

REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Type of Application: Application for an order under the Road Traffic Management Act 1984

Community: Llanberis and Nant Peris

Ward: Llanberis

Proposal: Gwynedd Council Order (various County roads, Arfon Area) (30mph speed restriction) 2023

Location: Arfon

Recommendation:

To approve keeping the speed restriction at 30mph on the road near Pendre Castell on the A4086 and keeping the speed restriction at 30mph on the A4086 between Nant Peris 'park and ride' and Pont Gwastadnant.

Background and description

The Restricted Roads (20mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022 was made by Welsh Ministers on 13 July 2022 following Senedd Cymru's decision.

Before 17 September 2023, local authorities need to consider which restricted roads should stay at 30mph. To this end, the Council has introduced a 30mph order for Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd areas.

The Arfon area order includes the intention of keeping the speed restriction at 30mph on 37 separate sections of roads. Cyngor Gwynedd has received objections to two specific sections;-

Llanberis Class 1 Road - A4086 passing Pentre Castell	From a point approximately 42 metres south east of its junction with Victoria Terrace for a distance of 679 metres in a general south easterly direction.
Nant Peris Class 1 Road - A4086 Gwastadnant	From a point approximately 14 metres south east of its junction with the Nant Peris Park and Ride car park to a point approximately 34 metres east of Pont Gwastadnant in a south easterly direction.

The Consultation

As part of the 20mph scheme, led by the Traffic Unit, the proposed scheme was consulted upon with stakeholders in December 2022 as part of the pre-consultation process. During the period, observations were received and changes were introduced to the schemes.

Further consultations on the proposed schemes were held with stakeholders and members of the public in April 2023. This consultation was undertaken by publishing our plans on-line and promoting the scheme by informing the stakeholders, as well as promoting the consultation on social media.

In July 2023, as part of the statutory consultation process, an e-mail was received objecting to the Gwynedd Council Order (various County roads, Arfon Area) (30mph speed restriction) 2023 by Llanberis Community Council for the following sections of the order.

The objections

Llanberis - Pentre Castell

(A copy of the correspondence from the objector is attached in Appendix A)

Reason for the objection	The Council's Response
No reasons have been presented from the Community Council.	Officers believe that this section of the road should remain at 30mph because; 1. the road is a class 1 road (A road) 2. the number of houses on the side of the road is fewer than 20 buildings/km*. 3. the houses that do not have a private access from the main road are only on one side of the road.

Nant Peris - Gwastadnant

(A copy of the correspondence from the objector is attached in Appendix A)

Reason for the objection	The Council's Response
No reasons have been presented from the Community Council.	Officers believe that this part of the road should remain at 30mph because; 1. the road is a class 1 road 2. the number of houses on the side of the road is fewer than 20 buildings/km*. 3. Impact on emergency services (<i>Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team do not have the right to drive above the speed restrictions in an emergency</i>)

* Guidance; Setting exceptions to the 20mph default speed limit for restricted roads – Welsh Government

Assessment of the proposal

The following roads are currently 30mph, therefore the following order does not propose any changes to the road's current situation. Although officers fully understand the wishes of Llanberis Community Council to reduce the speed restriction on these sections of the road to 20mph, these wishes do not correspond with the guidance set out by the Welsh Government. The main reasons for keeping these roads at 30mph is that they are Class 1 (A) roads, and the number of buildings on the side of the road do not reach the threshold of 20 buildings/km.

Despite this, the Traffic Unit will continue to monitor traffic on this section of the road with the intention of reviewing the decision in 6 months.

Equality Act 2010

The Council is subject to public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including Welsh public sector duties). In accordance with these legal duties when making decisions, Councils must pay due regard to the need (1) to eliminate unlawful discrimination (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) encourage good relations based on the protected characteristics. And pay due regard to the social economic duty under Section 1 of the Act. The committee is asked to pay attention to its findings when making a decision.

The assessment does not identify any specific impact resulting from the decision.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 involves improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. The act places a well-being duty on public bodies aimed at delivering the seven well-being goals which is a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal with cohesive communities and vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language which is globally responsible. The recommendation has been prepared by paying attention to the Act's requirements and addressing the five ways of working.

Conclusions

The Restricted Roads (20mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order presented by the Welsh Government is controversial. Officers, therefore, are keen to keep restrictions at 30mph in appropriate areas to reduce the impact of the Order. In accordance with the Welsh Government's guidelines, we would like to reduce the restriction's impact on our strategic network, especially in locations with a low housing density. As a result, officers would like to recommend that the restrictions remain at 30mph on the following roads for the time being but also suggest that the following roads should be reviewed within six months.

