hill and the approach to Dover Hill along New Dover Road could have a beneficial effect on road safety.

1.3 Automated speed surveys were conducted in November and December 2017 at two sites (halfway up Dover Hill and outside no.7 New Dover Road) in order to determine existing speeds and therefore determine if a reduction in the speed limit from derestricted (60mph) to 50mph or 40mph would be most appropriate. The results can be summarised as follows

		Mean Speed	85 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Site 1 (Dover Hill)	Westbound	35.1 mph	38.6 mph
	Eastbound	35.3 mph	39.9 mph
Site 2 (New Dover Road)	Westbound	40.0 mph	45.2 mph
	Eastbound	38.6 mph	43.8 mph

1.4 It can be seen that although mean and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds on Dover Hill are below 40mph, the speed on New Dover Road are higher with 85% of cars travelling at up to 45.2mph in a westbound direction and 43.8mph in an eastbound direction. Therefore it is felt that a speed limit of 40mph might suffer from a higher level of non-compliance and lead to constant enforcement

requests. A 50mph speed limit would be most widely complied with and therefore should be considered for this location.

- 1.5 Under Department for Transport (DfT) guidance (*Circular 01/2013*), a 40mph speed limit should be considered where "...there are many bends, junctions or accesses, substantial development, a strong environmental or landscape reason, or where there are considerable numbers of vulnerable road users." It is felt, along with the measured speeds, that the road environment does not meet these criteria. There are a number of bends on Dover Hill but the road is wide and the bends are not tight. There are only three junctions (Battle of Britain Memorial, Crete Road East and Dover Road), development is not substantial and the road is not used by a considerable number of vulnerable road users.
- 1.6 DfT guidance states that a 50mph speed limit should be considered for "...lower quality A and B roads that may have a relatively high number of bends, junctions or accesses, and can also be considered where mean speeds are below 50mph so the lower limit does not interfere with traffic flow.". On this basis a 50mph speed limit is being proposed.
- 1.7 A plan of the proposed area can be seen in Appendix A.

## 2.0 Consultation

- 2.1 A notice of the proposed TRO was placed in the Kent Messenger on 2 February 2018. Letters to statutory consultees and local residents in the immediate vicinity of the scheme were sent out on 31 January 2018. Notices were also placed on site. The closing date for objections and comments was 26 February 2018.
- 2.2 Ten formal responses were received. Five of these were broadly in support, but some requested a lower speed limit. The comments received are summarised below:

Comments	KCC response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like the speed limit to be reduced to 40mph, especially by the entrance to the Battle of Britain memorial.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See comments in paragraphs 1.4, 1.5 &amp; 1.6 regarding the speed limit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can't see why a reduction in the speed limit is necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal is being made as part of a Crash Remedial Measures scheme.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The two lanes up Dover Hill should be reduced to one lane further down the hill.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the physical narrowing of the road width is outside the budget for these works, an additional merging arrow will be introduced to encourage traffic to merge earlier. There are existing warning signs in place.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed limit on Dover Hill should be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 30mph speed limit would be an</li> </ul>

30mph.	unrealistically low speed limit for Dover Hill given its nature and characteristics, and therefore there would be a high level of non-compliance.
•The speed limit should be reduced along the whole of the B2011 New Dover Road.	•The scope of these works is only for Dover Hill and the adjoining section of New Dover Road.

A full copy of the responses can be found in Appendix B.

- 2.3 Kent Police commented that any speed limit should comply to National guidance, be appropriate and in the main self-enforcing. They also commented that as there are many demands on resources, speed enforcement may receive a low priority.
- 2.4 Although there are several responses asking for the speed limit to be reduced further, it is felt that a lower speed limit would not be appropriate or complied with, and would not fulfil the requirements made by Kent Police. Further details can be found in paragraphs 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 & 2.3.

