



**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS  
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING  
TUESDAY, March 12, 2019  
MINUTES**

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A Public Hearing for the Town of Blackfalds was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at the Civic/Cultural Center, 5018 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, Alberta, commencing at 7:00 pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Richard Poole  
Deputy Mayor Jamie Hoover  
Councillor Marina Appel  
Councillor Ray Olfert  
Councillor Rebecca Stendie  
Councillor Laura Svab  
Councillor Will Taylor

**ATTENDING**

CAO Myron Thompson  
Community Services Director Sean Barnes  
Infrastructure and Property Services Director Preston Weran  
IT Analyst Cory Babey  
Communications Officer Dean Turnquist  
Executive Assistant Anne Peck

**REGRETS**

None

**MEDIA**

Ashli Barrett, Lacombe Globe

**PUBLIC**

Dennis Young, Blackfalds  
Doug MacDonald, Blackfalds  
Shane Hansen, Blackfalds  
Victoria Kessel, Blackfalds

**PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Poole called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 7:01pm.

**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of Bylaw 1232/19 is to establish a New Traffic Bylaw with the purpose not only to strengthen the Bylaw as a whole, but incorporate additional definitions, expansion of parking within the Town, change to 40 Km/hr speed limit, unless otherwise posted, School and Playground zones to 7:30am to 9:00pm, bring this bylaw into line for proper legal terminology and enforcement and identify offences and penalties through Schedule "A", which forms part of the Bylaw. First Reading was given to Bylaw 1232/19 on Feb 12, 2019. Notice of this Public Hearing was advertised on the Town website, and the Lacombe Globe February 28 and March 7, 2019.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS**

In total 27 written comments were received prior to the 3pm deadline. 17 written comments were received by agenda posting Friday and were attached to the agenda. 10 additional comments have been received since then and were provided to Council for review prior to the Public Hearing. All attached as *Appendix "A"*.

**CHAIR PERSON ASKED FOR ANY LATE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

No comments

**COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE BYLAW**

None



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**COMMENTS OPPOSING THE BYLAW**

Shane Hansen: Main question is why? From what Hansen heard, based on study from UK. People have asked where is evidence in Town? Are there accidents reports to support. Study not accurate. Other municipalities don't have speed reduction. Question on what are the arterial roads? Some speeding on arterial roads, straight away can get up to and above posted limit. Can't do that in closes and crescents. Can't get up to 50 on residential streets. Explain how Town is going to enforce on residential streets. Where will enforcement be parked? Many questions but few have been answered. Hansen does not believe speed change going to slow people speeding. Essentially another tax on law abiding citizens. Hansen has been following drivers since November and feels most people go under 50. Would rather see efforts refocused on roads like Park and Cottonwood. Other alternatives that will help speed. Hansen has a friend who live on Park street and knows it won't slow people down. If goal is safety, go after people speeding in Town. Ticket them and punish them. Dangerous ones going 60+. Hansen identified about 9 roads named in his email that can be better policed. Wasting tax dollars for signage and increased cost from \$3000 to \$5000. Has sent numerous emails and thanked Council for listening. Doesn't hold a lot of hope that things will change. Hope there are 4 people on Council with good sense to vote this down. Agreed that going from 50-40 will always be safer but was study done in the same climate, weather conditions, etc. So many factors. To say speed is the cause is not a scientific study, taking speed as the sole judge.

**COMMENTS FROM THOSE AFFECTED BY THE BYLAW**

None

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

No comments

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING DECLARED AS CLOSED**

Mayor Poole declared the Public Hearing closed.

Motion to adjourn: Councillor Stendie - Carried Unanimously

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Poole adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:09pm.

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**MAYOR RICHARD POOLE**

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**CAO MYRON THOMPSON**

Town of Blackfalds Public Hearing  
March 12 1019 - Traffic Bylaw 1232.19  
Appendix "A"

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Loren Marchuk**"

Date: Tue, Feb 19, 2019 at 4:37 PM -0700

Subject: New suggested speed limit

To: "Council 2017-2021"

Hello,

I just wanted to give my opinion on this matter. I am 100% in support of having specified times on school and playground zones in town. I do not disagree with lowering the speed limit but I also don't support it. I think more enforcement of speed limits (on the aerial roads) would be a better idea. I used to live off Westbrooke and people use it as a raceway. We moved off it because of the traffic. Getting people to stop at all the crosswalks on Westbrooke is an issue. Perhaps raised crosswalks with lights would be a more effective way to ensure safety.

