

Division(s): North Hinksey

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 17 DECEMBER 2020**

### **CUMNOR – OXFORD ROAD: PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT**

**Report by Interim Director of Community Operations**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed 30mph speed limit on Oxford Road, Cumnor as advertised.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Speed limits are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout or usage as a result of development and when requested by the local member, local councils or other parties due to concerns over road safety.

#### **Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation I to introduce a 30mph speed limit on Oxford Road Cumnor in place of the existing 40mph speed limit.

#### **Background**

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been progressed following an instruction by the Cabinet Member for Environment at the delegated decisions meeting on 16 July 2020 to carry out a speed survey to confirm that existing traffic speeds on Oxford Road were compatible with a 30mph speed limit following representations received at the above meeting for this speed limit change as part of the consideration of speed limit proposals for Cumnor Hill. The speed survey results obtained in October 2020 (showing mean speeds as 29.6mph eastbound and 32.9mph westbound) confirmed that a 30mph limit would be appropriate in principle.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposals was carried out between 22 October and 20 November 2020. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper and an email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, the Vale of White Horse District Council, Cumnor Parish Council and local County Councillor.
6. Thirty-three responses were received. 27 in support (82%), 2 objections (6%), 3 raising concerns (9%) and one non-objection.

7. The responses are recorded at Annex 2. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

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

8. Thames Valley Police did not object but expressed a view that they do not believe joining the village of Cumnor 30mph limit and Cumnor Hill 30mph limit represented best practice and was likely to lead to drivers paying less respect to both limits. Cumnor Hill speed limit has been the subject of complaint for a number of years and making this whole area a 30mph limit was unlikely to change that.
9. The Vale of the White Horse District Council did not object.
10. Two objections and one expression of concern were received from members of the public on the grounds that they considered that the current 40mph speed limit appropriate; although it appears that one of the objections was focussed on the 30mph limit on Cumnor Hill, which was approved at the Cabinet Member for Environment delegated decisions meeting on 16 July.
11. A further concern received from a member of the public echoed the comments of Thames Valley Police on the benefits of retaining a 30mph gateway on entering Cumnor village.
12. While noting the above responses it is considered that the proposal is consistent with national advice on setting local speed limits.
13. Twenty-seven responses of support were received from members of the public.

### **Sustainability objectives**

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

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

15. Funding for the proposed speed limit has been provided from s106 contributions received from developers, the Area Parish Support budget and Cumnor Parish Council.

