

Divisions affected: *Woodstock*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 18
NOVEMBER 2021**

**STONESFIELD: PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT & INTRODUCTION
OF TRAFFIC PRIORITY MARKINGS AT LAUGHTON HILL AND
BOOT STREET JUNCTION**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the 20mph speed limit at Stonesfield together with revised traffic priority markings at Laughton Hill and Boot street Junction.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit at Stonesfield in place of the current 30mph speed limit and, as part of this project, revised traffic priorities at Laughton Hill at its junction with Boot Street following a request by Stonesfield Parish Council.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by Stonesfield PC with OCC funding implementation of the proposals should they be approved.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Sustainability Implications

5. The proposals would help facilitate walking and cycling within the village and safe movement of traffic.

Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 09 September and 08 October 2021. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper and an email sent to statutory consultees including Thames Valley Police, the Fire &

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Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, West Oxfordshire District Council, Stonesfield Parish Council and local County Councillor.

7. 22 responses were received during the formal consultation as summarised in the table below:

View	20mph Speed Limit	Priority Give Way
Object	4 (18%)	2 (9%)
Support	16 (73%)	16 (73%)
Concerns	1 (4.5%)	2 (9%)
No objection/opinion	1 (4.5%)	2 (9%)
<i>Total</i>	<i>22 (100%)</i>	<i>22 (100%)</i>

8. The responses are shown at Annex 2 with copies of the original responses available for inspection by County Councillors.
9. Thames Valley Police concerns are that the proposal in part does not meet criteria. If the mean speed is 4 mph or more over the proposed limit it is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or continual enforcement.