Regards,

Loren

**From:** [Rebecca Stendie](#)  
**To:** [Myron Thompson](#); [Anne Peck](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Speed Limits  
**Date:** February-19-19 4:59:04 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From: "Tyler Caunter"**  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 19, 2019 at 4:53 PM -0700  
**Subject:** Speed Limits  
**To:** "Council 2017-2021"

Good day,

Just wanted to write in and share my thoughts on the proposed speed limit changes.

I don't believe they are necessary, and will only make traffic worse. I live just off Cottonwood, and that road definitely doesn't need a change. It's wide open with plenty of visibility, so slowing down roads like that just make the town worse to drive through. I've lived here for quite a while, and driving through town is already slower to drive through due to the growth, and extra lights installed.

Please don't change the speed limits, as I believe this town doesn't have an issue, so why spend resources and time to fix something that isn't even an issue?

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

**From:** [Travis B](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Speed limit reduction.  
**Date:** February-20-19 10:41:51 PM

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Hello Council of Blackfalds,

This community has been my home for almost 10 years. I have spent my whole life in Central Alberta. I very much enjoy this community and what it has to offer.

However, as time goes on, I find myself wondering about the sanity of municipal governments across Alberta. A good example would be the RMWB proposing to shut down a work camp that I stay in so they can forcefully relocate me out of this community and into theirs, but that is a topic for another time.

This marks the second time I have shaken my head at this council here in Blackfalds. The first blunder was proposing to lobby the provincial government to mandate front license plates on vehicles as a way to 'fight crime'. I'm sorry to be blunt, but that was an asinine solution to even conceive.

This time we have talk of reducing the speed limit to 40kph in residential zones. Why? It's safer? By that logic you may as well set the limit to 5kph. A *reasonable* number is 50kph, just like it always has been. More enforcement of the current speed limit may be required. Changing the speed limit just affects those who were already doing the speed limit.

Anyway, the issue of speeding is non-existent in this town. The facts and data do not back up what the soccer moms cry about. The enforcement data shows no issues.

*First and foremost however we need to determine, as a Community, if there is a problem with traffic safety. A good source of this information is our enforcement services, both the RCMP and our Peace Officers, who are out in the Community actively enforcing our laws/bylaws. An additional source of information is that of our "Speed Display Sign" that is highly effective in slowing vehicles down and capturing useful traffic data that assists use in determining those areas where traffic issues are most problematic. The general impression of our enforcement group is that there is not a great problem with speeding*

The above was taken from a policing committee report for the Town of Blackfalds. Link is below.

You are trying to create rules for problems that don't exist. But I get it, it's the Canadian way. I voted for almost all of the elected council members in the last election. I see no way I could vote for the same people again given the fact that front license plates and a lower speed limit are even being talked about.

I urge you to drop this proposal and pursue much more important matters, such as bringing ridesharing like Uber to this community.

Sincerely,  
Travis Beebe

<https://www.blackfalds.com/public/download/documents/35910>

**From:** [Rebecca Stendie](#)  
**To:** [Myron Thompson](#); [Anne Peck](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Reducing speed limit  
**Date:** February-20-19 11:20:29 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From: "Melissa Makepeace"**  
**Date:** Wed, Feb 20, 2019 at 11:19 AM -0700  
**Subject:** Reducing speed limit  
**To:** "Council 2017-2021"

I wanted to send an email to express my opinion on the reducing speed limits to 40km.

I think the saying goes if something isn't broke why fix it? Why waste so much time and money on something that hasn't been an issue? Why not actual look at enforcing the speeds that are currently in place, especially playground zones?

I live right in a playground zone on east point drive and no one slows down for it or obeys this playground zone. I have never ever seen a cops sitting giving warnings or tickets to this constant issue. But let's lower the speed on every other road in the community, give your heads a shake. It makes no sense. I can't even believe are council is wasting the time even debating this.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**KEN ROGOWSKI**"

Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 at 12:23 PM -0700

Subject: Proposed 40km/hr

To: "Council"

To blackfalds council,

I can appreciate the thought of you thinking ahead to public safety, but your proposal of 40km/hr will not fix and or mediate the issue. I live on a main drag (westbrooke rd) posted 50km/hr and the average speed is 60-70 on a good day. Your focus needs to rely on the RCMP/Peace officers (who dont even do the current job required of their posting). I seriously think you should look at other options that are more effective rather than another blackfalds money bonfire.