### **3.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **3.1 Financial and VAT**

3.1.1 None for Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

#### **3.2 Legal**

3.2.1 None for Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

#### **3.3 Corporate**

3.3.1 None for Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

### **4.0 Recommendation(s)**

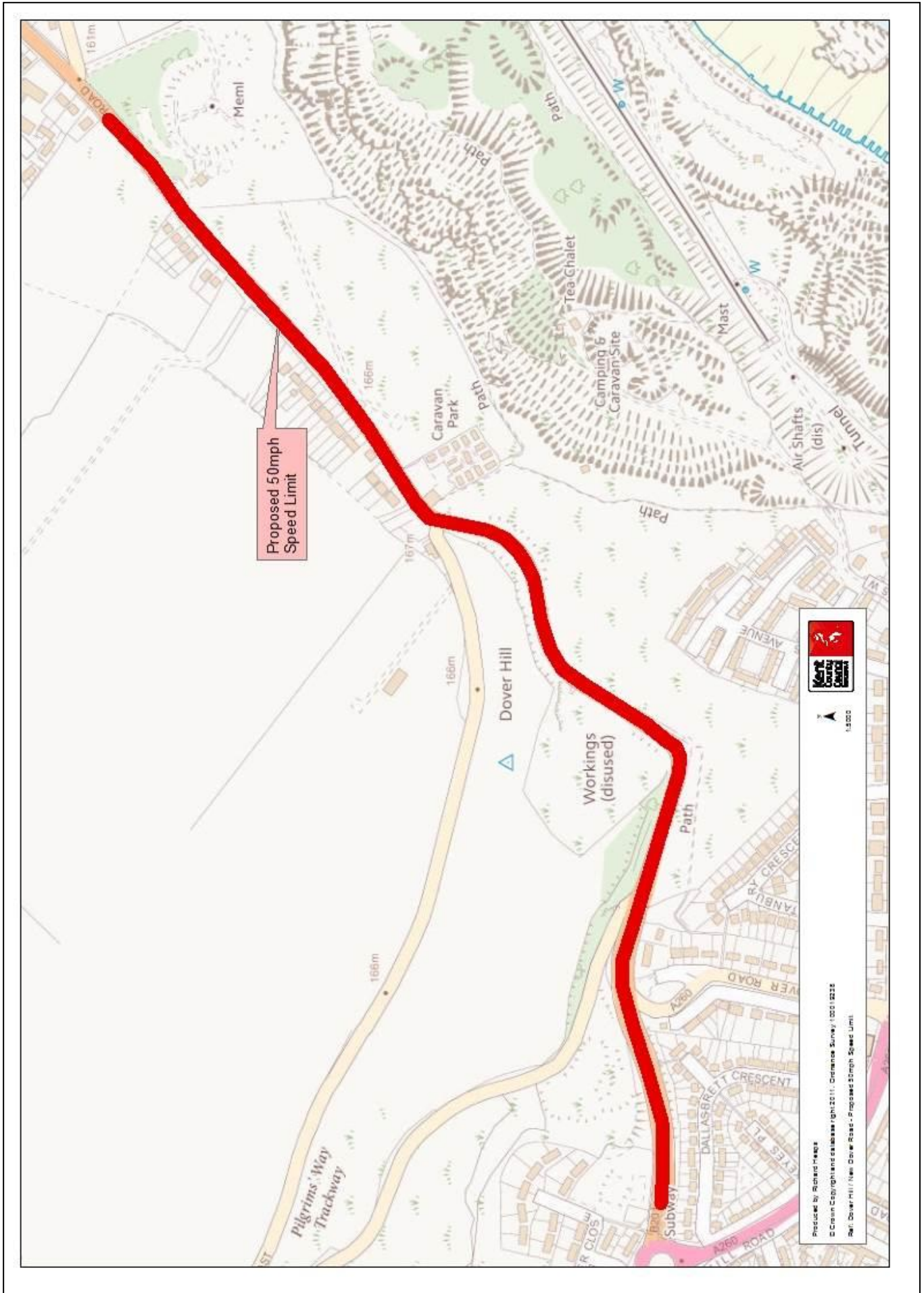
4.1 That the 50mph speed limit and additional lane merging arrow be installed as proposed.

Contact Officer:	Richard Heaps, Schemes Project Manager (Folkestone and Hythe), Kent County Council, 03000 418181
Reporting to:	Tim Read, Head of Transportation, Kent County Council, 03000 418181

### **Background Papers**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
<i>Whole file</i>	<i>Schemes Planning and Delivery, Kent County Council</i>

Appendix A – Plan of Proposals



## Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 February 2018 13:58  
**To:** Traffic Regulation Orders - GT  
**Subject:** Speed reduction on Dover Hill

I am a regular user of this route and would have no difficulty with a reduced speed to coincide with what is already in place through the village. However, Dover Hill is not a built up area nor does it have any places of concern, ie parking or pull-ins, so I am at a loss as to why the reduction is necessary. May I suggest that if a reduction is sought, it should start at the Valiant Sailor just after the brow of the hill and not further along the road thus leaving the existing speed limit on the actual hill as it is.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 February 2018 20:35  
**To:** Traffic Regulation Orders - GT  
**Subject:** Amendment No 18 Order 2018, Capel le Ferne

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I want to object to your proposed speed limit reduction from 18 New Dover Rd to a point 5 meters on the South-Western boundary of No101 New Dover Rd.

