

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 18 JUNE 2020**

**SYDENHAM - SYDENHAM ROAD: PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING CHICANE**

**Report by Interim Director of Community Operations**

**Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the proposed introduction of a traffic calming chicane at Sydenham as advertised.

**Executive summary**

2. The 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 to a statutory consultation to introduce a traffic calming chicane at Sydenham.

**Background**

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

**Consultation**

5. Formal consultation was carried out between 16 April and 15 May 2020. Public notices were placed in the immediate vicinity of the proposals and an email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, South Oxfordshire District Council, Sydenham Parish Council and local County Councillor. Letters were also sent directly to approximately 55 properties in the area.
6. Eight responses were received. 5 (62%) in support, 2 objections, and 1 non-objection. The responses are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

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

7. Thames Valley Police have not objected to the proposal.
8. One objection was received from an adjacent premises/business on the grounds that the proposed siting of the chicane would prevent horse boxes and other delivery trucks from turning into the only access to Slade Farm, noting that lorries have to make a wide turn into the entrance to avoid getting their second or third axels suck in the roadside drainage ditch (on occasion, where a wide turn has not been made, the lorry has ended up stuck in the ditch and blocked the road to the village). The majority of lorries access Slade Farm from the B4445, which provides better access for HGVs compared to squeezing past parked cars in the village, therefore they currently use the part of the road exactly where it is proposed to put the south western element of the chicane.
9. An objection was also received from a local resident who while supporting the proposal in principle considered that under the present National circumstances with Covid-19 and the expenditure by National and local Government, it would be a significant loss of investment for the local authority.
10. Expressions of support were received from five members of the public on traffic safety grounds.
11. In response to the objections, the location of the proposed chicane will not affect HGVs turning in or out of the Slade Farm access, the manoeuvre is currently difficult due to the inadequate access width with lack of splays and the proposed chicane is far enough away not to be a factor. However, while giving no tangible benefit, it would be possible as a gesture to move the chicane location 3 metres further away from the Slade Farm access but it should not be moved further as it would then compromise the next access. The person objecting on the basis of finance may be unaware that this proposal is to be funded by the parish council and not the Highway Authority

## **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 Sydenham Parish Council.

## **Equalities Implications**

14. The proposals are not considered to have any equalities implications.

## CMDE8

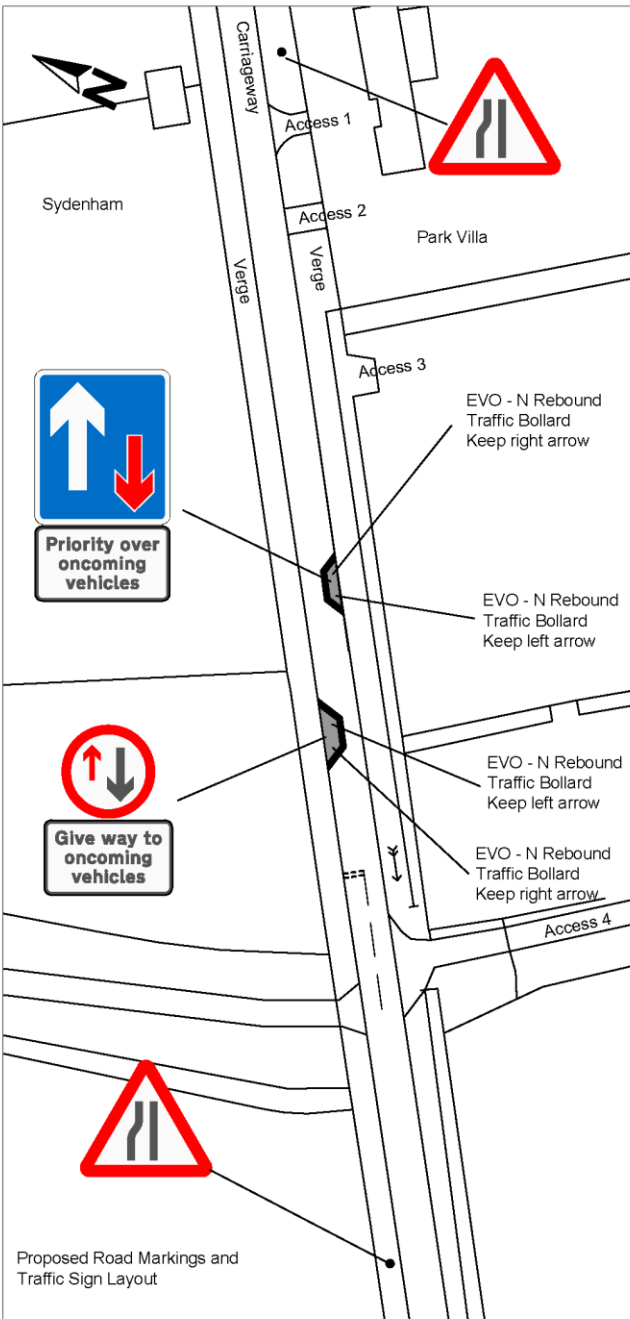
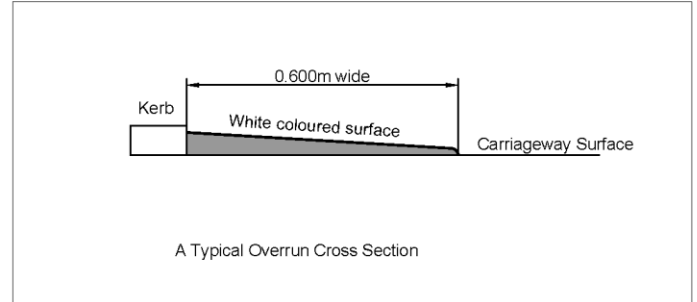
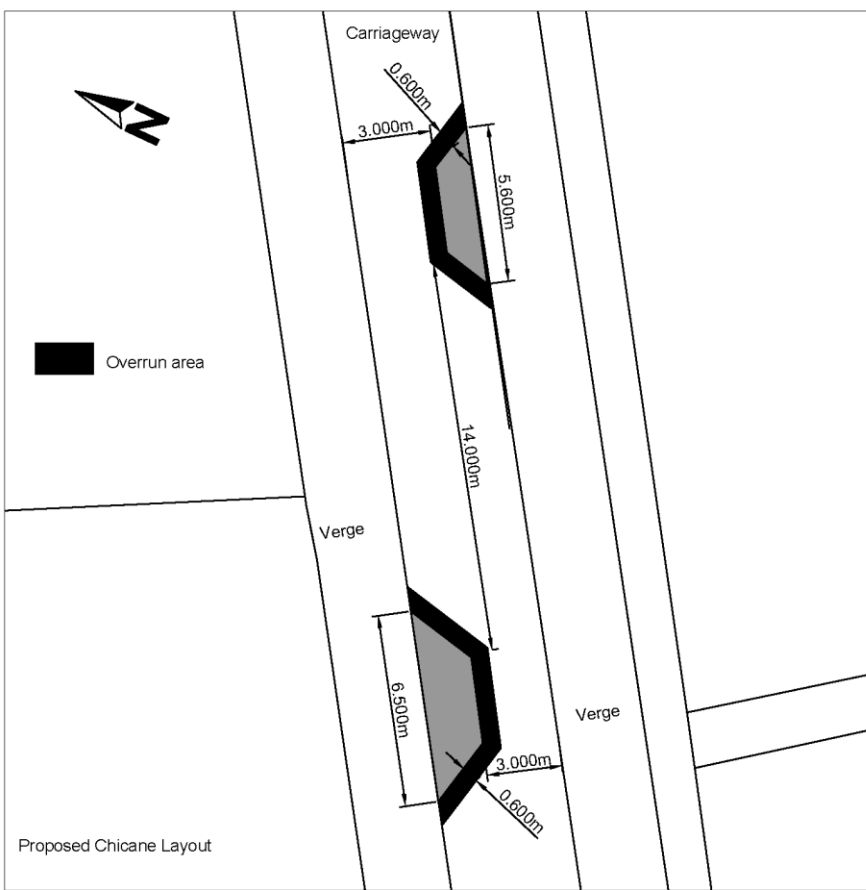
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plan of proposed traffic calming chicane  
Consultation responses