Thank you for your time

Ken Rogowski

**From:** [ashlimccauley](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Date:** February-20-19 4:23:47 PM

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First thank you for allowing us to email our concerns when we aren't able to attend.

I am not agreeing with the speed limit change.

Nobody reduces speeds up less they need to, sylvan lake is reduced because of tourist and the flow of people and traffic, lacombe is 50, red deer is 50, innisfail, disbury, olds all 50... How many people have been hit doing the speed limit in town?

The average speed is 50.. why would we put it lower just to grow and potentially have to increase it again in 10 years when we are attached to lacombe or red deer..

I agree with the school zones for sure-

Speed reduction recommendation- even if they reduced the speed limit for Broadway from elementary to train tracks because of the busniesses and high flow traffic areas (plus nobody knows how to cross at cross walk in post office and tons of little kids)

Why are we wasting money and time on things we potentially would have to change again when we grow as a community. All the other towns are fine with the average speed limit.. so why should we change it?

Why change something that isn't broken

I personally think we have other things we should be focusing on.

**From:** [Christina Crozier](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Reduced speed limits  
**Date:** February-20-19 5:55:32 PM

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I am concerned that we already lack enforcement in Blackfalds and reducing the speed limit will not solve that problem. I am a frequent walker and I have learned to be very cautious when crossing the road. I live by the 4-way stop at Panorama and Prairie Ridge and have regularly seen people drive through without so much as yielding at those signs. Maybe the money could go towards bigger signs, or signs with a flashing light? Also, drivers regularly don't see me at crosswalks, even with 2 big dogs. The crosswalk on Park St behind Shell is very scary and risky!! There is a slight curve in the road coming West which makes it really hard for both pedestrians and drivers to see. A flashing light at this crosswalk could possibly have saved me from many close calls! Also, many of these dangers are increased by drivers not following the **current** speed limit. Reducing the speed limit is not going to change the driving habits of these people. Overall, I think that the focus should be on enforcement, not adjustments.

Thank you for you time!!!

Christina Crozier

**From:** [Victoria Craig](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Speed limits  
**Date:** February-23-19 11:42:14 AM

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Speed limits:

I'm disappointed in the talk of drop of speed limits. I live on a main road and although we do have some issues with speeding I don't feel dropping the limits to 40 throughout town is the answer. 10km is not much of a difference and the speeding will continue regardless.

Some of the roads that go around the town like vista trail could be bumped up in my opinion. It's double lanes and could easily be pushed up 10km from what it is. There's also some others I'm sure too. I do think areas on Broadway could be brought down to 30 during specific hours of the day like 8am-6pm past the downtown strip. Setting the whole town to 40 other then school and playground zones seems ridiculous. I'm not please with the whole strip by the abbey being put down to a massive playground/school zone considering the playground by the community Center is so far from the street and behind a building.

These are my opinions since I can usually not make it to town council meetings.

-Victoria Craig

**From:** DawnHauck  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** Speed reduction concerns  
**Date:** February-25-19 3:10:45 PM