My view is that reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph is not enough. I really think that should be reduced to 40mph. Considering all the bad bends on the hill and the amount of residents that have to negotiate getting in and out of their properties from both sides of the busy road and also of the other road's junctions that brings a lot of traffic on to it.

On this part of New Dover Rd we have got the Battle of Britain memorial side which brings thousand of tourists every year who come by cars, motorbikes and buses and it is highly dangerous try to negotiate in and out of that site with speeding traffic on that straight stretched road. I believe that prevention is better than cure because i do not want to see any more deaths or bad fatalities.

I hope you can give this some serious thought as a lot of concerned residents here.

Regards

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 February 2018 13:53  
**To:** Traffic Regulation Orders - GT  
**Subject:** Amendment Orders No 11 and No 18

Good Afternoon,

This is to confirm that I wish to express my support for the Amendment Orders No11 and No18. Whilst the proposed reduction of the speed limit to 50mph is a move in the right direction I would have preferred the speed to have been reduced to 40mph under Amendment Order No 18. My reason for this is to take into consideration for the traffic coming in and out of the Memorial.

Regards

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 February 2018 19:50  
**To:** Traffic Regulation Orders - GT  
**Subject:** B2011 Dover Hill - Battle of Britain site.

Dear Sirs

I understand the residents of Capel living on the above stretch of road have signed a petition concerning the reduction in the speed limit.

I would like to add my comments and would like to see the whole of the B 2011 from Dover Hill to Court Wood having a reduction in the speed limit.

For far too long cars and lorries have raced through Capel on the B2011 without anything being done. Also many drivers are using their mobile phones on this stretch. It seems the authorities are aware there is a problem with speeding.

During the summer months of 2017 it was impossible to sleep. Apparently work was taking place on the A20. So night after night we had lorries thundering through the Village with scant thought of residents trying to sleep and certainly not keeping to the speed limit. I did report it at the time but nothing was done. The lorries should not be allowed through Capel unless making a delivery. They should be diverted onto the A2. Why should the residents of Capel living on the main road have their quality of life spoilt.

I campaigned for the new A20 39 years ago it seems things have gone full circle and we are once again experiencing a big problem with speeding traffic.

I would like to see the speed limit reduced to 30mph as it is through the Council Estate at the bottom of the hill.

Thank you

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 February 2018 12:55  
**To:** Traffic Regulation Orders - GT  
**Subject:** Amendment N0.18 and No.11 Order 2018

Dear Sirs,

I refer to the proposal to change National Speed limits reference the above amendments to Order 2018.

**Amendment No.18 Order 2018,**

I would respectfully suggest that the existing 40 mph speed limit that currently starts 5 metres southwest of the southwestern boundary of No 101 New Dover Road be extended south west to encompass the entrance to the Battle of Britain memorial site and also the entrance to the farm ( No 12 New Dover Road) that was recently given KCC approval for waste collection to the east of No.8 New Dover Road. This would improve the safety access from these sites onto the New Dover Road.

**Amendment No.11 Order 2018**

I fully support the proposal to impose a 50mph speed limit from the bottom of Dover Hill up to the 40 mph speed limit suggested above.

Any attempt to reduce the speed through Capel-le-Ferne would be welcome as there is an on going problem of a small minority of motorist that see the straight road (B2011) though the village as an excuse to regularly exceed the existing 40mph limit and sometimes seems like the maximum National limit.

Yours faithfully

-----Original Message-----

From:  
Sent: 13 February 2018 16:23  
To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT  
Subject: Amendment no 18 Order 2018

I support the introduction of a speed limit from a point 115 metres east of the roundabout junction with Hill Road to a point 5 metres southwest of the boundary of 101 New Dover Road. It is heartening that some measures are being taken to reduce accidents


I would recommend the introduction of a speed limit of 40 mph rather than 50

The reasons are

1. There are residential entrances and exits on both sides of New Dover Road.
2. Crossing the road to/from the bus stop so near the corner and junction between New Dover Road, Dover Hill and Crete Road East is frightening, especially for the elderly residents who use walking aids. If any member of my family is injured, this email will serve as evidence that KCC is aware.
3. Cars frequently lose control when rounding the corner at the top of Dover Hill/New Dover Road, clipping the kerb and spinning onto the pavement, into the road to through fences. Many of these are not officially recorded since, by luck not judgement, injuries are not KSI. We have had two this week, one of which required the police and fire brigade.
4. The corners up Dover Hill are not safe if taken at 50mph; there is a history of cars losing control/rolling over when taking the bends too fast

There is more work to be done to make the Dover Hill/Crete Road East/New Dover Road junction safer, namely moving the reduction from two lanes to one nearer Folkestone

Regards

**From:**   
**Sent:** 03 February 2018 20:16  
**To:** Traffic Regulation Orders - GT  
**Subject:** 50 mph Speed Limit  
**Attachments:** 50mph New Dover Road 1 001.jpg; 50mph New Dover Road 2 001.jpg

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to add my strong support to this proposal.



