

Review of Speed Limits 2016 -

Athlone Municipal District Meeting on 1st February 2016

Initiation of review process

Background

The Road Traffic Act 2004 establishes speed limits that apply on a default basis to defined categories of roads. These default speed limits can only be changed on a permanent basis by County and City Councils through the making of special speed limit bye-laws.

The speed limits that apply on a default basis are as follows –

- The “motorway speed limit” of 120 km/h;
- The “national roads speed limit” of 100 km/h;
- The “regional and local roads speed limit” of 80 km/h; and
- The “built-up area speed limit” of 50 km/h.

Special Speed Limits are normally in urban areas and the Road Traffic Act 2004 sets out a range of special speed limits that may be applied through bye-laws.

New Guidelines for setting and Managing Speed Limits were published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) in 2015. The Minister has requested that all Local Authorities carry out a review of all speed limits, in accordance with in the new guidelines, in 2016.

Review Process

It is necessary for the review of existing speed limits to follow a structured process and time-table as its implementation involves various stakeholders e.g. Councillor Members, Chief Executive, Council District and Transportation staff, Gardai, TII, DTTAS.

The proposed review process is as follows;

Stage	Schedule (2016)
1. Initiation of review at Municipal District meetings	February
2. Assessment of locations identified and drafting of revised Bye-Laws (based on warrants)	May
3. Consultation with prescribed bodies	May – June
4. Amendments following submissions from prescribed bodies	July
5. Approval of draft bye-law at Municipal District meetings	July
6. Public Consultation	August - September
7. Approval by Full Council	October
8. Formatting of new Bye-Laws	November
9. Publish revised Bye Laws	December
10. Notification to Municipal Districts to implement new Bye-Laws by altering signs	December

In order to facilitate the above schedule members are requested to submit details of any locations that they wish to have included in the review prior to Friday 26th February. Submissions should be submitted to Colm Smith, Administrative Officer, Transportation (colm.smith@westmeathcoco.ie) preferably by email.

Michael Connolly,
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