



BOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Wildfell Close
Walderslade
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Kent ME5 9RU

To All Members of the Council, press and the public.

2nd January 2013

There will be a meeting of the **Environment Committee** on **Monday 7th January 2013** at **Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade** commencing at 7.30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business;

1. **Apologies and absences** (7.30)
To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. **Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.** (7.31)
Members are required to declare any interests or lobbying on items in this agenda.
3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 3rd & 10th December 2012.** (7.32)
To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order to sign as a true record (pages 3 - 6).
4. **Matters Arising From Minutes.** (7.36)
 - 4.1 Minute 2492/4.1 marker at Cossington Lane, see report (page 6).
 - 4.2 Minute 2492/4.3 Boxley Road/Grange Lane movement of speed restriction, see report (page 6).
 - 4.3 Minute 2492/4.5 Beechen Bank, see report (page 6).
 - 4.4 Minute 2492/4.6 Saracen Fields open area, see report (page 6).
 - 4.5 Minute 2492/4.7. Suggestions, trees leaning over Walderslade Woods Road and other work, see report (page 6).
 - 4.6 Minute 2492/4.9 Salt bins 'use on highways only' signs, see report (page 6).
 - 4.7 Minute 2493/4.10 Maidstone Studios, see report (page 7).

To adjourn to allow members of the public to address the meeting.

5. **Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.** (8.05)
To consider planning applications. Members' are reminded to consider possible section 106 requests or to suggest any conditions.
MA/12/1426 Erection of single storey building comprising four retail units for uses falling within Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A5 or D1 with associated pedestrian and vehicular access ways, refuse stores, car parking and landscaping at Land at Penhurst Close, Grove Green. Amended details received December 2012, see report (page 7).

MA/12/1883 erection of a two-storey rear extension and installation of first floor windows to the side elevation (resubmission of MA/12/0609) at 16 Trotwood Close, Walderslade. To ratify the Assistant Clerk's decision, after consulting with the Environment Committee, see report (page 7 - 8).

MA/12/1931 Erection of conservatory at 1 Sandbourne Drive, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2JA.
10/1/2013

MA/12/2110 construction of a rear balcony at 5 Round Wood, Walderslade ME5 9UL.
18/01/12.

MA/12/2119 single storey rear extension and new pitched roof to existing rear extension at The White House, Tyland Lane ME14 3BH 03/01/13. To ratify Clerk's decision, after contact with committee members, *Do not wish to object*.

MA/12/2142 Listed building consent for insertion of 4 conservation roof lights to rear elevation, the handing of the front door and adjacent window, insertion of a window to front elevation, and internal alterations including removal of existing staircase and insertion of new staircase to serve first floor self contained flat at Barn Cottage, Boxley Road ME14 3DN. 11/01/2013.

MA/12/2149 erection of a 2 storey and single storey rear extension insertion of a side and rear dormer windows and installation of a swimming pool (amendment to previously refused MA/12/1458) at Myosotis, Chatham Road, Sandling ME14 3AY. 14/01/2013. MBC refused due to virtual of its scale and height; the Environment Committee raised no objections.

TA/0206/12 application for consent to fell Silver Birch at 15 Ploughmans Way, Walderslade ME5 9DE

6. **Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions** (8.14)
MA/12/0693 GRANTED* Tesco application to vary delivery condition.
7. **Neighbourhood Development Plans** (8.15)
Cllr Perry has completed his work and a meeting of the working group will be arranged in February 2013.
8. **Volunteer Groups** (8.17)
To receive a report/update on the activities of any volunteer group supported by the parish council.
9. **Highways and Byways.** (8.25)
To consider any issues raised by Councillors or the residents.
10. **Policy and procedures review.** (8.30)
Review of policies and procedures 2013/2014, see report (page 8).
11. **Examining the Speed Limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on Single Carriageway Roads: A Consultation Document.** (8.46)
To consider whether to respond see report (pages 9 - 11).
12. **Matters for information.** (8.56)
For members to be notified of any information or for members to request agenda items see report (page 11)
13. **Next Meeting.** (9.00)
Next full environment meeting 11th February 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 4th February 2013.

In view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the Enforcement item about to be transacted, it is advisable that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of or part of the item.

14. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC.** (9.01)
To consider, if any received, confidential updates.

Clerk to Boxley Parish Council.