Recommendation:

To approve the introduction of the exceptions as noted.

Appendices

- A - Copy of a letter of objection.
- B - Map of the proposed plan.

Appendix A - Letter of Objection

I refer to your recent correspondence relating to the proposal to reduce the maximum speed in Wales in September 2023.

We note that Llanberis Community Council, in general, is supportive of the proposal to reduce maximum speed to 20mph.

In our meeting on 12 July 2023, the 20mph scheme was discussed in relation to the villages of Llanberis and Nantperis.

The Community Council's views were noted as follows:-

Action - the Clerk was asked to correspond with Cyngor Gwynedd objecting the initial change and asked that Cyngor Gwynedd adapt the 20mph maximum speed zones as follows:-

Llanberis - from the direction of Llanberis, extend the 20mph zone through the area of Pentrecastell in the direction of Nantperis to the end of the current 30mph zone.

Nantperis - from the direction of Llanberis, extend the 20mph zone in the direction of Bwlch Llanberis up to Pont Gwastadnant. Remain at 30mph from Pont Gwastadnant to the end of the current 30mph zone.

The Community Council is confident that Cyngor Gwynedd would consider their application for changes and support the application, and therefore operate in accordance with the Councillors of Llanberis Community Council's requirements.

If you believed that further discussion would be beneficial, then I am confident that it would be possible for some of the Councillors to meet with you to further discuss the matter.

I would like to note that the Community Council will meet again on 13 September 2023, which is after the closing date of the public consultation.

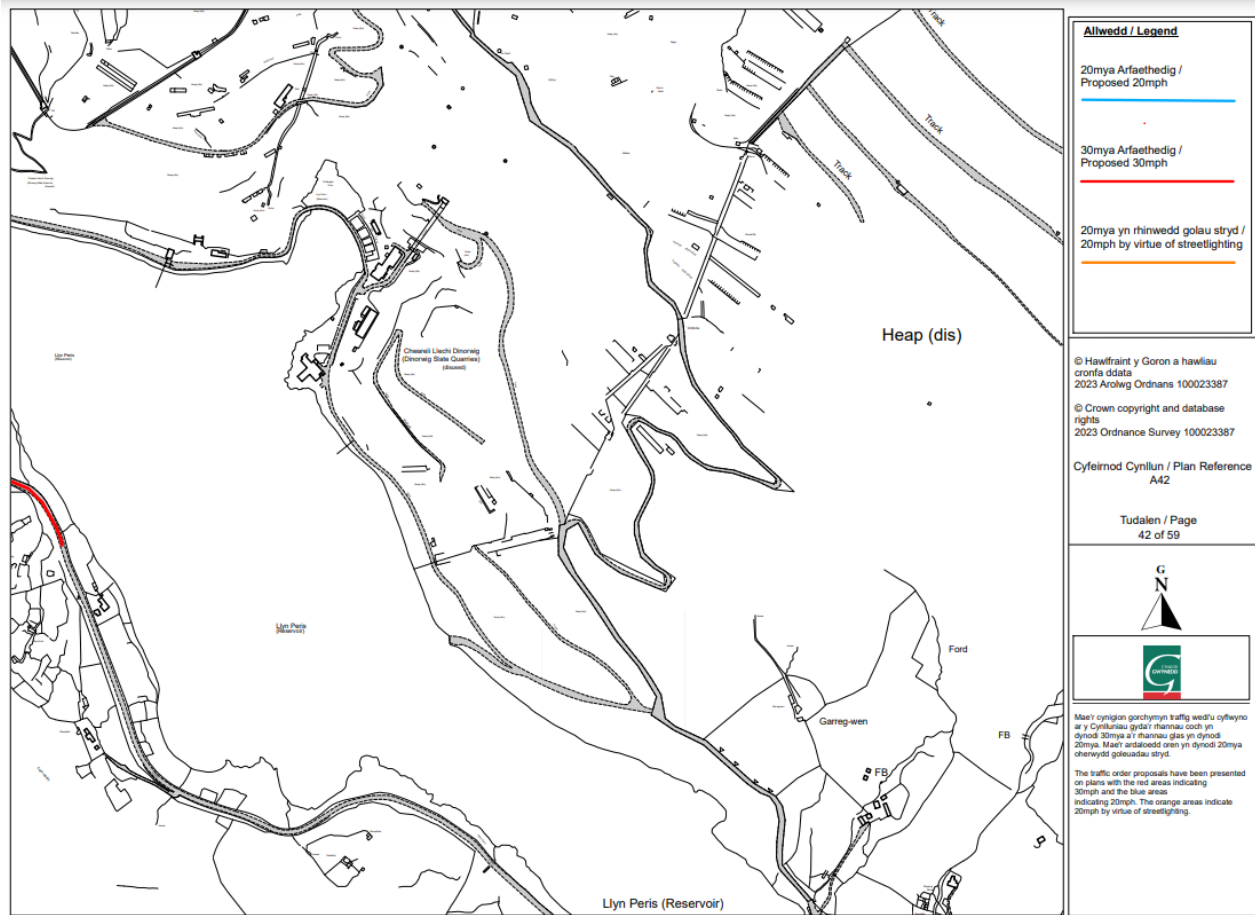
I look forward to receiving your response to the application by Llanberis Community Council in due course.