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To whom this may concern,

It was recently published that our town would be reducing the speed from 50kmh-40kmh and I am writing a letter of concern AGAINST this! Although I truly understand there has been complaints filed due to speeding in town I cannot understand how dropping a speed limit is the appropriate fix! Prime example of this is 2a through Lacombe, Lacombe did a speed reduction from 60-50 and although I do travel that highway at 50kmh I am ALWAYS passed every single time I travel on it... unless there is a police officer it is truly never ever followed by speeders. This is exactly what will happen here in town... I question where our local bylaw are during the day and nights and why I do not ever see them patrolling the areas of concern?! I actually never see any RCMP OR BYLAW other then at the schools during pick up and drop off times. So people who break the law and speed are magically going to stop because we have lowered our speed limit?? This is a complete waste of tax money!! (*redacted text*) I seriously hope you considered our safety. I hear the defence is other communities have done this, do the other communities have only Volunteer fire fighters? Do these communities have ambulances? These few minutes make a huge difference in a case of a serious emergency! To further if you want to make a difference have bylaw actually out in the communities, have them in the problem areas, write those tickets, people do it because they know no one is going to stop them. What about photo radar? Even a portable unit that could be moved? Another solution that would save residents time would be installing a turning light and turning lanes at the major intersections that turn onto 2a, these lights you can sit at for a solid 10 minutes before getting a turn to hit the highway during morning and evening rush times. I also urge you to consider these other areas you are comparing speed decreases to also have high populations, high flows of traffic, tourism and their council have upped the police and bylaw presence to enforce the speed limit. So I hope if this goes through the follow through of bylaw and rcmp is also in your plans and budget without another serious tax increase. (Let's face it our taxes are outrageous for the amount of commuting we have to do because businesses and health wise there's not much here...) I am in complete agreement with set times for playgrounds and schools the guessing of an hour after sunset is difficult if you live near a playground and 830am isn't early enough when our schools start at 801! Also a suggestion would be to lower mainstreet to 30kmh Monday-Friday. I truly hope council really hears my concerns and rethinks this decision as truly I don't feel this is going to do anything and the concerns of fire and medical are a huge thing to consider here! I feel there are other ways to fix this and I truly hope you hear everyone sending an email because you can go ahead and drop it but it won't make a difference and after spending the amount to change all the signs you will be back to square one shortly except with a huge chunk of money gone....

Yours truly  
Dawn Hauck

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Walsh

Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:31 AM

To: info@blackfalds.com

Subject: Changing speed limit.

I object to changing the speed limit to 40 km an hour. It's not going to change anything Just frustrating people.. and I do think the speed limit around schools and play grounds areas should be restricted to certain hours.. Thanks.

**From:** [Chad Trotter](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Speed limit change  
**Date:** February-27-19 12:08:15 PM

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My vote is the only street that should be changed to 40 is from the arena to the school on Broadway.

**From:** [Melyssa Robertson](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** comments regarding lowered speed limit proposal  
**Date:** February-27-19 1:50:26 PM

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As a resident in a growing community, I do not agree with lowered speed limits. With a population that could now classify us as a city, it seems unreasonable to reduce speed limits.

People will speed no matter what the limit is, and I believe lowering limits will negatively affect not only our residents in tickets and penalties but also visitors who would be unexpecting of a speed limit other than 50km/hr.

I have spoken with the RCMP about the speed signs that posts your travelling speed, and also record which days/ times people speed through the area. I have been told by RCMP this works well to keep drivers aware of their speeds.

I believe having these permanently posted around the town would be a much more reasonable approach to having drivers abide the limits.

Melyssa Robertson

**From:** [Tanya](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Changing of speed limit  
**Date:** March-04-19 6:25:10 PM

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I'm a resident and I do NOT support changing the speed limit. I would support more enforcement of existing speed limit.

Thanks

**From:** (Unknown) Amazinggrl  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Speed limit change  
**Date:** March-04-19 6:27:04 PM

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I do NOT support the lowering of the speed limit. I do support more enforcement, I would even support purchasing photo radar camera.

**From:** [DOUG Dougdoug](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC HEARING FOR TRAFFIC BYLAW 1232/19  
**Date:** March-04-19 6:51:49 PM

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## PART 5 Speed limit COMMENTS

It is my understanding that no city or town has the legal right to make any speed limit, "unless otherwise posted". Many have tried and I have never seen the change to OTHER WISE.

I am not in favor of this change. If I saw positive statistics that we would be safer with a lower speed limit I could change my mind. In the 90's very few people would have been more in favor of Red Light cameras as so many drivers would not clear an intersections during a yellow light they raced instead. So while in the intersection I had to wait for my light to change red then I proceeded to turn left when a yellow light runner could not hit me. Red light cameras had to come with photo radar or it was no sale to the city so they accepted a package deal and felt safer. However the town fathers quickly learned that millions of dollars were available by setting up speed cameras at the bottom of hills and even on overpasses. True you can not get a speeding ticket unless one speeds. How when speed camera are set up in the same spot for hours and hours a day are you trying to protect the little ones in a school zone or working towards a million dollars. *I seldom see a speed camera in a school zone but I do see them almost daily raising the cities funds. Exactly the same thing will happen to a 40 km/hr plan Town council, town fathers and the RCMP may say we promise to never do that we have a great deal of pride. But down the road it only takes one officer to find a comfortable spot and start writing tickets. His friends then look bad and they also find a nice spot and the game begins.*  
*Doug Brunner*

**From:** [Emily Simkin](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Bylaw 1232/19  
**Date:** March-07-19 1:24:05 PM

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Upon review of the proposed changes as stated regarding traffic bylaw 1232/19 is like to formally submit my comments on the proposed changes.