In accordance with policy the meeting should close no later than 9.30 pm but the Chairman has devolved powers to extend it by 30 minutes.

Items to be returned to agenda: Minute 2368/5.1 Walderslade Woods road/A2045 – work to obtain speed reduction –KHS awaiting plans (04/12). Minute 2492/4.2 (10/12/12) PRoW Round Wood valley, return to agenda December 2013.

Item 3. Minutes of the Meetings of 3rd & 10th December 2012. *Purpose of report: agree and sign.*

Item 3.1 Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 3 December 2012, at St Johns School, Provender Way commencing at 9.33 p.m.

Councillors present – Mr K Perry (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr D Holmes, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate, and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk.

1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

There were none.

2. Apologies and absences

Mrs W Hinder (MBC training).

The meeting was not adjourned as there were no members of the public present.

3. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

3.1 MA/12/1939 erection of a single storey side extensions (resubmission of MA/12/1078) at 12 Olivine Close, Walderslade ME5 9NQ

Do not wish to object. However members, while noting that the application is for an extension both lower and smaller than that refused previously, still have concerns that this further addition to the original footprint constitutes over-development of the site and also it will have a detrimental impact on the street scene when looking into and out from the cul-de-sac at the side of the property.

3.2 TA/0188/12 Tree preservation order no. 1969: An application for consent to remove epicormic growth from trunks, to thin crowns by 15-20%, to remove branches closest to roof of property, and to remove dead crossings or rubbing branches from 2(no) Oak trees at 12 Olivine Close, Walderslade, ME5 9NQ.

Do not wish to object defer to the Landscape Officer's views.

4. Next Meeting.

Next full Environment Committee meeting, 10th December 2012 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.38.

Item 3.2 Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 10th December 2012 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Councillors present; Mrs W Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr D Holmes, Mr K Perry, Mr A Springate, and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr Spain (unwell).

2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

Cllr Brooks notified members that she knew the owner of the application MA/12/2086 but had not been lobbied.

Cllr Holmes notified members that he had a pecuniary interest at item 4.6 and if anything was going to be discussed he would leave the room for the item.

Chairman notified members that she had been lobbied on item 4.1

Cllrs Dengate, Holmes, Bob Hinder, Wendy Hinder and Cllr Brooks had been lobbied on 14.2. Noted all members' had received an invitation to the consultation.

3. Minutes of the Meetings of 5th and 12th November 2012.

The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising From Minutes.

- 4.1 Minute 2480/4.1 private road sign at Cossington Lane. **Noted** a resident had requested the removal of the 'private road' sign at Cossington Lane. After discussion it was **agreed** (8 for 1 against) that a letter is delivered to all properties in Cossington Lane requesting that the signs' 'owner' remove it otherwise the parish council would arrange for it to be taken down and disposed of. Whilst sympathetic as to the reason it was displayed it was considered that it stopped the public using the road to access the woods. **Action;** draft to be cleared by Chairman.
- 4.2 Minute 2480/4.2 Public Right of Way, Round Wood valley. **Noted** KCC had refused, due to financial constraints, the request for the path to be designated a PRow. **Agreed** revisit in 12 months but until then **no further action**.
- 4.3 Minute 2480/4.3 Boxley Road/Grange Lane movement of speed restriction. Information on why the Police had refused to support the request to move the speed limit signs was awaited; as were any alternative suggestions to improve the junction. Cllrs Davies and Hinder notified members that this was raised at a KALC meeting and the Police Officer attending agreed to investigate and get back to the parish council. Clerk confirmed that no contact had been made and the Clerk was asked to contact the Police. **Action; Clerk.**
- 4.4 Minute 2480/4.4 additional white lining Boxley Road/Beechen Bank Rd. **Noted** the work had been partially completed. It was likely that bad weather stopped the work and so the situation will be monitored.
- 4.5 Minute 2480/4.5 Beechen Bank land ownership, members clarified that they wished to have a fuller understanding about the ownership in case of any future developments. **Agreed** expenditure would come from the Street Maintenance. **Action: office.**
- 4.6 Minute 2480/4.6 Saracen Fields open area. **Noted** a response was awaited from County Councillor Paul Carter who has asked an officer to investigate. **Action: chase for a reply.**
- 4.7 Minute 2480/4.7. **Noted** the suggestions, trees leaning over Walderslade Woods Road and other work, were submitted for consideration for Cllr Paul Carter's devolved budget.
- 4.8 Minute 2483/9.6 KCCH&T survey. **Noted** the survey was completed by Cllr Hinder and the parish council's response to DforT speed limit circular was also included as it related well to the questions being asked.
- 4.9 Minute 2483/9.8 Salt bins 'use on highways only' signs. KCCH&T had been contacted about whether they had signs that could be purchased. **Noted** response awaited.
- 4.10 Minute 2483/9.10 Maidstone Studios. **Noted** dates for a meeting were being awaited from the studio. **Action office.**

The meeting was not adjourned as no members of the public were present.

