

Exwick Road Area – Changes to Parking and Speed Limits

Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Committee be asked to:

- (a) note the responses to the consultation; and
- (b) approve the making and sealing of the traffic regulation orders to implement the restrictions as advertised.

2) Background/Introduction

The council has received numerous contacts regarding the problems caused by the parking on Exwick Road, by Exwick Villas.

Residents were consulted on alternative parking options at the end of 2019/early 2020. After considering the responses submitted, it was resolved to advertise the introduction of limited waiting on the west side of the road.

As the proposed changes would also remove parking on the east side of the road, it is expected that vehicle speeds will increase along this section of road. Previous speed complaints have been through the council's Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF) process with the police, which also confirmed drivers were not compliant with 20mph speed limit. Complaints have also been received through the local County Councillor. Therefore it is proposed to increase the speed limit on Exwick Road to 30mph.

Additionally, in recognition of the changes on Station Road (upgraded pedestrian crossing and new road hump) it was proposed to make Station Road a 20mph zone.

These proposals were subject to a statutory consultation between the 10 November 2022 and 1 December 2022 and this report considers the comments submitted during that consultation.

3) Proposal

It is proposed to introduce No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow lines) along the east side of Exwick Road (Exwick Villas) outside nos. 1 to 28 Exwick Villas. This is to prevent parking that obstructs the access and egress from the driveways along this stretch of road.

Parking on the opposite (west) side of the road will be retained but limited to 2 hours during the day (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday). The driveways and the narrower southern end would be protected with No Waiting at Any Time.

Due to the removal of the parking on the eastern side, it is expected that the speed of traffic would naturally increase along this section and this has led to a review of the speed limit along the whole of Exwick Road and it is proposed that this is changed to 30mph to bring it into line with roads of a similar nature in the area (Buddle Lane and Cowick Lane) and in line with the actual speed of traffic using the road.

Data shows that the current speed of traffic along Exwick Road is non-compliant with a 20mph speed limit (Appendix 1).

It is not financially viable or appropriate to introduce physical features along the road to reduce speeds to 20mph. Reviewing the collision record of the road, it is considered that an increase in speed limit but probably not an increase in actual speeds would not affect the number and severity of collisions on the road.

It is for these reasons it is recommended to implement the parking changes and increase the speed limit as proposed.

This would ensure that all road users have a clear understanding of the traffic speeds providing a consistent and therefore safer message.

4) Options/Alternatives

Alternative options for the parking were considered as part of the original consultation, with the option of a single yellow line to ban daytime parking instead of limiting the time allowed. After considering the comments submitted, this proposal was not progressed.

The option of retaining the 20mph speed limit on Exwick Road has been considered but ruled out for the reasons contained in this report.

5) Consultations

In December 2019 we held an exhibition at Exwick Parish Hall to display options to resolve the parking concerns in the area. The proposals also included changes to the local speed limits. Comments were invited on the proposals, that were also published on the council's website.

After considering the responses, the decision was made to proceed with the formal Traffic Order consultation. This took place between 10 November and 1 December 2022 and was advertised by notices in the local press and on-site. Details were also sent to local properties. We received 4 letters of response to the consultation as detailed within this report.

6) Strategic Plan

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan>

It is considered that the proposals align with the Strategic Plan as the changes will help communities be safe, connected and resilient as we aim to improve safety by better managing the parking and providing a clear and consistent message on speed along the road. It is also considered that this is in line with our commitment to being an innovative council by changing the way we consider speed along the road based on the data/evidence to improve the road for the local area.

7) Financial Considerations

The changes are being funded from the Council's Speed Management capital budget with a contribution from a nearby development (which was spent in previous financial years).

8) Legal Considerations

There is a legal requirement for the Highway Authority to give due consideration to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Traffic Management Act 2004, The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and all other enabling powers.

It is the duty of the local authority in exercise of its functions under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities having regard, so far as it is practicable, to the following factors:

- (a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;
Officer recommendation: It is considered that the parking changes will improve access to local premises as they will prevent long term parking in the road. Changes to the speed limits will not impact access to premises.
- (b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run,
Officer recommendation: It is considered that the parking changes will improve access to local premises and amenities as they will prevent long term parking in the road and encourage turnover of the spaces during the day. It is not considered that changes to the speed limits will impact amenities in the area.
- (bb) the strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995 (national air quality strategy).
Officer recommendation: Not relevant to this proposal.
- (c) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles.
Officer recommendation: The removal of parking on the east side should improve access for public service vehicles using this section of Exwick Road. The changes to

the speed limit may also benefit public service vehicles using the entire length of road as it may save;

- (d) any other matters appearing to the local authority to be relevant.
Officer recommendation: other relevant matters for consideration are outlined in the body of this report.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

It is not considered there are any environmental impact considerations for the changes proposed.