I support the introduction of consistent playground times and the alignment with school zones. However, I propose that school zones become playground zones that are 7 days a week as they all have playgrounds on site and are often used on weekends.

In regards to the proposed lowering of the speed limit to 40km/hr, I do not support this initiative. I reviewed the traffic study completed 4 yrs ago, I did not see any evidence that supports the lowering of the speed limit. I would however support increased enforcement of current speed limits, especially on major roadways such as womacks and playground zones.

Emily Simkin

**From:** [Andrew Critchley](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Speed Reduction  
**Date:** March-07-19 4:25:38 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the proposed speed reduction to 40 kph in Blackfalds. I do not believe reducing the speed will help improve road safety or slow motorists down in Blackfalds.

I believe the town should instead be looking at how they monitor speed through photo radar, speed cameras, road safety education and additional signs which state how fast a vehicle is travelling.

Additionally, research shows that if speed is reduced to a limit which is seen as unreasonable it actually has the opposite effect as drivers ignore the limit which they deem as too slow and speed. Drivers are more likely to stick to 50 kph than 40 kph.

Thank you for your time,

Andrew and Mariah Critchley

**From:** [Shane Hanson](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Cc:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** Speed Reduction Please Hearing  
**Date:** March-10-19 8:44:45 PM

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This email is to inform you that I am hoping to attend and I would like to speak at the Public Hearing on March 12, 2019.

I am not in favour of a reduction to the Town of Blackfalds' speed limit, from 50km/h to 40km/h. I would also like the school and playground zones times to remain as they are currently.

Studies:

I've heard from the Mayor and a few Councillors that studies show a reduction of 10km/h would be safer. Agreed going slower is safer but we shouldn't need a "Study" to tell us this. However, if the Mayor or any Councillors are using this as a justification to vote in favour, I challenge you to not stop at 40km/h. Why not 30km/h, 20km/h or 10km/h? If you feel strongly enough about 40km/h to vote in favour of it for this reason, let's make it even safer and reduce the Town's speed limit all the way down to 10km/h.

Average Speed:

Another justification I've heard from Council is that reducing the Town's speed limit will reduce the average speed limit. Again, agreed but this should go without saying. If the large majority of law abiding citizens who follow the 50km/h speed limit follow the new speed limit the law of averages says that the average speed limit will drop. However, this does not address the issue of dangerous speeding. It says our Council thinks the majority of law abiding citizens are hazardous.

Residents have asked for a speed reduction:

The Mayor and Councillors have repeatedly stated that residents asked for this while they were campaigning in the last election. While I'll agree that the majority of residents asked that speeding in town be addressed, I doubt that the majority asked for a speed reduction. I posted an informal poll on "Blackfalds Opinion Posts and More...", a Facebook page well subscribed to by Blackfalds residents, including many of the Town's Administration and Council. This poll reflects what I've continually tried to address with Council. The amount of people in favour of the speed reduction has fluctuated between 12-14% and rounding up currently sits at 13%. 347 people participated in the poll with only 44 in favour of the speed reduction, a rather small minority. The poll has been up for 12 days, has seen a lot of activity and I'd like to thank Mayor Poole for his participation.

Enforcement:

The majority of poll respondents, 303 or 87% chose increased enforcement as opposed to speed reduction. Even residents who live on arterial roads where speeding is the greatest concern chose increased enforcement. Those residents commented that they do not think a speed reduction will result in the dangerous speeders slowing down. This is another point I've repeatedly tried to convey to Council.