5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

5.1 MA/12/2086 erection of a part two storey part single storey side extension and erection of a single storey rear extension at 6 Harbourland Cottages, Boxley.

Do not wish to object but there were serious concerns as it was considered that the bulk and scale of the proposed development might dominant the original dwelling compromising the street scene and design of the terrace.

5.2 TA/0186/12 application for consent to carry out works to approximately 65 trees including coppicing and crown lifting, as set out in the application, at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close.

Would like to see approved but in the interests of being open and accountable members asked that it be highlighted that the parish council was the applicant.

5.3 TA/0196/12 application for consent to crown lift to 4m and thin by 10% Trees T1, T2 and T3 (Hornbeams). Reduce height of Trees T4 and T5 (Hornbeams) by 30% and reduce height by 30% and balance crown of tree T6 (Hornbeam) at 24 Goldstone Walk, Walderslade ME5 9QB.

Do not wish to object, defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

6. Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions

MA/12/1458 REFUSED* TA/0171/12 AGREED WITH AMENDMENT TO WORKS ALLOWED

It was agreed that in future when the committee objects to an application and MBC supports this decision the committee should be notified.

Cllr Waller raised an issue regarding the Yew Tree public house application and whether the Yew Tree outside was protected? The office was asked to investigate.

Action: office.

7. Neighbourhood Development Plans

7.1 **Noted** Cllrs Brooks and Waller had completed the work on Sandling and submitted it to the office. Cllr Perry would submit his comments to the next agenda. **Action: Cllr Perry.**

7.2 Membership of the NDP working group **agreed** as Cllrs Wendy Hinder, Brooks, Ivor Davies, Holmes, Waller and Springate. Other members were welcomed to supply views and comments.

8. Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group

Cllr Springate gave a brief report on recent work of the group.

Cllr Bob Hinder gave a brief report on The Friends of Boxley Warren. It was **agreed** that the item would be renamed volunteer groups to allow reports from any group supported by the parish council. **Action: office.**

9. Highways and Byways.

9.1 Cllr Waller notified the meeting that the chestnut palling around Abbey Court was falling down and causing safety issues for pedestrians. Cllr Waller would report the issue to the highway department. **Action: Cllr Waller.**

Cllr Dengate reported a teetered pony on the verge at 3 Ashes. It was agreed he would report his concerns about road safety issues to KCCH&T and perhaps the RSPCA. Contact details for the Highway Stewart would be passed to councillors so that they can report any future safety issues directly to him to investigate if he was in the area. It was **noted** that numerous reports had been sent to the RSPCA about the pony. **Action: Cllr Dengate.**

Cllr Bob Hinder reported that he had stopped members of the public demolishing a Holly tree to make wreaths probably for sale.

Cllr Dengate reported that he thought that someone was living rough in Cowbeck Woods and he was concerned about their well being. It was **agreed** that the PCSO would be informed and asked if he could involve the relevant services to see if the person could be helped. **Action: office.**

9.2 Dog fouling. Members **received** information on the new byelaw that MBC was bringing into effect.

10. Policy and procedures review.

Wish list, members asked that additional information be included on the list to show when part of objectives had been completed etc.

Clerk was asked to obtain an update about the timing of the roundabout improvements paid for by a S106 from the KIMS development. **Action: office.**

11. 2013/14 Budget – draft.

Members' **received** a copy of the Street Maintenance policy.

12. Listed Building in the parish.

12.1 St Andrew's Chapel, it was **noted** that English Heritage has been contacted.

12.2 Listed Buildings Register **Noted** the parish office was producing a new listed building register for the parish by downloading information and maps from the English Heritage. **Action: office.**

13. Consultation; Extending permitted development rights for homeowners and businesses: technical consultation.

Members' **received** the briefing note and after discussion the response was **agreed**: shown as an appendix to the minutes.