### **Equalities Implications**

16. No implications in respect of equalities have been identified in respect of the proposals.

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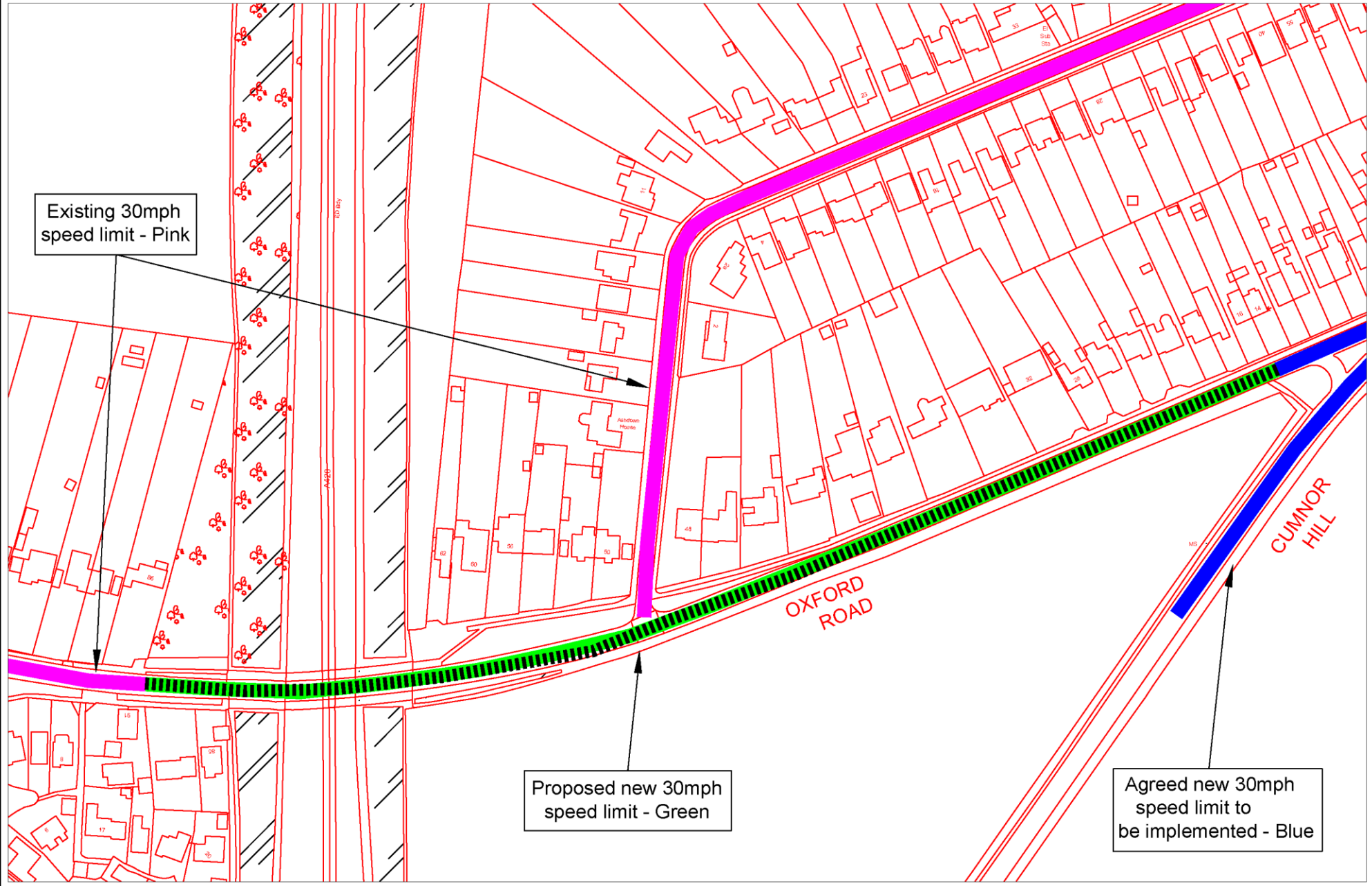
JASON RUSSELL  
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers:        Plan of proposed speed limits.  
   Consultation responses

Contact Officers:            Hugh Potter 07766 998704  
   Lee Turner 07917 072678

December 2020

# Cumnor, Oxford Road proposed 30 speed limit



| RESPONDENT   | COMMENTS   |
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| (1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police) | <p><b>Concerns</b> – In principle based of the results of the speed survey I do not object. Mean speed data would suggest 30 is acceptable.</p> <p>I do however raise concern. I do not believe joining the village of Cumnor 30 and Cumnor Hill 30 is best practice. This method is likely to lead to drivers paying less respect to both limits. Cumnor Hill speed limit has been the subject to complaint for a number of years and making this whole area a 30 it is unlikely to change that.</p> <p>Further measures may need to be included in the future as any targeted enforcement also unlikely.</p>                   |
| (2) South & Vale District Council                      | <b>No objection</b>  |
| (3) Local Resident, (Cumnor)                           | <b>Object</b> - Why's it needed? Stop changing things when there's no reason.  |
| (4) Local Resident, (Cumnor)                           | <b>Object</b> - My husband and I do not agree with the 30mph limit on the hill. We believe it is a knee jerk reaction to a child who was injured by not following the 'green cross' code. There are many cyclists going up and down the hill and it requires a careful burst of speed to overtake them when there is no oncoming traffic otherwise traffic is limited to 20mph. We use this route, sometimes, several times a day and we don't experience drivers exceeding the present limit. Buses, work vehicles, homeowners turning in and out of roads up and down the hill and road works tend to slow all traffic anyway. |
| (5) Local Resident, (Cumnor)                           | <b>Concerns</b> - I would be glad to support this, but in the earlier Cumnor Hill consultation we were advised it would be useful to keep a small section here at 40 in order to have a 30-gateway entering the village at the Glebe. So in the event of a driver becoming complacent of a speed limit set at the station, there would be a proper reminder at the village, at the sharp left (chevrons sign fell off a year ago), where school children merge from all directions.  |