10) Equality Considerations

It is not considered there are any equality considerations for the changes proposed.

11) Risk Management Considerations

No risks have been identified.

12) Reasons for Recommendations

After consideration of the proposals and the comments submitted it is recommended that the changes are implemented as advertised.

Meg Booth

Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Electoral Divisions: Exwick & St Thomas, Duryard & Pennsylvania and St David's & Haven Banks

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Paper Nil

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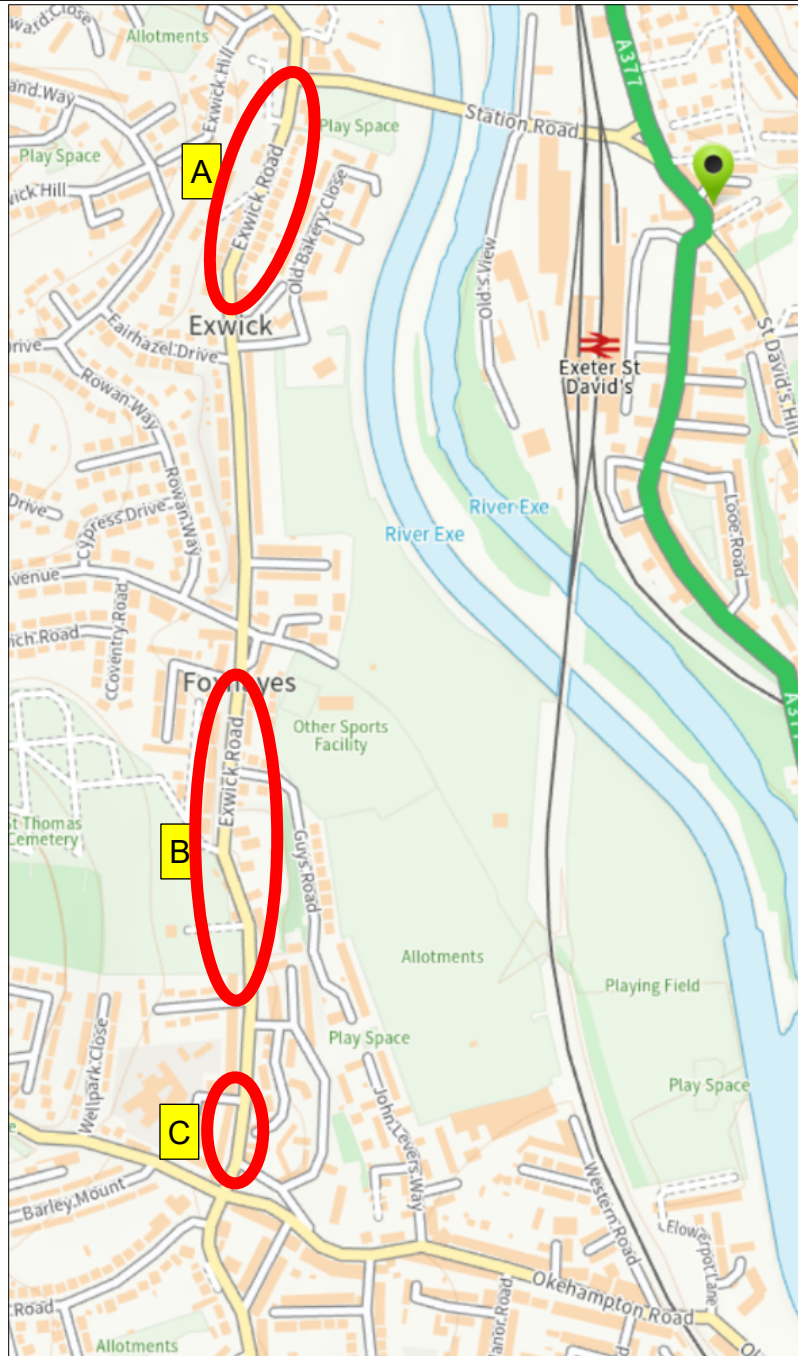
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sc/cr/Exwick Road Area Changes to Parking and Speed Limits

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Appendix 1 to CET/23/55

Location	2007 (pre 20mph)	2008	2009	2010	2016	2023
A			28.9mph			24.9mph
B	35.2mph	33.2mph			29.2mph	29.5mph
C	28.3mph	28.3mph				
Buddle Lane					29.2mph	27mph
Cowick Lane				32.6mph		31mph



Summary of Responses

Devon County Council (Exwick Road, Exeter) (Waiting Restrictions) Amendment Order – Ref 5653