Cllr Dengate & Holmes asked to be supplied a map showing the extent of the AONB area. **Action: office.**

14. Matters for information.

14.1 MBC call for sites to be identified for the Core Strategy.

14.2 Consultation at Eclipse Park for Next store. Members' who attended gave verbal reports to the meeting. Concern was raised over the lack of funding for real infrastructure improvements.

15. Next Meeting.

Next full environment meeting 7th January 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

As it was 9.30pm the Chairman used her devolved power to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

The Chairman, in view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the Enforcement item about to be transacted, moved that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

16. Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC.

Information was received on two issues relating to enforcement in the parish.

Meeting closed at 9.33 p.m.

Item 4 Matters Arising From Minutes. *Purpose of report: information and decisions if required.*

4.1 Minute 2492/4.1 marker at Cossington Lane. The office has been informed that another sign has appeared and this is being investigated prior to the letter being sent to all residents.

4.2 Minute 2492/4.3 Boxley Road/Grange Lane movement of speed restriction. An update will be brought to the meeting as there is a need to chase for information from KCCH7T and the Police.

4.3 Minute 2492/4.5 Beechen Bank, a request for the details from land registry will be sent once the parish council clears the cheque.

4.4 Minute 2492/4.6 Saracen Fields open area. An update will be brought to the meeting as there is a need to chase for information from KCC.

4.5 Minute 2492/4.7. Suggestions, trees leaning over Walderslade Woods Road and other work with funding being requested from Cllr Paul Carter's devolved budget. An update will be brought to the meeting as there is a need to chase for information from KCC.

4.6 Minute 2492/4.9 Salt bins 'use on highways only' signs. An update will be brought to the meeting as there is a need to chase for information from KCC.

4.7 Minute 2493/4.10 Maidstone Studios. Contact has been made to arrange a meeting between councillors and the studio to try to resolve the issue of parking on Grove Green. The studio is being chased for a date as they failed to suggest one.

Item 5 Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration. Purpose of report: decisions.

MA/12/1426 Erection of single storey building comprising four retail units for uses falling within Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A5 or D1 with associated pedestrian and vehicular access ways, refuse stores, car parking and landscaping at Land at Penhurst Close, Grove Green. To ratify the Clerk's decision, after consulting with the Environment Committee, *The Parish Council wishes to reiterate its previous reasons [not produced for this report as it was a direct repeat of the previous decision], and makes further comments below.*

With regards to the new amended details it wishes to make the following additional response.

Whilst acknowledging the removal of A5 (hot food takeaways) classification there is still concern that the A3 (restaurants and cafes) classification would have an adverse and unacceptable impact on the local community. The addition of food outlets at the site will have direct adverse impact on the residential properties of Penhurst Close and possibly Grove Green Lane.

The parish council strongly objects to the proposed opening times of all the units (8am – 10 pm Mon – Sat and 10.00am – 4.00pm Sunday) as it fails to see why they should open until 10.00 pm and mirror the Sunday opening times of Tesco's when most, if not all, of the other retail units at the minor shopping centre do not. The retention of the shop frontages and entrances directly into Penhurst Close is unacceptable as it will encourage additional traffic into the cul de sac. If the proposed car park is only open to staff and deliveries then why is it considered necessary to have a double frontage? There is also the issue of light disturbance to the residential properties facing the Penhurst Close shop frontages.

Penhurst Close is a small cul de sac not suited to numerous delivery lorries and vehicles. In order to stop the public using the staff car parking gates will have to be installed and this will result in the road and possibly footway being blocked. It is felt that delivery vehicles will have a negative impact on the safety of pedestrians, from Weaving Street and beyond, who use Penhurst Close to access the minor shopping area as there is an insufficient turning circle.

It is noted that CCTV cameras will be provided on the alleyway but it is not clear why this alleyway is retained if, as the applicant states, most of the foot traffic will come from the Tesco owned car park as a slope already connects the car park to the existing hall and dentists.

It should be noted that Tesco Property Ltd owns the minor shopping area including the adjacent retail units and the car park. It is not clear whether the applicant has been in discussion with Tesco Property Ltd or what would happen if that company considers that the new retail units are in direct conflict with the store and existing retail units and then refuses to allow customers of the Penhurst Close retail units to use its car parking facilities.