Arterial Roads:

In the proposal a small number of arterial roads were identified. By definition, Blackfalds has many more arterial roads than those that Administration identified. By definition Vista Trail, South St., Broadway Ave., Park St., Panorama Dr. and Cottonwood Drive are all arterial roads. A case could also be made that Westbrooke Rd., Womacks Rd. and Parkwood Rd. as well. There is really only a couple of properly or safely designed arterial roads in Blackfalds: Cottonwood Dr. and Vista Trail. Although Vista Trail has been poorly designed North of Westbrooke Rd. I would gather that if you polled residents you find that the majority that want the speed reduction live on one of these arterial roads and they'd agree to increased enforcement to better ease their problems. There are truly 9 arterial roads that need to increased enforcement in the Town of Blackfalds. The others are designed in such a manner as Crescents, Closes, etc. that speeding is nearly impossible and so is enforcement.

School and Playground Zones:

If the reasoning for this is as indicated on the Town's webpage, "to be consistent with other municipalities and easier to patrol", I'd say it is easier than ever to find out when sunset is. A quick google search told me sunset in our region is 7:31pm today. Following other municipalities is a poor reason for anything as all municipalities never going to be the same for everything. Better signage would help make these zones safer. For instance a school zone used to be identified by a blue sign and a playground zone yellow. The attached link is the Alberta standard for School and Playground Zone signage. It shows the School zone as fluorescent yellow while the Playground Zone yellow. For some reason all signs in Blackfalds are fluorescent yellow making it more difficult for drivers to distinguish between signs.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType233/Production/schlpngnd.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjeisHtwPjgAhXNITQIHg-AFIQFjABegQIDRAG&usq=AQvVaw0E9nsXmuzFaJRq4B0kJQzX>

I have attended a number of events over the years and been fortunate to meet a number of residents who had many excellent suggestions. I am not being unreasonable, I propose an alternate solution to any view I have that is contrary to the actions of Administration and Council. This is reflective of the residents I've met and heard from, now and in the past. What is often mischaracterised as "complaining" is folks who care about their community. We identify problems to Council and Administration but also typically offer effective solutions, the trouble is we're rarely heard.

Community generated alternative ideas I've heard that will better answer the problem of excessive speeding are:

- Increased enforcement;
- Flashing speed limit signs;
- Flashing crosswalks;
- Raised crosswalks;
- Better lighting and
- Traffic circles.

I'd like to thank Council for listening on this issue, hopefully the majority will be heard and Council will redirect Administrations efforts a more effective manner

See you Tuesday.  
Shane.



**Shane Hanson** created a poll in **Blackfalds Opinion Posts And More.....**



Feb. 27 at 7:22 a.m. •

With the Public Hearing on the Speed Limit reduction in the Town of Blackfalds less than 2 weeks away, what do residents feel will improve the safety of our community?



Increased Enforcement



303 votes



Reducing the Speed Limit



44 votes

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**From:** [langman](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Traffic Bylaw Amendments  
**Date:** March-11-19 5:49:22 PM

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I am writing to Town Council to object to the lowering of the speed limit to 40 kmh. While I understand there is a safety issue with vehicles travelling at a high rate of speed, I believe the problem is the lack of enforcement of the current speed limit. A driver speeding at the current speed limit will not care to slow down to the proposed limit. Additionally, the speed reduction could increase confusion of non-Town drivers because standard non-posted speed limit is 50 kmh. Even with signage, which is expensive, non-town drivers would revert to what they are used to.

Sincerely,  
Lorna Langman

**From:**  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** March 12th meeting  
**Date:** March-11-19 11:27:28 PM

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Not able to attend meeting not sure speed changes is the answer needed. The one that usually speed are gonna speed whether its 20 40 or 60 I think enforcement is better solution like and possibly getting more enforcement.

- Change to Playground Zone Speed Limit times from 8:30 am to 1 hour after sunset to now be; 7:30 am to 9:00 pm to be consistent with other municipalities and easier to patrol

As for park zones and time changes I think if following red deer or other municipalities as suggested is a great idea. I know Red Deer they dont start at 7:30 either , but honestly how many kids are actually in the park at 7:30 am any given day. And to be 9pm winter no ones in the park at all 9 pm is quite late. I think the time now 8:30 to 1 hr after sunset has worked for years why the need to change times is beyond reasoning. And on top of all the time changes and speed zones the cost of replacing all new signage that ends up being on the tax base . Theres a lot of parks in town. I think changing something that isnt broken is redundant. Work on real issues that need to be fixed. I love our town and think employees do an amazing job between flowers, plants and Christmas **etc. Keep it simple and safe.**

**Kelly**

**From:** [Chris Christensen](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Traffic Bylaw 1232/19  
**Date:** March-12-19 7:57:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi There,

As a citizen of Blackfalds, I am in support of the changes.