Sincerely,

Appendix B - Map of the proposed plan

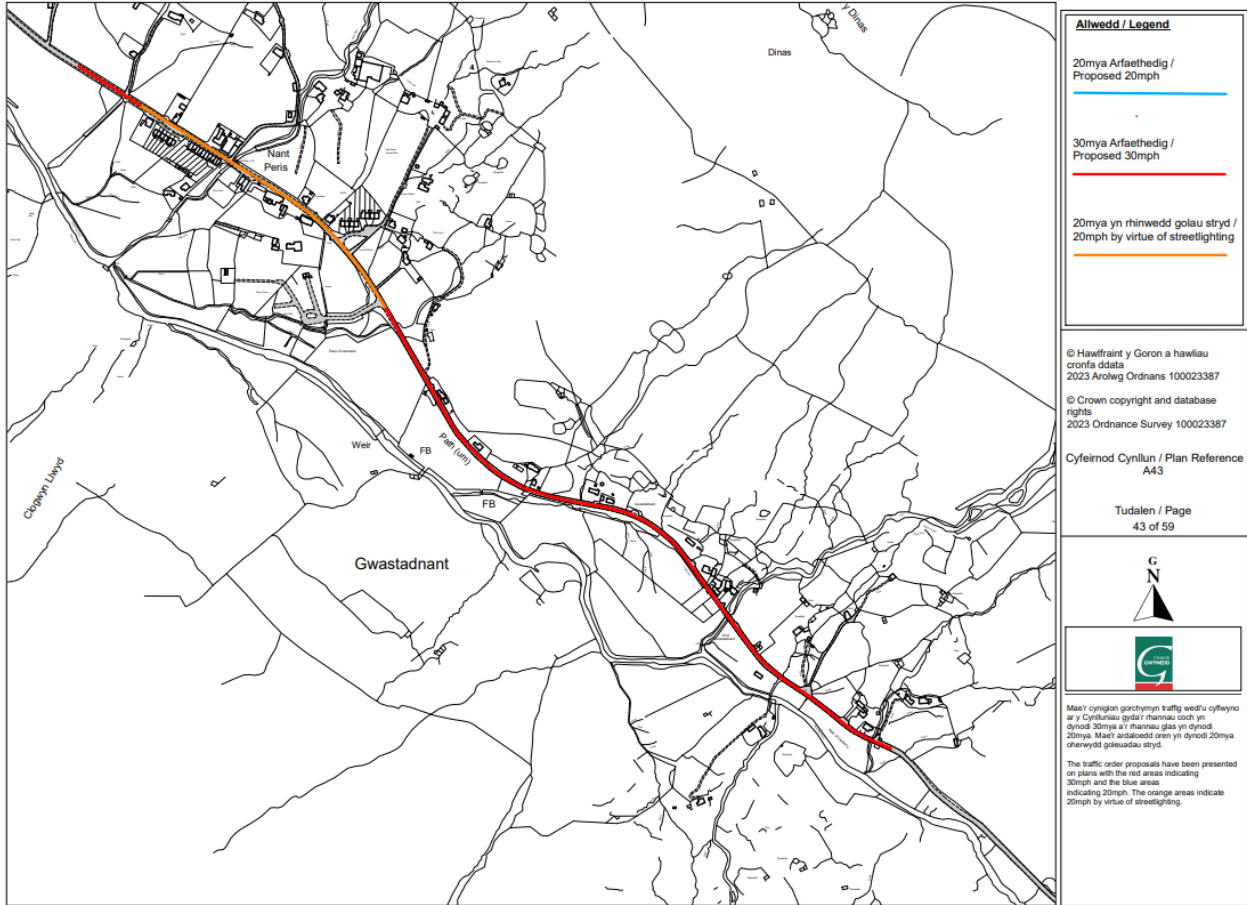


Llanberis - Pentre Castell



Llanberis - Pentre Castell

Appendix B - Map of the proposed plan



Nant Peris, Gwastadnant