

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 20 DECEMBER 2018**  
**ASTON TIRROLD AND UPTHORPE – PROPOSED 20MPH & 50MPH**  
**SPEED LIMITS**

**Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery**

**Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is **RECOMMENDED** to approve proposals to introduce a 20mph speed limit in place of the existing 30mph limit in the village of Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe and replace two short lengths of unrestricted (60mph) road leading out of the village with a 50mph speed limit as advertised.

**Executive Summary**

2. Speed limits are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout as a result of development, when requested by local councils as a result of road safety concerns, and as part of the on-going monitoring of reports on road accidents. Proposed changes are assessed applying the County Council's Procedure for Speed Limits due to be approved at this meeting (Item 8).

**Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a 20mph speed limit in place of the existing 30mph limit in the village of Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe and replace two short lengths of unrestricted (60mph) road leading out of the village with a 50mph speed limit.

**Background**

4. The above proposals have been put forward by Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Parish Council in response to concerns over road safety and the wider adverse impact of traffic on residents. A plan of the proposals is provided at Annex 1.
5. As part of the technical appraisal of the proposals, speed surveys were carried out at three locations which showed current speeds to be largely compliant with the advice issued by the Department for Transport in respect of the proposed speed limits.

## **Consultation**

6. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 26 September and 26 October 2018. A public notice was placed in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, South Oxfordshire District Council, Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Parish Councils and the local County Councillor.
7. Twenty-three responses were received, comprising 21 expressions of support, one objection and Thames Valley Police submitting a response that did not object to the proposed 50mph limit, but did raise concerns regarding specific sections of the proposed 20mph speed limit.
8. These responses are summarised at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

## **Response to objections and other comments**

9. The response of Thames Valley Police expressing some concerns about the appropriateness of the proposed extent of the 20mph limit on Chalk Hill and Hagbourne Road is noted and it is accepted that average speeds at the entry to the proposed limit on these roads are likely to be in excess of 25mph. However, the character of these roads once within the limit – including the bend on Hagbourne Road – should help ensure that speeds over the great majority of their length comply with the Department for Transport guidance.
10. The Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Roads and Traffic Working Party expressed support for the proposal as did Didcot Town Council.
11. One objection was received from a resident of the village on the grounds that the proposed limit would not be effective in addressing the safety issues in the village and that funding for the project would be better spent on maintaining the roads. While it is accepted that it is unlikely that the proposed 20mph limit would result in a major change in driver behaviour it should, nevertheless, help reduce speeds. The decision on the use of funding has been taken by Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Parish Council.
12. Nineteen responses were received from residents of the village supporting the proposals. Two of those, however, did express a concern that the proposal should include all the length of the Moreton Road. The latter was given very careful consideration by officers in their discussions with representatives of the parish council on the scheme but, because speeds on the northern part of this road currently exceed the recommended threshold for a 'sign only' 20mph speed limit and noting that the parish councils do not have funding for the supporting measures required to address that issue (noting also there are some local concerns about the visual impact of such measures), it was agreed that the scheme should not include this part of the road.

13. Concerns were also received from two residents who, while being generally supportive of the scheme, expressed the view that the 20mph limit on Spring Hill should be extended and also that a 50mph limit should be introduced on the Hagbourne Road in place of the national speed limit. These comments are noted but the extent of the proposals was approved in discussions with the parish council who are funding the project and are judged to be appropriate taking account of national guidance on setting local speed limits.

