

## **The Essex County Council (Various Roads, North Weald Bassett, Epping Forest and Harlow) (Combined Speed Limit) Order 202\***

### **Statement Of Reasons**

This scheme is to extend the 40mph limit on B181 Epping Road in a north easterly direction past the junction of Coopersale Common and along Coopersale Common from the junction of B181 Epping Road in a south direction to the existing 30mph approaching Coopersale Common residential area.

From a recent study of personal injury collisions at the junction of B181 Epping Road junction with Coopersale Common, this location indicates a pattern of collisions occurring when road users are turning right out of Coopersale Common and colliding with a vehicle on the mainline of the B181 Epping Road. A Casualty Reduction report has been generated by the Road Safety team which has included recommendations to improve the junction for all road users. The report improvement suggestions included carriageway surfacing works, lining works, vegetation clearance, signage improvements and an extension of the existing 40mph speed limit on B181 Epping Road past its junction with Coopersale Common.

The carriageway surfacing and junction lining refresh have already been undertaken during May 2025. These elements aim to improve the junction visibility and improve its use by road users.

The introduction of the 40mph speed limit extension will require the existing terminal signage along B181 Epping Road to be removed, and new signage installed at the extents of the proposed speed limit detailed above. The existing national speed limit signs on Coopersale Common will be removed and replaced on the existing post with the appropriate 40mph terminal signage.

All proposed 40mph terminal signs will be on yellow backing boards to ensure clear visibility due to this being a casualty reduction site and vegetation will be cut back around existing signage.

The speed limit extension past the junction of Coopersale Common and along Coopersale Common aims to increase the speed gradually throughout the area. The existing speed limit going out from Coopersale Common towards B181 Epping Road currently is a 30mph into national speed limit, whereas the proposed speed limit extension would keep the existing 30mph on Coopersale Common moving into a 40mph which would thereafter turn into a national speed limit a distance after turning right onto B181 Epping Road.

Additionally, by extending the 40mph in a north-eastbound direction past the junction of Coopersale Common aims to slow vehicles as they approach the junction. Vehicles travelling south westbound towards the direction of Epping High Street will have more time to anticipate the junction with the oncoming traffic manoeuvres. Vehicles travelling north-east bound will be able to anticipate the junction with the additional possibility they will need to overtake a bus on the

northwestern side of the carriageway at the bus stop on B181 Epping Road and perceive oncoming vehicles from the opposite direction.

The additional measures being introduced alongside the 40mph extension have been proposed to try increase driver awareness of the existing signage, aiming to reduce the speed of traffic and increase the safety of traffic joining the B181 Epping Road from Coopersale Common controlled traffic environment.