If the Planning Committee was minded to agree the development with the amended details then members asked that the following additional conditions be imposed:

- 8. Restrictions on the size of delivery vehicles entering into Penhurst Close.*
- 9. Restriction on any take away service offered by restaurants and or cafes.*
- 10. Restrictions on the lighting of the car parking and frontages on Penhurst Close.*

MA/12/1883 erection of a two-storey rear extension and installation of first floor windows to the side elevation (resubmission of MA/12/0609) at 16 Trotwood Close, Walderslade.

Members wished to see this application refused and reported to the planning committee if the officer is minded to approve for the reasons set out below:

- *Adverse impact on the street scene due to odd roof line visible over the garage;*
- *The bulk and size of the extension will, it is felt over power the original design of the house.*

To ratify the Assistant Clerk's decision, after consulting with the Environment Committee, Boxley Parish Council would like to withdraw its original decision on the above application, after carefully considering all the facts that have been presented to them they have decided on the following response Do not wish to object.

Item 10. Review of policies and procedures 2013/2014 timeline. *Purpose of report: to consider.*

Environment Committee

Review of policies and procedures 2013/2014.

The purpose of this document is to ensure that the parish council and its office meets its duties and manages its risk effectively and efficiently. It is a rough timescale and will be subject to change as needed. The annual review of this document reminds members and the public of the existence of the policies and procedures and also allows for members to make amendments.

Members' may be asked whether, in the future, a report to a committee can be completed either as 'housekeeping' or biannually rather than annually. If this has been agreed then either **H** or a date will be added to the list on the understanding that members can require it is returned to them for consideration.

January	Review of this document to allow adjustments.
February	Street Maintenance policy and pro forma
March	Sale of public land. Terms of Reference (to go to April PC mtg) – are there any amendments that the committee wish to request?
<i>Office note</i>	<i>Reminder A onto agenda.</i>
April	BPC Planning information leaflet
May	Traffic Management informative note H .
June	Are laminated planning advices (used at meetings) still fit for purpose?
July	Review response comments that are available for responding to planning applications. Annual Competency review/statement
August	
September	Pre application discussions
<i>Office note</i>	<i>Remind members about need to notify office of any budget ideas. Reminder A onto agenda.</i>
October	
November	Section 106 wish list
December	

Reminder A.

- In future when the office receives a major application just before a meeting an extension to the deadline would be requested. It was recognised that this may not be given. The purpose was to allow members to visit the site and to wait to see if any residents' objections were received.
- If members have concerns and, if the deadline allows, they do not have to make a decision at a meeting. Policy exists to delegate the decision to the office, after consultation with the Chair, Chair/Chair and Vice Chair or all members of the committee. If deciding to delegate a decision members' should be prepared to give guidance to the office.

Item 11 Examining the Speed Limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on Single Carriageway Roads: A Consultation Document *Purpose of report: information and possible response.*

Clerk's comment: It has not been possible to check whether the chairman wished to see this responded to; but in view of members previous comments concerning lorries details have been included in the agenda. Due to budget and other work it has not been possible to produce a briefing for members. If any members consider that there is a need to respond and wishes to submit suggestions then they are welcome to e-mail them to other members and the Clerk.

NALC Executive Summary

The Department for Transport has launched a consultation examining the speed limit for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads. This is an opportunity for the sector to comment on current speed limits for HGVs, particularly where it affects your area.

- The maximum speed limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads is 40 miles per hour. The speed limit for smaller HGVs (those between 3.5 tonnes and 7.5 tonnes) is 50 mph.
- Stakeholders have told the Government that the 40 mph speed limit causes unnecessary cost to vehicle operators, congestion, avoidable overtaking accidents and creates an uneven playing field for businesses.
- Raising HGV speed limits on single carriageway roads could lead to quicker journeys and lower costs for the sector, aiding economic growth as well as reducing frustration for the many drivers who find themselves stuck behind slower-moving lorries on busy roads unable to overtake.
- Clearly, there are other consequences of greater speed – both in terms of the environmental impacts and the potential effects on road safety. The Department for Transport wants to make sure it considers the range of evidence of all of the effects on the economy, environment and road safety before any decision is made.