04/02/18

Traffic Schemes Team  
Kent County Council  
Ashford High Depot  
Javelin Way  
Ashford  
TN24 8AD

Dear Team,

I would like to amend and add to the letter I sent dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 as follows

**RE: Introduction of 50mph speed limit from  
the bottom of Dover Hill to Capel Parish Boundary.**

I fully support the above proposal.

I am part of a resident group that have campaigned for a reduction in speed on this section of road.

Following a meeting with representatives from KCC Highways and KCC Cllr Dick Pascoe, a petition was raised.

This petition not only asked for a reduction in speed on this section of road but **also a reduction from two lanes to one before the last bend approaching the top of the hill.**

Although the reduction in speed will help, the current reduction of two lanes to one at the top of the hill is far too close the Crete Road East Junction, resulting in frequent accidents.

Street lights should also be re-introduced at the Hope Farm entrance where many HGVs wait to turn in when coming from the Dover direction.

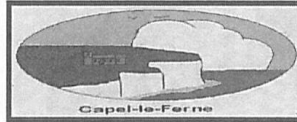
**RE: Introduction of 50mph speed limit from  
the Capel Parish Boundary to the existing 40mph limit.**

I would like to oppose the introduction of 50mph speed limit on this section of road but support the extension of the existing 40mph limit due to the number of minor accidents and near misses that have occurred though vehicle accessing/egressing the Battle of Britain Memorial Site

Yours sincerely

CAPEL-LE-FERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council  
Maureen Leppard  
Website:  
[www.capel-le-fernepc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.capel-le-fernepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)



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Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, Kent. CT18 7LT  
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22 February 2018

Richard Heaps  
Traffic Schemes Team  
Kent County Council  
Ashford High Depot  
Javelin Way  
Ashford  
TN24 8AD

Email address: [tro@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tro@kent.gov.uk)  
www: [https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/SpeedLimit\\_NewDoverRoad/consultationHome](https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/SpeedLimit_NewDoverRoad/consultationHome)

Dear Team,

**RE: Amendment No. 18 Order 2018**  
**Introduction of 50mph speed limit from**  
**a point 6m east of no.18 New Dover Road (Capel Boundary), to a point 5m south-west of the**  
**south-western boundary of no.101 New Dover Road.**

At the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council recommended that the speed limit **on the above section of road should be 40mph, so extending the existing 40mph zone.**

Therefore Councillors **opposed the introduction of 50mph speed limit.**

The reason that the Council support an extension of the 40mph limit is because there has been a number of minor accidents and near misses on this section of road, mainly due to vehicles/coaches accessing/egressing the Battle of Britain Memorial Site and Visitor Centre.

The site attracts around 50,000 visitors a year. Accidents have occurred due to sight lines being impaired by overhanging vegetation and mis-judgement of oncoming vehicle speed.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Leppard  
Clerk  
Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council

**From:** Traffic Management Coldharbour Kent  
**Sent:** 08 February 2018 12:20  
**To:** Heaps, Richard - GT HTW  
**Subject:** Dover Hill Speed Limit

Richard,

Please may I ask that future consultations are via an electronic medium. Paper consultations are no longer stored by us and need to be scanned onto an electronic database.

Comment from Kent Police is as follows, -

- All aspects of DfT Circular 01/2013 to be adhered to. Any limit introduced outside of this guidance may not only be ineffective but it may leave the Police with the task of carrying out enforcement, where previously an issue of excess speed did not exist.
- Kent Police would seek that the legislation and advice from Traffic Signs Manual Chapters 3 and 5, and the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016, is complied with.

In line with the above comments, we would look for this limit to be appropriate and in the main self-enforcing. Speed enforcement competes with other issues of public concern, therefore the deployment of resources must be prioritised and this may mean that the enforcement of this speed limit receives a low priority. These comments are based without knowledge of the crash and speed data for the area, which were not supplied at the time of consultation.

Our reference is:

Regards

Traffic Management Unit  
Operations Planning  
Tactical Operations Command  
Kent Police

 Kent Police - Coldharbour, London Road, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7SL