BILL COTTON

Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes

Annex 1-2: Consultation Plans

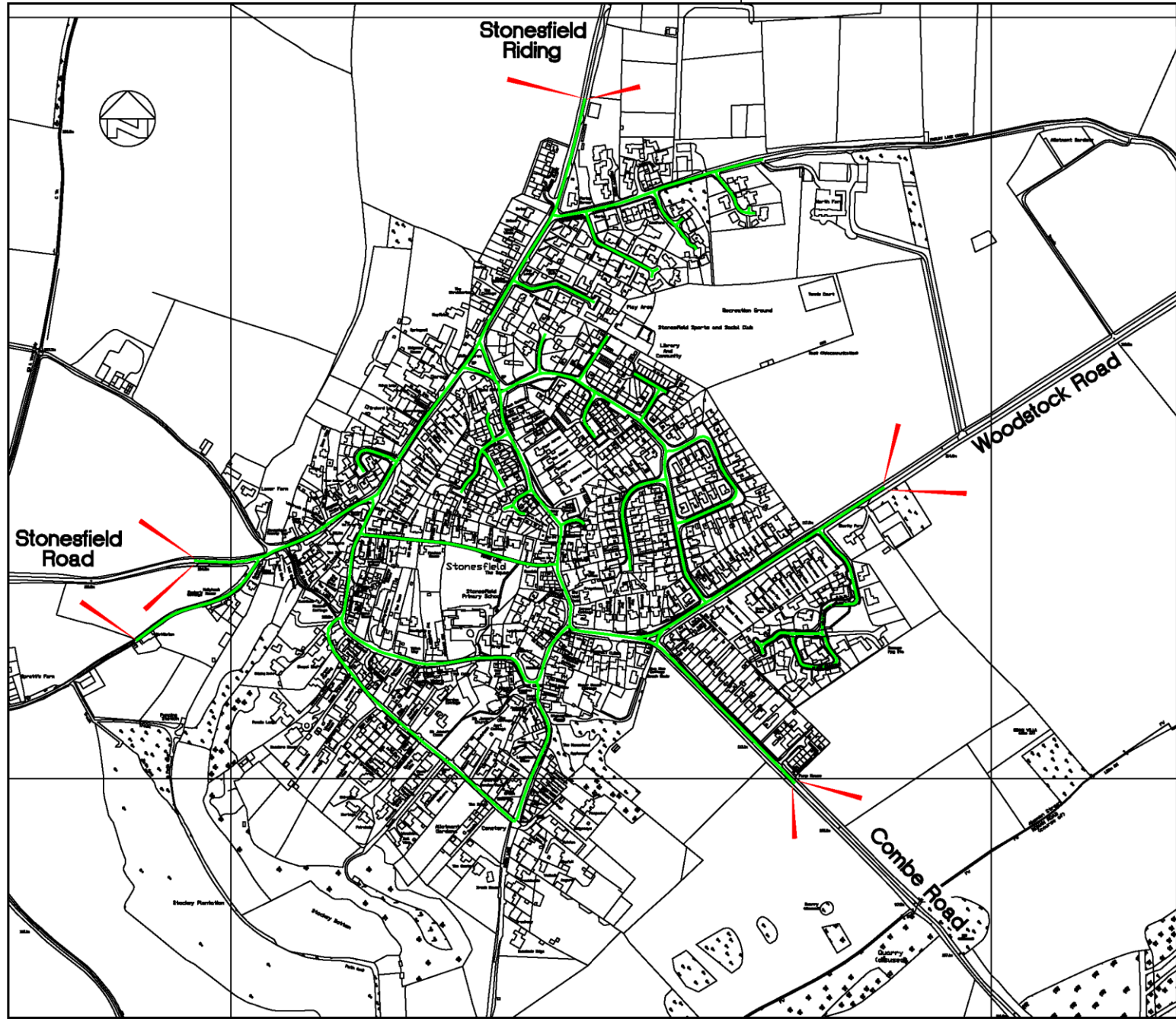
Annex 3: Consultation responses

Contact Officers:

