CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 3 APRIL 2017

PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGE – COXWELL ROAD FARINGDON

Report by Strategic Director, Communities

Introduction

1. This report presents responses received in the course of a statutory consultation on a proposal for an extension of the 30mph speed limit on Coxwell Road, Faringdon.

Background

2. An extension of the 30mph speed limit on Coxwell Road was proposed by developers as part of works to create a new access for a residential development at the location shown at Annex 1.

Consultation

- 3. The formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 12 January and 10 February 2017. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Faringdon Town Council and the local County Councillor.
- 4. Seven responses were received as summarised at Annex 2. Copies of all the full responses received are available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre).
- 5. Thames Valley Police and the Vale of the White Horse District Council expressed no objection and the proposal was supported by the local County Councillor. Faringdon Town Council supported the proposal, but commented that with further planned housing development, consideration could also have been given to extending the 30mph speed limit now as far as the A420 junction (and possibly to extend to Great Coxwell). Very similar comments were made by two members of the public, raising concerns over the potential extra costs of extending the speed limit incrementally; one of these responses was still supportive of the proposal, while the other expressed an objection on the grounds of abortive costs.
- 6. One objection was received from a member of the public (not a resident of the area) on the grounds that a 30mph speed limit was not consistent with the character of the road even with the planned development, and that a 40mph speed limit would be more appropriate, and would avoid the risk of an

unrealistic speed limit leading to a more general reduction in respect for speed limits.

Review of responses

- 7. The responses of Thames Valley Police, the local member and the Vale of the White Horse District Council are noted.
- 8. Faringdon Town Council's comments on the possibility of extending the 30mph limit further either to the A420 junction, or to Great Coxwell are noted, and it is accepted that further extensions of the 30mph speed limit will very likely be progressed in conjunction with further development. It is, however, judged that at present it would be more appropriate to proceed with the extension as consulted on, as compliance with the extended limit as requested would be compromised by the current road environment, which is rural. Although it is accepted that additional costs will be incurred when further changes to the speed limit are made, these will be met as is the case with the current proposal by the developers of the adjacent land. These same comments apply to the very similar representations made by two of the responses made by members of the public.
- 9. The objection from the member of the public that a 30mph speed limit is unrealistic given that the new development is only on one side of the road, and that a 40mph speed limit would be more appropriate is similarly noted. While it is accepted that the road where the current development is is not heavily built up, the 30mph speed limit as proposed is judged to be in accordance with Department for Transport guidelines on setting speed limits, and is supported by all of the other respondents to this consultation, notwithstanding the queries raised on the possibility of extending the 30mph limit further at this time.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

10. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

11. Funding for the speed limit extension has been provided by the developer of the residential land adjacent to the Coxwell Road, Faringdon

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposals as advertised.

OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

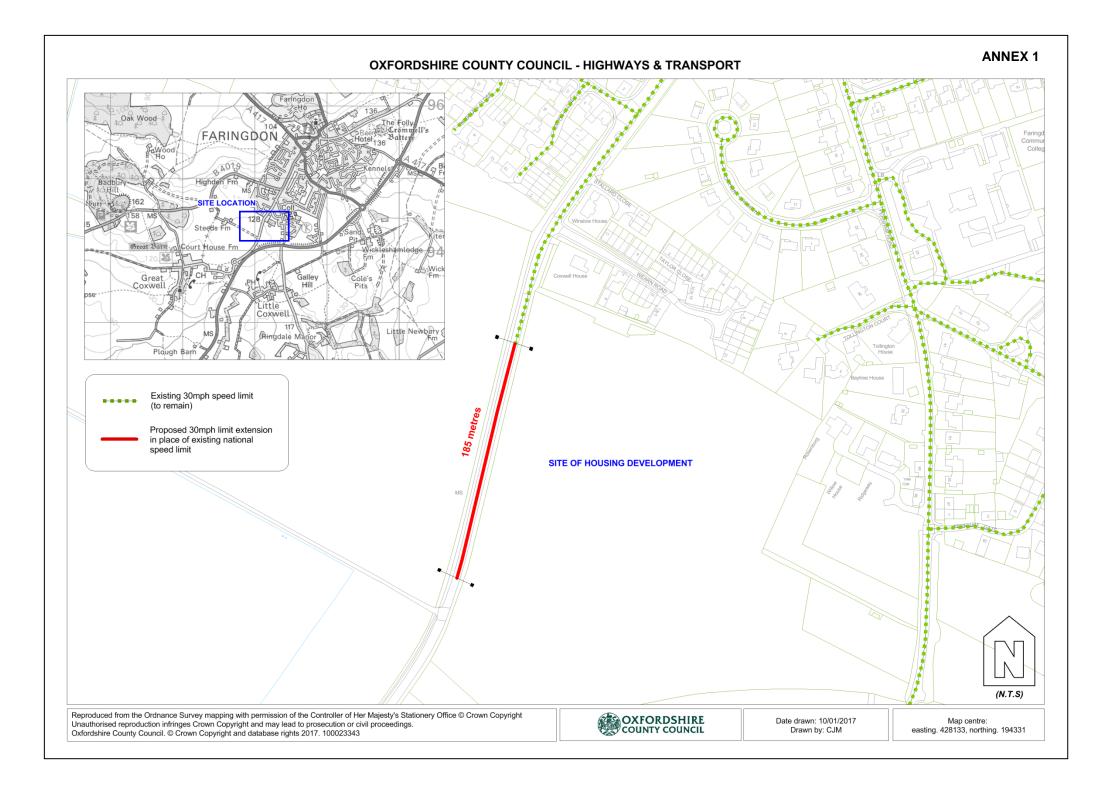
Background papers: Plan of proposed restrictions

Consultation responses

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March 2017



ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Thames Valley Police	No objection.
(2) Faringdon Town Council	Supports – with the following comments: Although Faringdon Town Council is supportive of reduced speed limits on Coxwell Road exiting Faringdon, Faringdon Town Council has noted that the developer is only prepared to fund this proposed speed limit for a distance of 185m in respect of the Fernham Fields development. Town Council has been advised that consideration to changing speed limits and the funding of such changes is only made in respect of each planning application, independent of other applications. However, it does strongly feel in this instance that, given the potential for further housing developments on Coxwell Road, it would be much more appropriate for the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph from Faringdon's parish boundary all the way down Coxwell Road to the A420 junction and possibly into Great Coxwell and that this work should be carried out all at the same time.
(3) Local County Councillor	Supports proposal.
(4) Vale of White Horse District Council	No objection.
(5) Resident, (Marlborough Street)	Supports – with the following comments: The whole of Coxwell Road up to the roundabout should become 30mph in preparation for when the Steeds

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	housing development is occupied; it would be more sensible and cost effective to implement in one stage, rather in incremental steps.
(6) Resident, (Cumnor)	Objects – with the following comments: Given there are houses on one side and fields on the other 40mph is the right limit; a lower limit without supporting traffic calming measures will lead to speed limits being disrespected more generally to the detriment of compliance of speed limits where they are required
(7) Resident, (Great Coxwell)	Objects – with the following comments: In the last year the 30mph zone has been moved together with so called gateway and incorrect signage saying Faringdon (This is still part of Great Coxwell). Within a year you now propose going to the cost of moving the limit once again and all the costs that go with it; as you have given outline permission for Steeds Farm – if as seems likely this will require a further extension of the 30mph limit, it would be more cost effective to make this change now, and therefore objects to the current proposal.