

The Essex County Council (A132 Runwell Road, Runwell) (Restricted Road and 40MPH Speed Limit) Order 201*

The Essex County Council (A132 Runwell Road and Runwell Chase, Runwell) (Prohibition of Motor Vehicles) Order 201*

Statement of Reasons

Planning permission CHL/1480/12 was granted by Chelmsford City Council for the first phase of the redevelopment of the former Runwell Hospital site in Runwell Chase (off the A132 Runwell Road). The development includes up to 575 residential units, primary school, neighbourhood retail, business and community buildings and pub/restaurants.

As part of this planning permission it was agreed that the access road to the site would be covered by an extension to the existing 40mph on A132 Runwell Road to the west of Runwell Chase.

The collision data shows that the majority of collisions have occurred on this road due to loss of control and flooding on the road. The provision of a new roundabout and associated realignment of the carriageway should improve the geometry of Runwell Road and hopefully reduce the risk of collisions. Major highway drainage works were recently carried out on the A132, which resolved the highway flooding issue.

To further reduce the risk of collisions along this stretch of road, it is proposed to extend the 40mph eastwards to a point just past Southlands Cottages, to the eastern side of the bridge. This should help to reduce vehicle speeds in the vicinity of Southlands Cottages, where the majority of collisions have occurred.

As part of the works for the construction of the new A132 Runwell Road, the existing bypassed section of A132 Runwell Road is due to be de-classified, with a Traffic Regulation Order for the Prohibition of Motorised Vehicles to be implemented at its western end.

This is to prevent traffic from bypassing the new roundabout and the old road being used as a cut-through. Therefore we are proposing to revoke the 40mph Speed Limit Order on this stretch of road as it is felt that it is no longer required.