

A167 Proposed 50mph speed limit and Active Travel Scheme

As you may already be aware there are walking and cycling improvements planned on A167, Newton Aycliffe. As part of these works it is hoped to also introduce:

Prohibition of U-turns:

Given that there will be a pedestrian phase added into the traffic signal settings at the A167/St Cuthbert's Way junction, vehicles travelling southbound on A167 or turning west into Aycliffe Business Park from A167 southbound (see attached plan) should be prohibited from undertaking U-turn manoeuvres as this would directly conflict with the pedestrian phasing in the signal settings. Prohibiting this movement will include advance warning signs on approach to the signals, a no U-turn sign in the signal heads and a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

No entry and One way:

On Durham Road slip road into Aycliffe Village, there is an existing slip road where one way and no entry movements are informally already commonly observed. To ensure compliance, it is proposed to formalise these restrictions with a TRO as well as appropriate road markings and traffic signs.

50mph speed limit:

Along this stretch of the A167 it is partially dual carriageway, has an average daily traffic volume in excess of 14000 and, at A167/B6443 St Cuthbert's Way signalised junction, there have been 6 road traffic accidents in the past 5 years suggesting that there is a historic but persistent issue at the junction of A167 and B6443 St Cuthbert's Way, which could indicate that speed reduction interventions may be beneficial in that studies have found that there is a strong correlation between speed and likelihood of collision. The Department of Transport quantifies that for every 1 mph reduction in average speed, collision frequency may reduce by around 5%. Therefore, even a small reduction in speed has safety benefits in potentially reduced collision frequency. By introducing a toucan crossing with dedicated green time for NMU's (non-motorised users) it will effectively act as a desire line linking Aycliffe Village to Newton Aycliffe and Aycliffe Business Park and it can be confidently assumed that there will be an increase in vulnerable road users crossing at this point.

National guidance for setting local speed limits advises that mean speeds should be used as an indicator of appropriate speed limits. The current mean speeds are approx. 48mph indicating that a large volume of vehicles already drive at 50mph or less. To that end, this length of A167 has been assessed on a standalone basis, in line with national guidance on setting local speed limits and it is felt that the appropriate speed limit in this location is 50mph (attached plan shows the extent of the proposed 50mph limit). As part of the ongoing detailed design, speed limit traffic signs and speed roundel road markings will be frequently repeated on both sides of the carriageway to reiterate the speed limit and to encourage compliance.

Noted that the 50mph speed limit has been consulted on with Great Aycliffe Town Council but for completion, it is preferred to undertake consultation of all proposed TROs associated with the wider project at the same time.

If you have any comments either in favour or against the proposals, they would be greatly appreciated, in writing, by no later than 9 November 2021. If this date doesn't align with your Council meetings, please advise of a more suitable date.

Kind regards,

Transport and Infrastructure Projects