The consultation ends on 1 February 2013 and the formal consultation documents can be downloaded at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-34/>

Government comment from the document;

5. It has not been possible to assess the effects on road safety if vehicle speed limits for HGVs over 7.5t are increased on single carriageway roads. There may be more serious collisions due to increased speeds but there could also be less frequent collisions due to fewer hazardous overtaking manoeuvres performed by vehicles travelling behind slow HGVs. We therefore welcome any sources of information on the effects of HGV speed on collision rates and casualties that would enable a better assessment of road safety.

Q. 1 Policy option 1: Raise the national speed limit for HGVs over 7.5t from 40 to 50 mph on single carriageway roads. Is this your preferred policy option?
Please explain your answer.

Q. 2 Policy option 2: Raise the national speed limit for HGVs over 7.5t from 40 to 45 mph on single carriageway roads. Is this your preferred policy option? Please explain your answer.

Q. 3 Do you consider there to be any additional policy options, or variants of policy options 1 and 2? If so, please explain fully and provide any evidence you may have.

- For example, only increasing the speed limit for HGVs over 7.5t on single carriageways where the national speed limit applies, and retaining the 40 mph limit at other times.

Q. 4 In your opinion does the current 40 mph speed limit cause any of the following: unnecessary costs to vehicle operators; congestion; avoidable overtaking collisions; an uneven playing field for businesses; or anything not mentioned in this list?
Please explain your answer and provide any evidence you may have.

Q. 5 We welcome views from HGV operators and trade associations about whether they feel the balance of savings and costs of extra speed detailed in the Impact Assessment reflects their own experience or expectations?

Road safety effects

Q. 6 If the speed limit for HGVs over 7.5t is not raised on these roads, collisions as a result of 'platooning' could continue. If it is, the frequency of collisions could decrease due to a reduction in 'platooning', though on the other hand the severity of collisions could increase. Do you have any opinion or evidence on the effect of 'platooning' on road safety, or on the frequency or severity of collisions involving HGVs on single carriageway roads and what effect an increase in their maximum speed limit on these roads would have on safety? If so, please provide it in response to Q. 6.

Q. 7 Do you have any opinion or evidence on what effect an increase in the maximum speed limit for HGVs over 7.5t on these roads would have on non- HGV vehicle speeds such as car speeds?

Air quality, noise and health impacts

Q. 8 The Department invites information on where there are single carriageway roads which are subject to the national speed limit, or are signed at 50 mph, in areas where there are air quality problems.

Q. 9 What impacts, if any, do you think there will be to the following if an increased speed limit for HGVs over 7.5t on single carriageway roads is introduced?

- a) Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Local authorities may have specific evidence on the effect on AQMAs in their authority;
- b) EU air quality standards
- c) Noise levels;
- d) Areas currently identified as noise hotspots

Q. 10 If as a result of either of the policy options being implemented there was a reduction in 'platooning' do you think there would be a significant impact on:

- a) Noise
- b) Air quality

Q. 11 Do you think either of the policy options goes against the underlying principles of the EU Environmental Noise Directive or of the Noise Policy Statement for England?

Q.12 Do you think that all of the potential health and social costs of the policy options have been considered in the Impact Assessment? Please provide details if you think costs have not been included.

Other impacts

Q. 13 Do you believe an increase in speed for this class of vehicle on these roads will cause more HGVs over 7.5t to use single carriageway roads, which do not currently?

Q. 14 Do you think some freight may switch from rail or water to HGVs, if the speed limit is increased on these roads for these vehicles?

Q. 15 Do you think that there may be added wear and tear on these roads if the speed limit is increased for these vehicles? Local authorities may have specific comments or evidence, with regard to roads in their authority.

Q. 16 Local authorities have powers to alter speed limits on the local road network, including non-trunk primary routes, in line with guidance set out in Setting Local Speed Limits, DfT Circular 1/06. Do you think that the increase in the national speed limit for HGVs over 7.5t on single carriageways, would make it more likely that local authorities would introduce more local speed restrictions, and if so on which roads?

Q. 17 If you are an organisation that provides information and you believe that an increased speed for this class of vehicle on single carriageways would incur costs for your organisation in the form of publicity or conversion costs please indicate what these may be. Also please advise whether these costs would be reduced given a lead-in time between announcement and policy implementation as a result of costs being rolled into existing plans.

Item12 Matters for information.

12.1 Business rates retention and the local government settlement. A plain English guide is available at www.communities.gov.uk.

12.2 Listed Buildings Register, details will provided at the meeting.