### **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

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

### **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

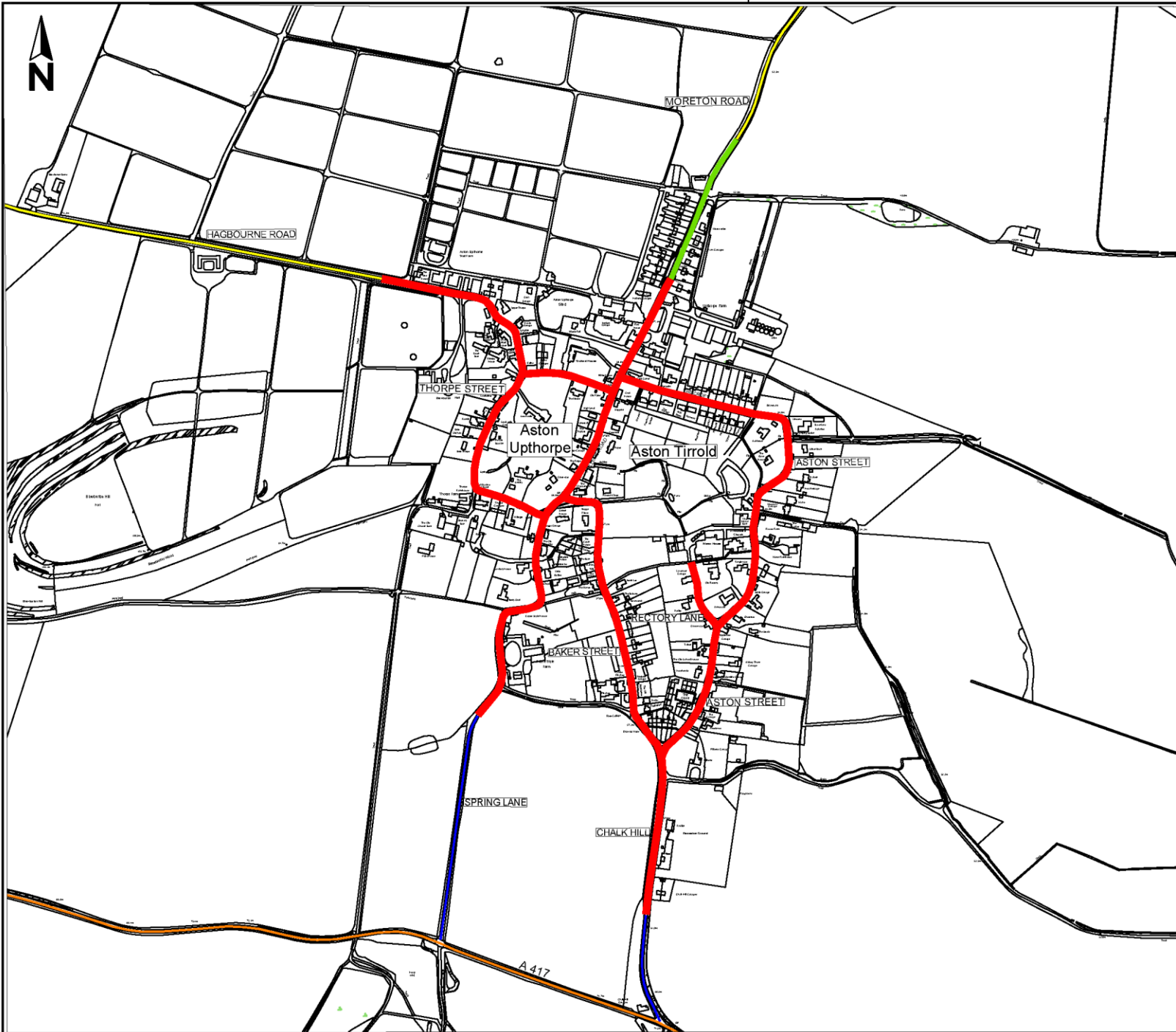
15. Funding for the proposed speed limits has been provided by Aston Tirrold and Uptonthorpe Parish Council.

OWEN JENKINS  
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers:            Plan of proposed speed limit  
   Consultation responses

Contact Officers:                Hugh Potter 07766 998704

December 2018



Drawing No. Revision 0

**Key**

- Proposed 20mph Speed Limit to replace of existing 30 mph speed limit
- Existing 30mph Speed Limit
- Existing 50mph Speed Limit
- Proposed 50mph to replace existing National Speed Limit
- Existing National Speed Limit

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Owen Jenkins  
Director for  
Infrastructure Delivery  
Communities  
Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND  
Tel: 0345 310 11 11  
Fax: (01865) 241577

**Project title**

PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

**Drawing title**

ASTON TIRROLD AND  
UPTHORPE

**Drawing Status**

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	JaC		
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved
	07/18		

