

The Essex County Council (Various Roads, Great Dunmow, and Little Dunmow) (Combined Speed Limits) Order 202*

The Essex County Council (Uttlesford District) (Prohibition of Waiting Loading and Stopping) and (On-Street Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Amendment No.38) Order 202*

Statement of Reasons

As this part of Dunmow continues to grow, improvements are being proposed to help keep everyone safe and to make it easier for people to move around. Several major developments — including the Lidl supermarket, new housing, and the new Helena Romanes School — mean that many more people will soon be walking, cycling, and driving along Stortford Road. These proposals aim to ensure the road reflects its changing, more residential character and provides a safer environment for all road users.

Stortford Road is a straight 1.2 km route that connects the A120 with Great Dunmow. It currently features roundabouts providing access to homes and shops on the northern side, with further development progressing to the south. A footway and cycleway already run along the northern side, and pedestrian activity is expected to increase significantly as these developments become fully occupied.

The arrival of the new Helena Romanes School, alongside new homes and the supermarket, will lead to a substantial rise in people crossing the road, walking along it, accessing car parks, and travelling to and from the new residential areas. To maintain safety in this evolving environment, several changes are being proposed.

First, the 40mph speed limit on Stortford Road would be extended further west, removing the existing 60mph section near the A120. This would create a more consistent and safer approach into what is becoming an increasingly busy area. Around the new Helena Romanes School, vehicle speeds would be reduced to 30mph, providing safer conditions for pupils, parents, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users. In addition, the speed limit on Woodside Way would be reduced from 50mph to 40mph, reflecting both the findings of the Road Safety Audit and the changing character of the surrounding developments.

To address issues of visibility and prevent unsafe parking, a Clearway (no stopping at any time) would be introduced along Stortford Road, applying to the carriageway, footway, and verge. This measure is particularly important near the school and new developments, where parked vehicles could otherwise create hazards for pedestrians and drivers alike.

When considering how best to respond to the growth of the area, keeping the layout as it is was reviewed as an option. However, with increasing pedestrian numbers, rising traffic volumes, and the introduction of a new school, the existing road environment would no longer provide an adequate level of safety. A combined approach — using lower speed limits, improved visibility, and restrictions on unsafe stopping or parking — offers the safest and most consistent environment for everyone using the road. This approach aligns with the Road Safety Audit, recent traffic surveys, and supports the Council's wider sustainability objectives.

The proposed changes will bring a range of benefits to the local community. They will make it safer for children and families walking to and from school, reduce the risk of accidents at busy crossing points and access locations, and improve visibility for drivers entering and

existing new developments. By lowering speeds, the proposals will also help reduce noise and the wider traffic impact on nearby residents, while supporting healthier, more sustainable travel choices such as walking and cycling.

Overall, the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders will help this part of Dunmow develop into a safer, more pleasant environment for residents and road users. It supports the needs of the wider community and ensures the road network keeps pace with the rapid growth of the surrounding area.