

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 28 MARCH 2019

ASCOTT UNDER WYCHWOOD AT EVENLODE BRIDGE - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING GIVE WAY LAYOUT

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of a give way requirement for traffic entering Ascott under Wychwood at the Evenlode bridge as advertised.

Executive summary

2. Provision of traffic calming measures is 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. Specific proposals are assessed applying national regulations and guidance on the use of traffic calming measures.

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on a proposal to introduce a give way requirement for traffic entering Ascott under Wychwood at the Evenlode River bridge.

Background

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been put forward by Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council, who have undertaken to fund the project subject to approval being given to proceed with the scheme.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 17 January and 15 February 2019. An email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, West Oxfordshire District Council, Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council and the local County Councillor.
6. Six responses were received. One objection, three in support and two neither objecting nor supporting. 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

7. Thames Valley Police and West Oxfordshire District Council expressed no objection to the proposal.
8. One objection was received from a member of the public on the grounds of loss of visual amenity in this attractive area resulting from road signs and markings and also expressing a view that there was adequate visibility and space for oncoming vehicles to wait to give way to each other.
9. Three expressions of support were received from members of the public on traffic safety grounds, noting the current situation was hazardous due to the speed of traffic and – in the summer months – the restriction of visibility due to vegetation growth. One of these responses also requested consideration of a weight limit.
10. While accepting that the area is attractive and signs and road markings will, to some extent, inevitably detract from the visual amenity of this location, the proposed scheme is judged to be proportionate bearing in mind the concerns of the parish council and the support also expressed by members of the public.
11. The request for a weight limit is noted but is beyond the scope of the current proposal.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

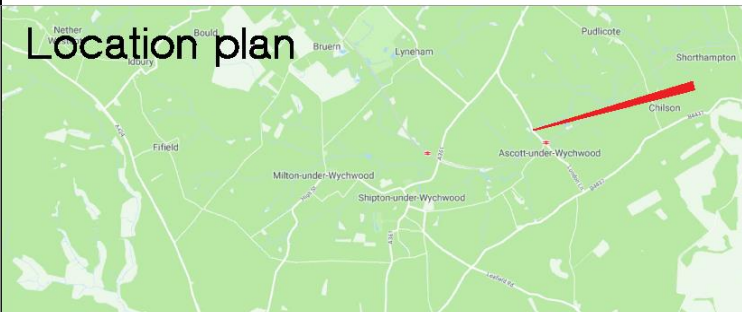
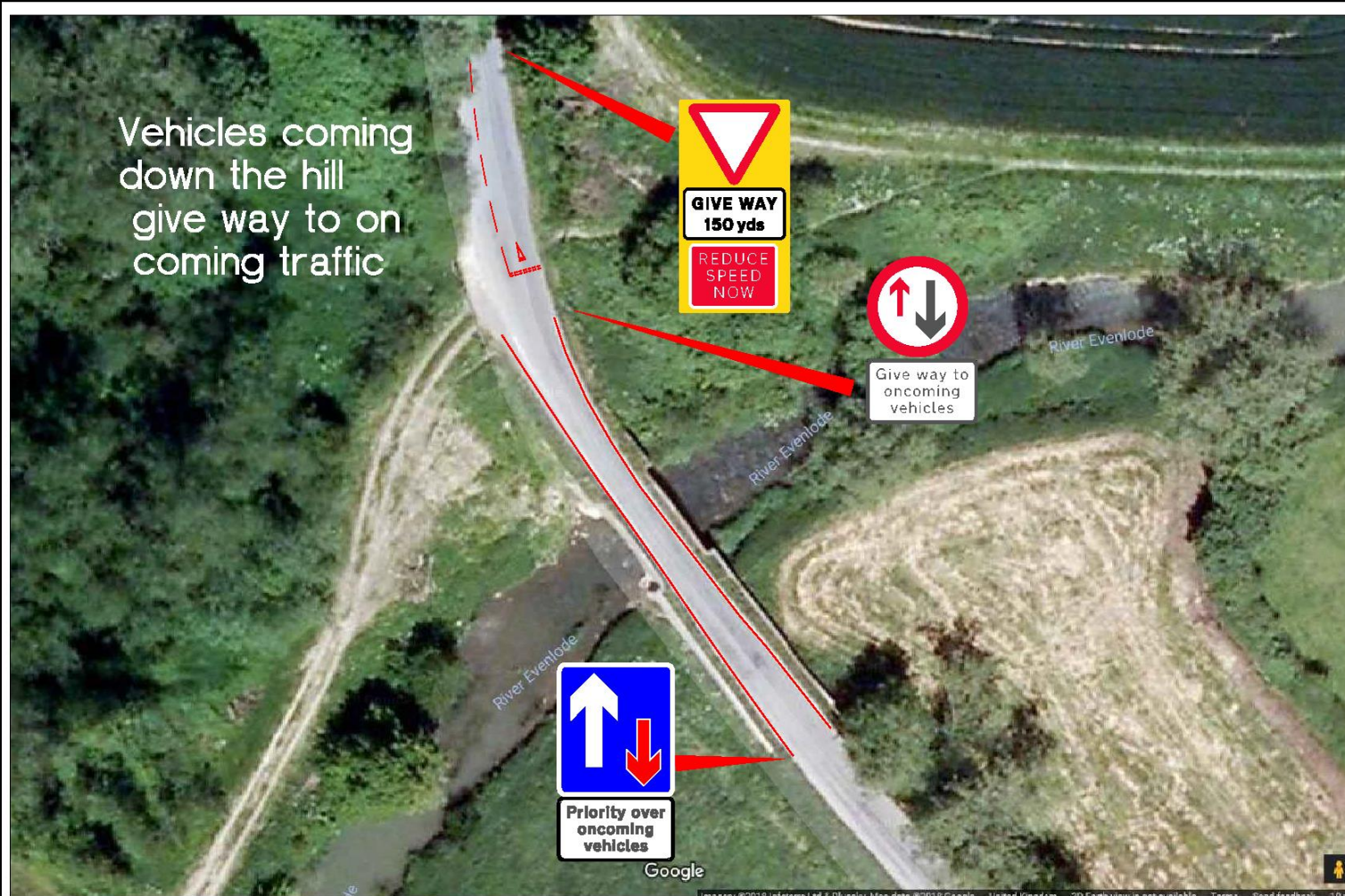
13. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by Ascott under Wychwood Parish Council.

OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed give way layout
 Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

March 2019

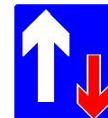


Required Signing



Give way to oncoming vehicles

Reference Ref.:	1	Quantity:	10.0
Sign Ref.:	0111	Code:	0111
Code:	0111	Background:	White
Text:	0111	Text:	0111
Material:	Class A22 (L2001/1001)	Area:	0.2 m ²



Priority over oncoming vehicles

Reference Ref.:	1	Quantity:	10.0
Sign Ref.:	0111	Code:	0111
Code:	0111	Background:	Yellow
Text:	0111	Text:	0111
Material:	Class A22 (L2001/1001)	Area:	0.2 m ²



Reference Ref.:	1	Quantity:	10.0
Sign Ref.:	0111	Code:	0111
Code:	0111	Background:	Yellow
Text:	0111	Text:	0111
Material:	Class A22 (L2001/1001)	Area:	1.10 m ²

Drawing No.	Revision 0				
SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION					
IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARD/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS:					
CONSTRUCTION					
CENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE					
MAINTENANCE/CLEANING					
CENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE					
USE					
CENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE					
RECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION					
CENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE					
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
<p>Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0845 310 1111</p>					
Project title					
Ascott-under-Wychwood River bridge					
Drawing title					
Priority working consultation plan					
Drawing Status Consultation					
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by		
NTS	CG	JW	Date approved		
	Date drawn	Date checked			
	09/18	09/18			
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref					
Drawing No.	Revision 0				

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>No objection – I have visited the location and noted the site lines with ‘give way’ element in the priority arrangement, which are adequate although marginal in terms of which direction this should be in my view.</p> <p>Monitoring of this after placement should be considered in this context.</p>
(2) West Oxfordshire District Council	<p>No objection – Having reviewed the information provided WODC have no object to the proposals outlined.</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Ascott-under-Wychwood)	<p>Object – The proposed signs designed to create a traffic prioritisation system are unnecessary and unwanted. This is not a dangerous or busy road and is completely or comparatively free of accidents. This approach to Ascott-under-Wychwood where the road crosses the river Evenlode is especially attractive, providing a peaceful rural scene in every direction with low fencing, open pastures and grazing animals. It should be preserved in its present pleasing state and left uncluttered, and free of unsightly street furniture. Visibility in both directions is good in both directions and there is plenty of space for cars to pull over to allow others to pass.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Ascott-under-Wychwood)	<p>Support – This is necessary and welcome as drivers routinely approach the bridge at speed in the downhill direction and visibility from the Ascott side of oncoming traffic is limited during the summer when the foliage has grown.</p> <p>The route is used as a rat run for crossing the valley. Making a clear statement of priority without adversely affecting the nature of the bridge and the view is a sensible compromise.</p>
(5) Local Resident, (Ascott-under-Wychwood)	<p>Support – This is currently very dangerous. There is no room for two vehicles and no indication as to who has right of way. People descend the hill at considerable speed. In addition, the road is so full of potholes and destroyed verges that cars have no option but to drive in the middle of the road.</p>

(6) Local Resident,
(Ascott-under-Wychwood)

Support – Both my Husband and I would also support a weight restriction over the River Evenlode Bridge. All too often, Ascott under Wychwood is used as a cut through for large lorries and being primarily a single-track causes verges to be chewed up as well as excessive weight over the small bridge.