Tim Shickle 07920 591545

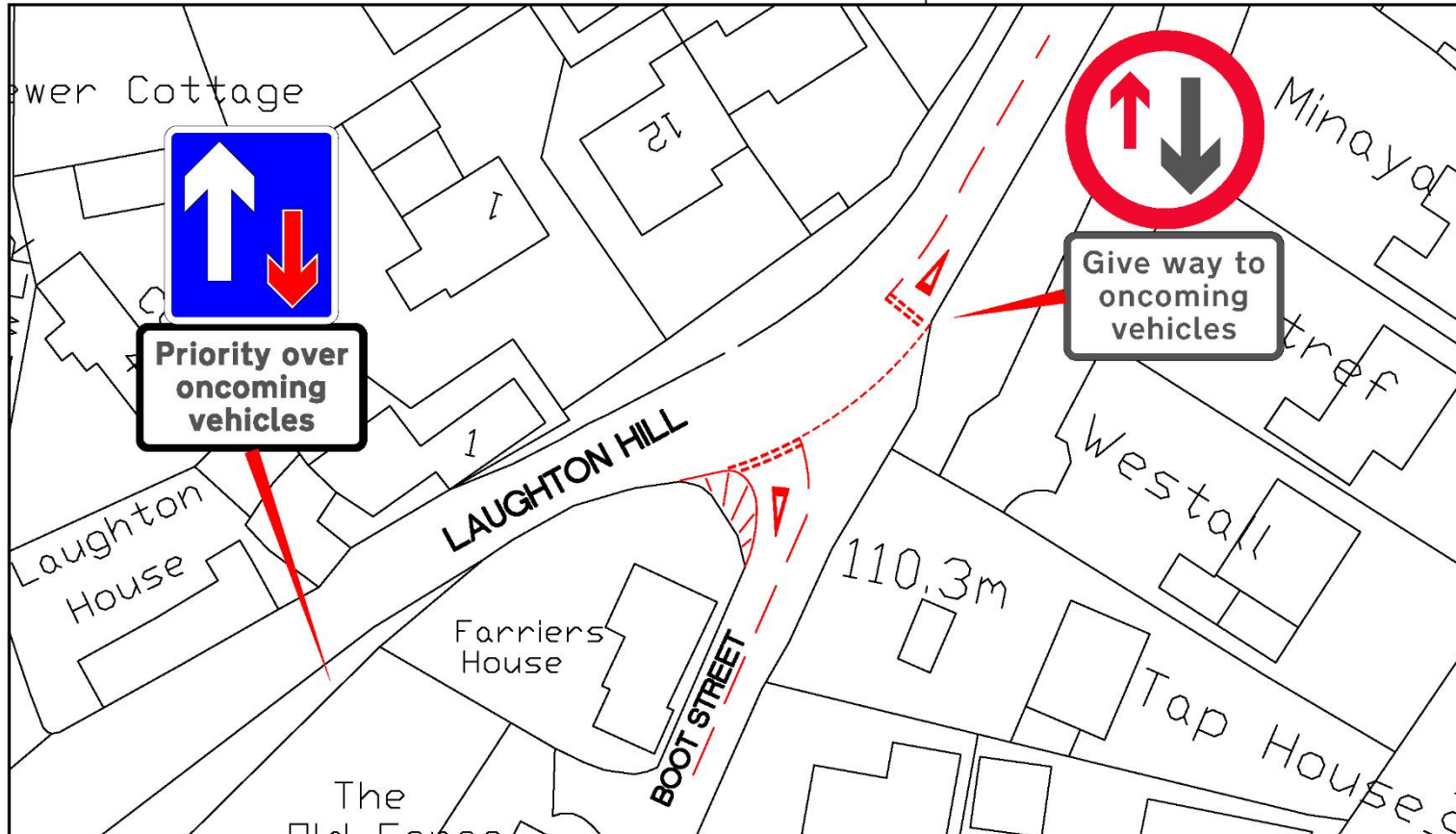
James Wright 07789 926984

November 2021



Drawing No.		Revision							
█ Current 30 limit to become 20		▶ Location of terminal signs							
© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10023343 2017									
Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Drawn</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Checked</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Drawn	Checked	Approved			
Drawn	Checked	Approved							
<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; font-size: x-small; margin-left: 10px;"> Owen Jenkins Director of Communities Operations Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel 0845 310 1111 </div>									
Project title									
Stonesfield village									
Drawing title									
Proposed village wide 20mph speed limit									
Drawing Status									
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by						
NTS	JEW								
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved						
	Feb 2021								
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref									
Drawing No.		Revision							

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Drawing No.		Revision	
<p>Approximate sign locations and amendment to road markings. Precise details to be agreed on site prior to implementation.</p>			
<p>© Crown Copyright and Database rights: 10023843 2017</p>			
Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn Checked Approved
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Cavin Jenkins Director of Communities Operations Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Street Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0845 310 1111</p>			
Project title			
Stonesfield village			
Drawing title			
Proposed Laughton Hill Priority signing			
Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
NTS	JEW		
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved
	June 2021		
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref			
Drawing No.		Revision	



RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
<p>(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)</p>	<p>Object – Thames Valley Police are not opposed to lowering speed limits providing they are appropriate to the road environment and likely to have casualty reduction benefits. All aspects of the proposed speed limit are taken into account i.e. collision history, speed of existing traffic, road environment, enforcement, road character and driver perception etc.</p> <p>The current speed of traffic is a reliable indicator of how acceptable a new speed limit would be. The recognised way of ascertaining this level of self-compliance is the mean speed. If the mean speed is 4 mph or more over the proposed limit it is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or continual enforcement.</p> <p>There is a proven link between road environment/character and drivers speed .Drivers must respect the need for a speed limit .If it is not accepted as realistic it will quickly be abused and be the source of constant demands for police action.</p> <p>The police stance still reflects that 20 mph limits and zones should still be self-enforcing.</p> <p>The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria (Circular Roads 1/2013) when responding to Highway Authorities in an effort to promote consistency and to reduce the burden of constant and unnecessary enforcement. The advice shown in Circular Roads 1/2013 states Speed Limit should not be used to attempt to solve the problem of isolated hazards ,for example a single junction or reduced forward visibility.</p> <p>Some speed data has been received which may support lowering the speed limit to 20 on some roads within the village.</p> <p>I have particular concern for Woodstock road ,Combe road and The Ridings . Unless addition engineering is included with these proposals the police object to those roads where current Mean speeds are above 24mph.</p>

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<p>(2) West Oxfordshire District Council, (Planning & Strategic Housing)</p>	<p>Support - In the interests of pedestrian and road safety, West Oxfordshire District Council supports the proposed 20 mph speed limit and priority give way along the The Tower, Stonesfield. This information is based on the proposal being carried out in accordance with the details supplied in the Public Notice, Statement of Reasons, Consultation Plans, Speed Limit Order, Location Map and Draft Order that accompanied the enquiry.</p> <p>(Please note that this is an officer's opinion and is in no way binding Members of the Area Planning Sub Committee)</p>
<p>(3) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Maltsters)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Object Priority 'Give-Way' - Object</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit for the whole village of Stonesfield. We strongly believe that this is an entire waste of your financial resources. In the older part of the village, it would be reckless to proceed at more than 20mph and it is my experience that the vast majority of drivers do not. This is particularly the case at school collection and drop-off times when parked cars close to the school restrict the speed you can travel to barely a crawl. My wife and I walk around the village almost daily and rarely do we notice drivers driving over 30mph with the one exception being along the straight Woodstock Road where excess speeding does occur. However, if we were to lower the speed limit to 20mph on this stretch of road the drivers who ignore the current limit will certainly ignore a lower one. And, in my driving experience of over 45 years, the 30mph limit on this stretch of road is the correct one.</p> <p>Stonesfield is a small rural community, not a congested city centre with distracting signs, large volumes of traffic, buses or cyclists meandering around. It does not require a blanket speed restriction reduction covering the entire village. The current limit is correct and in areas where a 20mph limit would be appropriate it would be reckless to exceed 20mph anyway.</p> <p>A 20mph limit is not going to be enforceable as a 30mph limit is not enforceable now. Rarely does a mobile speed camera appear on the Woodstock Road. The village population has yoted twice to not have street lighting introduced and complained bitterly when two streetlights appeared on the Woodstock Road to support a speed bump. So, more speed bumps go against the community's wishes.</p> <p>Please save your valuable financial resources and place them in areas of greater priority than this. Nobody has been injured to my knowledge in this village by a vehicle during this century. The village has a safe speed limit at</p>