Thanks,

**CHRISTIAN (CHRIS) CHRISTENSEN, CIP**

Chartered Insurance Professional



**5605 Park St.**

**Blackfalds, AB T4M 0E8**

Phone: 403-596-5817

Calgary & Area: 403-479-4109

Fax: 1-866-692-9109

203-2903 Kingsview Blvd SE Airdrie, AB T4A 0C4

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**From:** [ckoples](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed speed limit change  
**Date:** March-12-19 8:36:08 AM

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Good Morning,

I am **STRONGLY AGAINST** lowering the speed limit. It is going to do **NOTHING** for the speeding issue. Those that are already doing 70-80 kmh in a 50 zone are going to continue to do 70 or 80 but now in a 40 zone.

Thanks

Coralie

**From:** [Randy Hellmer](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Speed limit reduction proposal  
**Date:** March-12-19 8:37:37 AM

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I am not in favour of reducing the speed limit. We currently have school zones, parks and playgrounds at decreased rates. Maybe a few key locations could have a few speed bumps installed. R Hellmer

**From:** [Chris-Derek](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Vote  
**Date:** March-12-19 8:50:04 AM

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I vote opposed (NO) to the change of the speed limit in town lowering.

Chris Tobler  
Derek Casing Service  
403 597 8620

**From:** [Vincent Wolfe](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Traffic Bylaw 1232/19 public hearing comments  
**Date:** March-12-19 10:48:13 AM

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Good morning,

I realized I had forgotten to send in my comments sooner than this, so I must apologize for the tardiness of this email.

I am generally in support of this bylaw change, especially the change of the Playground zone timing. This has been a huge concern of mine, as it does not make sense in any northern community to rely on the sun to decide when kids are not going to be out. It gets dark at 4:30 at points, and I know there are going to be kids out at that time. Thank you for proposing this change.

I am not pleased with the change in speed limits to 40k/h on residential streets for a few reasons:

- Speeding is a constant problem and telling those that are not speeding to slow down further will not improve road safety, but instead frustrate residents and cause more speeding.
- Speed is not currently effectively enforced. This means that creating a new speed limit will have no net impact on road safety, as there is no consequence to ignoring the speed limits with either speed limit. I know there is no direct control by the council on enforcement, but this should be an area that more effort is put.
- Parents are responsible to make sure their children are not running into the street, not the drivers. Roads are a known hazard, like wildlife, and using legislature to mitigate the risk is a waste of time. A better option would be to work with the town businesses to build a better street smarts program for kids, and have them reduce the risk. I work in IT security, and I can spend millions of dollars on fancy equipment to keep a network safe, but in the end 75% of data breaches are because a user does something unsafe. I spend most of my energy educating users to reduce risk. The same strategy can be applied to road safety.

I really appreciate the ability to make my voice heard, and hope that this type of process continues. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments, have a great day.

Vincent Wolfe  
Blackfalds AB

**From:** [Amy Saunders](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Speed reduction  
**Date:** March-12-19 12:51:55 PM

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I am not in favour of the speed reduction. I have lived here for 5 years and I would appreciate current rules being enforced instead of trying to enforce new rules. I don't know how many people I see blow stop signs, not stop when turning, passing school buses etc.

Amy Saunders

**From:** [Lance Hamelton](#)  
**To:** [info](#)  
**Subject:** Town Council meeting regarding speed reduction to 40kph  
**Date:** March-12-19 1:04:06 PM

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Unable to attend the meeting tonight at 7 pm but would like to voice my opinion on the matter regarding a speed reduction to 40kph. I am NOT in favour of this change as it will not make the roads safer nor will it do anything other than congest an already at times congested roadway. There is no benefit in this reduction. Currently there have been no pedestrian accidents reported due to speed in the town.  
It's a waste of time and tax payer money to even consider this change

Thank you

Lance Hamelton, blackfalds alberta