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|  | <p>If there will be other clear provisions made for reminding drivers of a 30 in the village itself, then this proposal has my whole-hearted support.</p>  |
| <p>(6) Local Resident,<br/>(Wootton)</p> | <p><b>Concerns</b> - My concern is that the Council keep looking to reduce speed limits on roads, often without any clear evidence and justification that speed is a real safety issue.</p> <p>To keep the car-driving public on side and retain some credibility (as a balanced decision-making body), taking the easy option of reducing speed limits everywhere, can be counterproductive - especially where there is little justification.</p> <p>Please use your powers appropriately and not take the 'easy option' every time a vocal minority call for speeds to drop further.</p> |
| <p>(7) Local Resident,<br/>(Botley)</p>  | <p><b>Support</b> - This road leads to a primary school and has houses along it. The area around Botley and Cumnor is becoming more populated so traffic speeds must reflect this to safeguard all road users. This is a logical extension to the recently passed 30mph limit on Cumnor hill.</p>  |
| <p>(8) Local Resident,<br/>(Botley)</p>  | <p><b>Support</b> - Safer for cars, pedestrians and cyclists; the difference between 30 and 40 miles an hour can be the difference between life and death in a collision. Also, better for the environment as lower speed limits reduce vehicle emissions.</p>   |
| <p>(9) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p>  | <p><b>Support</b> - The village is currently at 30 mph and the area of Cumnor Hill that this road feeds into is also now 30 mph. It would be far more sensible for the whole area to be consistently the same speed limit. This is a residential area and therefore it would make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>   |
| <p>(10) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - It makes no sense to have a stage of 40mph between the top of Cumnor Hill and the village. In addition, this section of road is frequently used by children cycling to and from Cumnor Primary School.</p>   |

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| <p>(11) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - I'm strongly in favour of the 30mph limit for the whole of Cumnor Hill and into the village. As a parent who walks this stretch of the road with children, and previously had children at Cumnor Primary, the fast traffic along this section is very concerning and makes it very difficult to cross. I would be very much in favour also of a pedestrian crossing at some point on Cumnor Hill.</p>   |
| <p>(12) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - Cars drive far too quickly along this road and Cumnor hill. There are two schools nearby. My son walks to school along this road and cars frequently driveway over the speed limit. The pavement is relatively narrow. If we want to encourage children to walk or cycle, rather than get a lift to school, then we should be doing all we can to ensure it is safe.</p>  |
| <p>(13) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - Safety of children going to and from the local schools. It should be 20mph outside the schools too,</p>   |
| <p>(14) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - Safety, especially considering the proximity of the park and primary school</p>   |
| <p>(15) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - To make Cumnor a safer place !! it wouldn't make sense not to change it as the hill will be at 30mph so this small stretch would make a continual speed through the village.</p>  |
| <p>(16) Local Resident,<br/>(cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - This stretch of road was missed off the original proposal and it now presents an odd uplift in speed from the 30mph up Cumnor hill before quickly stepping down in speed to 30mph again as you enter Cumnor village. The 40mph stretch is so short, the speed surveys support a lower speed and there is residential housing along one side with another 30mph (Bertie road) having a junction part way along. Cumnor primary school children cycle and walk to and from school along this stretch as do Matthew Arnold school pupils. This move was also supported at the county council committee meeting where the rest of Cumnor hill was lowered to 30mph.</p> |
| <p>(17) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - This is a residential area and the current speed limit is too fast. I walk with three young children along this road to school or into the village and a 30mph limit will be much safer.</p>  |