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	<p>present. Throw out this ridiculous proposal.</p> <p>Officer comments The proposed county wide roll out of new 20 limits to replace previously existing 30's has the aim of changing driver behaviour and to encourage acceptance that travelling within that limit will be safer for all and will allow more extensive use of more sustainable and environmentally friendly modes of transport i.e. walking and cycling.</p>
<p>(4) Letter Response, (unknown)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Object Priority 'Give-Way' – No opinion</p> <p>What is this obsession with 20 mph speed limits? Is it just exercising the small amount of power councillors have?</p> <p>You are deluded if you think anybody is going to take any notice, unless there is a speed trap in place, then word gets around and behaves themselves. It is a waste of your time and our money.</p> <p>Most people in this village didn't vote on it through sheer apathy, as with most votes. So I know all of you who inflict this on us are law abiding and of course have never speeded before in your lives.</p> <p>But I suppose it will stop the constant death and carnage that has been going on in the village over the last 30 years I have lived here (none). Speed in itself is not dangerous, it is inappropriate speed that is a hazard, and there are roads in Stonesfield u couldn't do more than 20mph if you wanted to.</p> <p>It would be more useful to do something about the parking and the roads that are like cart tracks. Even after the potholes have been done, they need resurfacing, not patching up.</p> <p>So well done for your great achievement. I'm sure you will go down in Stonesfield folk law, songs will be written about this day and no doubt three cheers from the older generation who actually bother to vote.</p> <p>Good luck enforcing the unenforceable.</p> <p>Officer comments The proposed county wide roll out of new 20 limits to replace previously existing 30's has the aim of changing driver behaviour and to encourage acceptance that travelling within that limit will be safer for all and will allow more</p>

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	<p>extensive use of more sustainable and environmentally friendly modes of transport i.e. walking and cycling.</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, The Ridings)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Object Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>A blanket imposition of 20 MPH is unnecessary. There are areas in the village where it could possibly be of use</p> <p>Officer comments The proposed county wide roll out of new 20 limits to replace previously existing 30's has the aim of changing driver behaviour and to encourage acceptance that travelling within that limit will be safer for all and will allow more extensive use of more sustainable and environmentally friendly modes of transport i.e. walking and cycling.</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Wootton End)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - No opinion Priority 'Give-Way' - Object</p> <p>(Between 1956 and 1990 I used to live at the junction of Boot Street and Laughton Hill in The Old Forge.) The scheme is a solution to a non-existent problem. It would be safer to leave Laughton Hill without a priority. The proposed siting of the give way road markings does not provide a driver a clear view down Laughton Hill to see whether or not cars are approaching. The bus stop is in the middle of the proposed give way scheme. There is no problem with how the junction is marked out and how it has been ever since I grew up there. The scheme addresses a non-existent problem and will create a major headache for drivers going up or down or joining Laughton Hill from Boot Street. Please don't mess it up with this rubbish scheme.</p> <p>Officer comment The scheme will formalise priority, slowing vehicles thereby reducing the risk of oncoming vehicles clashing in the narrowest part of this section of road necessitating one vehicle to reverse or both vehicles trying to pass and causing damage to verges or adjacent properties.</p>

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<p>(7) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Churchfields)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Concerns Priority 'Give-Way' - Concerns</p> <p>Both are unnecessary - parking on Laughton Hill is the main cause of narrowing the toad to single file</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Greenfield Crescent)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Concerns</p> <p>I support the 20mph limit but have some concerns about how the priority Give Way will operate in practice on The Ridings.</p> <p>The Give Way system needs to consider the potential backing up of traffic at either end of the single vehicle road section to which it applies which must be safe.</p> <p>The other thing that needs to be clear is the line-of-sight for vehicles approaching the priority section to enable safe driving decisions on whether to stop or go. An example of something I consider to be not good practice and potentially bordering on dangerous is the minor road (Leafield Road) at Crawley which rises up from The Lamb Inn. The line of sight there is so poor that often drivers will jump their turn.</p> <p>If the proposed priority section at The Ridings is to be both useful and safe, then it must have clear line of sight for decision making.</p> <p>Officer comment The scheme will formalise priority, slowing vehicles thereby reducing the risk of oncoming vehicles clashing in the narrowest part of this section of road necessitating one vehicle to reverse or both vehicles trying to pass and causing damage to verges or adjacent properties.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Brook Lane)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>Many roads in the village are difficult to negotiate and or have reduced visibility so 20mph is an essential safety measure. Laughton Hill is narrow and allows parking. It is effectively 'one at a time' passage so formalising it with a priority system is very sensible.</p>