Devon County Council (Exwick Road & Station Road, Exwick, Exeter) (Speed Limit) Order – Ref 5654

Comment	Devon County Council Response
Devon County Council (Exwick Road, Exeter) (Waiting Restrictions) Amendment Order - Ref 5653	
Respondent 1 – Resident of Exwick Road	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondent supports the proposal. It will improve the flow of traffic and assist in vehicles getting in and out of driveways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support noted.
Respondent 2 – Resident of Exwick Road	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility from the driveway is poor and vehicles travelling past sometimes have to stop suddenly. The exit from the driveway onto Exwick Road was considered during the planning stages of the development but respondent feels that there are more vehicles entering and exiting than originally estimated. Respondent feels that the proposed restrictions will make the situation worse because if there are no parked cars then vehicles may travel faster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View noted. As stated, the access was considered and approved at the planning stage and is considered appropriate in a residential area.
Respondent 3 – Resident of Exwick Villas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondent asks where visitors to residents are supposed to park as there will not be sufficient space if the proposals go ahead. Parked cars slow vehicles down so if parking is removed then vehicle speeds may rise. Respondent would like things to stay as they are now. Respondent thinks that the money used on these proposals could be better spent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors will be able to park on Exwick Road for 2 hours between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or for longer outside of those times. The council has received numerous contacts from local residents regarding the problems caused by the parking on Exwick Road, by Exwick Villas which is why we have considered these proposals.

Comment	Devon County Council Response
Respondent 4 – Resident of Exwick Road	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondent states that they currently have trouble finding a parking space outside their home, they are concerned that the introduction of limited waiting will make this even more difficult. Respondent has a blue badge and asks if they can have a disabled parking space marked outside their property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View noted. The changes will introduce limited waiting in the area and blue badge holders are exempt. Applications for an on-street disabled parking bay are made via our Customer Contact Centre on 0345 155 1004.
Devon County Council (Exwick Road & Station Road, Exwick, Exeter) (Speed Limit) Order - Ref 5654	
Respondent 1 – Resident of Exwick Road	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondent is disappointed that the speed limit is proposed at 30mph after years of campaigning for a lower speed limit. Respondent suggest having restricted parking as proposed. Respondent feels that it is a waste of money to remove the 20mph signs as it has only been this speed for a short amount of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After considering the removal of the parking, it would not be appropriate to retain the 20mph restriction on Exwick Road as data shows that traffic is not complying with that speed limit. It is considered that changing the speed limit to an appropriate level provides a clearer and safer message to all road users. Additional signage on the side roads will also remind drivers of speed limit.
Respondent 2 – Resident of Exwick Road	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondent regularly experiences vehicles travelling over the speed limit as they try to exit their driveway onto Exwick Road. Visibility from the driveway is poor and vehicles travelling past sometimes have to stop suddenly. Respondent refers to a report from 2016 which states that the 85th percentile of vehicles travelling in both directions was 25mph. If the speed limit is raised, then the 85th percentile speed will rise to 37mph. Respondent requests a mirror opposite the driveway to assist with exiting. There is a mirror to the right of the driveway, but it often gets knocked out of place and is not positioned in a helpful way. Respondent invites an officer to their property to exit the driveway and experience the problems they face here. Respondent feels that if these proposals are brought in then an accident will happen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that changing the speed limit to an appropriate level provides a clearer and safer message to all road users. It is not expected that speeds would vary greatly from current levels along the majority of Exwick Road, as evidenced by the speed of traffic on Buddle Lane and Cowick Lane. We do not provide mirrors on the public highway. As stated above, the access to the property was considered at the planning stage. It is not considered that the proposals will change the safety of vehicles using this access.

Comment	Devon County Council Response
Respondent 3 – Resident of Exwick Villas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondent does not support the proposals. • If the speed limit remains at 20mph then less accidents will occur meaning less police attendance. • Consideration must be given to those with driveways along the road, some of whom have limited visibility when exiting their driveways. • Exwick Road is busy with lots of cars, a pre-school and children crossing the road from the school bus. Consideration must be given to them. • There is no crossing point for pedestrians. • Respondent would like things to stay as they are now. • Respondent thinks that the money used on these proposals could be better spent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is considered that changing the speed limit to an appropriate level provides a clearer and safer message to all road users. • Residents driving out from their driveways will always need to take care. • It is not expected that speeds would vary greatly from current levels along the majority of Exwick Road, as evidenced by the speed of traffic on Buddle Lane and Cowick Lane. • By removing and managing parking along Exwick Villas it will improve visibility for pedestrians to cross the road.