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No. Revision 0

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - On those roads where the means speeds are already above 24 mph this proposal would NOT be supported by Thames Valley Police without additional engineering measures to achieve compliance</p> <p>Having visited the location, it is apparent speeds on most of the village roads will be compliant due to existing environment. However, on 2 roads I would raise serious concern with achieving any level of driver compliance: Hagbourne road and Chalk Hill.</p> <p>Clearly the Authority have identified an issue with lowering the whole of Moreton Road. I feel similar consideration should also be given to both Hagbourne Road and Chalk Hill.</p> <p><b>No objection</b> to the 50mph speed limits.</p>
(2) Didcot Town Council	<p><b>Support</b> - Didcot Town Council fully supports the proposed speed limit reductions in and around Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe.</p>
(3) Aston Tirrold & Aston Upthorpe CLP Roads & Traffic Working Party	<p><b>Support</b> - Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe is increasingly used as a rat run for traffic from Wallingford through the villages to join the A 417 and gain access to the A 34 at Chilton. Our roads are very narrow and twisty with blind corners. We have a growing population of residents and children. We have no pavements and no safe cycling, walking or pram pushing areas alongside our village roads. We have a number of houses which were built with no parking or garage space so cars are parked on the road. We need to ensure a safe environment to all our residents. 20 MPH is a far safer speed than 30 MPH in this village area. The 2 x main access roads from the A 417 down into the village - neither of these can fit 2 cars side by side along them. In addition at the bottom of Chalk Hill, we have the entrance to our recreation Grounds and cars come hurtling down that hill at extremely dangerous speeds just where children on bikes, walking, prams and dogs are going in and out. Hence why we urgently need restrictions of 50 MPH at all points entering the village and 20 MPH inside the village area.</p>

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<p>(4) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - There is no evidence that 20 MPH limits are safer. Those that are likely to drive irresponsibly will continue to beak the limit and for the rest of us it will be an irritant. This is an expensive exercise at a time when limited resources would be far better spent on filling pot holes which really are a safety threat.</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support (with concerns)</b> - whilst I fully support the reduction in speed limit across the village, I understand that Moreton Road is not included in this. As a resident of the Moreton Road (in the proposed 30mph section) with children who regularly use the road (as there is a limited amount of pavement) on foot and bikes with myself, I feel that there is a strong need for the speed limit to be reduced in this area of the village as well.</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - As a resident of Aston Tirrold, I strongly support this proposal.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - This is a very appropriate measure for these villages as there are few footpaths so pedestrians are forced to walk on the road throughout the villages. This is especially risky to children as sightlines are restricted. I have 2 small children and have had many issues with cars at 30 whilst we are walking. This is exacerbated by limited parking at venues like the recreation ground and pub.</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comment</i></p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Seems to work well in other villages. Some cars and tractors exceed the existing 30 limit.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comment</i></p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I frequently walk around the village with my two young boys (2 &amp; 4), cars are driving far quicker than the 30-mph speed limit and I think we would have a much better experience is the 20 mph speed limit was enforced. The cars also don't treat the yield at the top of the Croft as such and have nearly missed colliding with cars on many occasions, walking around those bends with the boys would be safer if the 20mph limit was in place.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I entirely agree that this is appropriate. There are no pavements in the village and there are several blind bends so it can be really dangerous walking around the village.</p>

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<p>(13) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Parish Council)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - With no pavements the village's need for a speed limit that gives pedestrians maximum time to respond to oncoming traffic is particularly important.</p>
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comment</i></p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comment</i></p>
<p>(16) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Cars drive way too fast through the narrow village lanes</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Currently people fly through the village doing 40 mph and do not stop at "give way" signs. There is going to be a serious accident soon. I had a near miss only this morning</p>
<p>(18) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - It would also help if we could 'gate' the entrance to the villages to slow all the vehicles that use our villages as a cut through.</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comment</i></p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Whilst I wholeheartedly support the introduction of the 20mph zone in the villages I believe the proposed 50 mph for Spring Lane south of the village is still far too fast, I live beside Spring Lane and travel on it every day. It is called a Lane for a reason. It is not wide enough for 2 commercial vehicles or one large truck and a modern car to pass safely at 50mph. There are a large and increasing number of delivery vans and trucks using the lane and they tear down the lane, especially in the Northern direction from the A417. They will have to go from 50 to 20 just before the first curve and are unlikely to slow to 20. If you were to put a speed camera there that would do it. As this is unlikely to happen it would be far better to make Spring Lane a 30mph zone in the southern stretch before the new 20mph zone thereby reducing the amount of braking required and probably increasing the chances of the new limit being followed</p>

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<p>(21) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comment</i></p>
<p>(22) Local Resident, (Aston Tirrold )</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Would have been even better if it had extended to the village entrance on the Moreton Road rather than starting half way down it.</p>
<p>(23) Local Resident, (Aston Upthorpe)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Our village has narrow roads with multiple road junctions. Only one road has a pedestrian footpath and there is no street lighting. Traffic is heavy and is mainly passing through the village. The proposal for a speed reduction to 20mph is sensible and timely. I'm very surprised that Hagbourne Road on the west side of the village has not been included on the reduction to 50mph. This road is straight on its approach to the village boundary with traffic often driving far too fast for its width and walkers. It should be included in the speed reduction, as a minimum between the footpath to Blueburton Hill and the village.</p>