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<p>(10) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Cockshoot Close)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>I am supporting the proposals for several reasons: There are areas of the village where there are no pavements & the road narrows which can cause difficulty for pedestrians & a reduced speed limit will be helpful It is important to encourage the increased use of bicycles & a reduced speed limit will help with this Children & those with reduced mobility would hopefully feel safer walking around the village.</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Laughton Hill)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>My reasons for support are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public opinion: In 2018, we were surveyed regarding traffic and speeding within Stonesfield. The results were published and there was overwhelming support for a move to 20mph. 2. Road conditions: Most of Stonesfield's roads do not have pavements and many have restricted width and/or visibility. Lower speeds reduce the risk of collisions 3. Risk of injury: The higher the speed the greater the risk of injury. This is especially true for children who are walked to the local school and for older / less agile individuals. 4. Traffic volumes: There have been noticeably higher volumes of traffic over recent years. Much of this increase seems to have been delivery vans and lorries. These larger vehicles need to proceed with extreme caution and 20mph sends a clear signal that this is required. <p>There have been very many near misses, several collisions causing serious damage, numerous pets killed and a few instances of personal injury. Fortunately, no incidents so far have caused a death (within the village confines). It would be good to Institute this road safety measure before someone is seriously injured or killed rather than afterwards.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Laughton Hill)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>The narrow lanes in the village mean that drivers need to be aware of other road users and treat them with respect and consideration at all times. Roads are not just for cars!</p>

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<p>(13) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Laughton Hill)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>I live on Laughton Hill and am very concerned about speeding and inconsiderate drivers, not only on this road, but throughout the village.</p>
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Laughton Hill)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>Over the past five years traffic through Laughton Hill has increased considerably. This means that each vehicle has less time and space resulting in many vehicles observing the speed limit only by maintaining it regardless of other exigencies.</p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Laughton Hill)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>I live on Laughton Hill and the traffic goes too fast past the property. Vehicles are then having to pull in right alongside my property at the narrowest part of the road in order to give way to vehicles travelling south. I've recently moved in to the property and am unsure where the property boundary lies but it might be the case that vehicles are pulling onto my land in order to pass.</p>
<p>(16) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Limbeck Way)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>Speeding is an increasing issue in Stonesfield and presents a continuous risk to the local population. Vehicles regularly exceed the existing 30MPH inches from dog walkers, school children, the elderly and basically all vulnerable road users (VRUs). The village does not have pavements on 70% of its roads and VRUs are force to share the roads with moving traffic all the time. The average driver does not moderate their speed or behaviour when passing VRUs and therefore consider their safety above others. A vehicle was recently recorded at 82MPH in the village during the afternoon! Moving to 20MPH would make a significant contribution to safety in the village and make walking journeys less stressful for people of all ages. It would also reduce the risk of a fatal RTC and the dreadful consequences for the</p>

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	family involved.
(17) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Limbeck Way)	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>There is a need to reduce the speed of drivers through Stonesfield as there are many narrow roads without pavements, for the safety of pedestrians and other road users. Also a number of blind corners often with cars parked near junctions.</p>
(18) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Pond Hill)	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>The village will be safer for pedestrians of all ages and those with disabilities</p>
(19) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Woodstock Road)	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>We live on Woodstock Road and are fully supportive of a 20mph limit throughout the village. Rapidly accelerating vehicles are a nuisance outside our house, creating excessive noise, pollution and safety concerns. The entire village is a residential area, not a through road. The village is small and reducing the limit to 20mph will have no significant impact on anyone's journey time but it will improve the quality of life for residents.</p>
(20) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Brook Lane)	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>In a small village will an increase in traffic and walkers/ cyclists including young and old riders/ walkers the 30 MPH limit is too fast. In line with an increasing number of villages implementing the 20 MPH speed limit is in my view is extremely important action for the village to support.</p>

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<p>(21) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Temple Road)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>Safety</p>
<p>(22) Local Resident, (Stonesfield, Boot Street)</p>	<p>20mph Speed Limit - Support Priority 'Give-Way' - Support</p> <p>I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit throughout Stonesfield village, replacing the 30mph limit in its entirety. I also support the proposals laid out in the Laughton Hill proposed priority signage document.</p>