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| (18) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - We walk this route with our children most days to preschool and it feels unnecessarily fast. It would feel so much safer for the children if it was 30 mph.  |
| (19) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - There is a dangerous junction here that I have lived adjacent to for 14 years. It is routine for drivers to speed in both directions and my children and I cross this road filled with fear on a daily basis on our journey to school.   |
| (20) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - It is far safer as many children walk along the narrow path there to get to school and others cycle along that stretch of road   |
| (21) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - Reduced speed limit will improve safety of those walking to Cumnor primary school, and also Cumnor residents going to Matthew Arnold school  |
| (22) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - There should be a uniform speed limit in the village of Cumnor and Cumnor hill. This road is used by many families going to school on foot or bike. It is a speed track and 30 mph should be backed up with speed humps too.   |
| (23) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - 40 mph is too fast and is dangerous. My kids cross this road daily with the afterschool club and it is difficult to get 30 kids crossing dangerous road when the cars can drive 40 mph. 30 mph would be better but a crossing traffic lights across the village and Cumnor Hill should be considered.  |
| (24) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - We agree that the reduction of the speed limited to 30 mph for the whole length of Oxford Road will result in a safer environment through the village. This is a major route for cyclists and school children. There is no reason to maintain a 40mph zone for this small stretch of Oxford Road when the rest of the village and Cumnor Hill is a 30mph zone. There is no pavement on one side of Oxford Rd, yet bus users coming from Oxford are dropped on that side and need to cross the busy road to access a pavement. Crossing Oxford Rd from the bus stops can be dangerous due to the current 40 mph limit. We fully support this council proposal, which represents a cohesive approach to traffic management in the village. |
| (25) Local Resident,<br>(Cumnor) | <b>Support</b> - Road is near a school and it makes sense to have one continuous speed limit throughout the village and surrounding.  |



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| <p>(26) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - Primarily safety - the road is heavily used by children travelling to/from school, with buses also making use of the road, a bus stop within the proposed area and a bus stops just outside at each end. Keeping speed reduced throughout the area will reduce the risks to all pedestrians.</p> <p>Secondly consistency - I believe it will be easier to encourage road users to maintain a sensible speed along Cumnor Hill and within Cumnor village if there is not an anomalous 40mph limit along this short stretch of road linking two 30mph areas.</p>   |
| <p>(27) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - so that Oxford Road can have the same safety benefits as Cumnor Hill, so creating a unified 30mph zone from the Parish boundary with North Hinksey, up Cumnor Hill and through Cumnor Village</p>  |
| <p>(28) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - We agree that the reduction of the speed limited to 30 mph for the whole length of Oxford Road will result in a safer environment through the village. This is a major route for cyclists and school children. There is no reason to maintain a 40mph zone for this small stretch of Oxford Road when the rest of the village and Cumnor Hill is a 30mph zone. There is no pavement on one side of Oxford Rd, yet bus users coming from Oxford are dropped on that side and need to cross the busy road to access a pavement. Crossing Oxford Rd from the bus stops can be dangerous due to the current 40 mph limit. We fully support this council proposal, which represents a cohesive approach to traffic management in the village.</p> |
| <p>(29) Local Resident,<br/>(Cumnor)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - I strongly SUPPORT the plan to extend the new 30mph speed limit for the full length of Oxford Rd Cumnor.</p> <p>The road is well used by primary school children and it would be a great pity to lose this opportunity of slowing traffic along its full length as well as on Cumnor Hill.</p>   |
| <p>(30) Local Resident,<br/>(Oxford)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - I regularly cycle in the area and this will improve safety for cycling. Much needed.</p>   |
| <p>(31) Local Resident,<br/>(Oxford)</p> | <p><b>Support</b> - I suggested this change as part of my response to the Cumnor Hill consultation!</p> <p>The reduction in limit would improve various factors for residents and other road users.</p>  |

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|                                    | <p>In short:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Less acceleration/deceleration -&gt; lower noise, pollution, road damage, improved comfort in buses and other modes</li> <li>* Fewer limit changes -&gt; lower cognitive load for drivers -&gt; improved attention to other factors -&gt; improved safety</li> <li>* Lower speeds -&gt; lower noise, pollution, road damage, improved comfort in buses, improved safety for all road users, with particular note of large number of cyclists using this route.</li> <li>* Less signage -&gt; reduced maintenance cost, less visual clutter (again leading to improved road user attention).</li> </ul> <p>The increase in through journey times resulting from the decrease in limit is absolutely minuscule. I did the calculation before, and I think it was single or low-double-digit seconds. Can't think of any other negatives.</p> |
| (32) Local Resident,<br>(Oxford)   | <p><b>Support</b> - As this area is predominantly residential in character, 30 mph seems an appropriate speed limit. It will be easier for drivers to have just one speed limit along this route.</p>  |
| (33) Local Resident,<br>(Wheatley) | <p><b>Support</b> - I support speed reductions across built up areas in Oxfordshire. Makes it safer for cyclists and pedestrians.</p>  |