

Item 10 - Kidlington to Banbury: A4260 Corridor - Proposed Speed Limits

We support all of these speed limit changes. As we have done before, however, we urge that noise pollution be added to the remit of the Vision Zero speed limit programme.

It would not be a factor in most of these schemes, because of their rural location, but noise pollution reduction would be a strong additional argument for the 40 to 30mph reduction on the A4260 through Bodicote. While noise pollution is harder to measure, it is likely that the public health gains from reducing noise in locations like this would be greater than the gains from averting injuries. These gains come both directly, in fewer deaths from cardiovascular disease and lower rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes, but also in better sleep enabling a better quality of life.

It would also be good to have more emphasis on lower speeds positively enabling walking and cycling. The best known Vision Zero statement has a second clause "while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all" and that should be part of our Vision Zero programme. Here it was good to see the officers' report quoting DfT guidance that 40mph is only appropriate where non-motorised users are catered for through segregation of road space.

More generally, if the focus of speed limit changes was not so narrowly on injury reduction, they might attract broader public support.