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Ralph Green 07554 103318

June 2020

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<p><b>SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION</b></p> <p>IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARD/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS:</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>MAINTENANCE/CLEANING</p> <p>DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION</p> <p>© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10023943 2017</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rev.</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Purpose of revision</th> <th>Drawn</th> <th>Checked</th> <th>Approved</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved						
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<p>Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 01845 310 1111</p>													
<p>Project title</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sydenham Proposed Chicane</p>													
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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b>
(2) Local Business, (Sydenham)	<p><b>Object</b> – The proposed location of this chicane will prevent horse boxes and other delivery trucks from turning into the only access to Slade Farm OX39 4LH. All lorries have to make a wide turn into the entrance to Slade Farm, to avoid getting their second or third axels suck in the roadside drainage ditch (on occasion, where a wide turn has not been made, the lorry has ended up stuck in the ditch and blocked the road to the village). The majority of lorries access Slade Farm from the B4445, which provides better access for HGVs compared to squeezing past parked cars in the village, therefore they currently use the part of the road exactly where it is proposed to put the south western element of the chicane.</p> <p>Slade Farm is home to competition horses which require regular transportation and feed deliveries. The location of proposed chicane would make it impossible for this to happen. I look forward to a revised proposal from the County Council and am happy to assist in their planning of a more suitable location.</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Sydenham)	<p><b>Object</b> – Whilst we would like to agree with the proposed plan from a safety point of view, my wife and I feel that under the present National circumstances re Covid 19 and the expenditure by National and local Government, it would be a significant loss of investment for the local authority.</p> <p>We regret that we are therefore not in favour.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Sydenham)	<b>Support</b> – Sydenham is a cut through from the M40 for people going to Thame etc. The 30mph limit is ignored by most people therefore the need for more traffic calming.

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<p>(5) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Fully support the proposals, speeding has been a problem for many years</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Having lived on Sydenham Road for many years there is a chronic problem with speeding on this stretch. A speed survey was undertaken in January 2005 near to Slade Farm where an average speed of 45.8mph was recorded.and, on the basis of this data, the County Council's Safer Roads Partnership paid for the two VAS signs to be installed along Park View. The effectiveness of the VAS signs has lessened with time and familiarity and the Parish Council have regularly borrowed the portable Speed Indication Device from the local Police and have deployed it along this stretch of road recording details of speeding cars and passing the information to the Police for action. As a volunteer manning the equipment, I am constantly flabbergasted at the speeds at which some cars travel.</p> <p>As this is a straight stretch of road with good visibility the only effective option to slow the traffic is a build out and I wholeheartedly support the proposed traffic calming. scheme.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I welcome any additional measures to combat the constant speeding traffic along Sydenham Road</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Sydenham)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I was very pleased to receive your letter in respect to traffic calming measures planned for our village. I am in full support of any interventions designed to slow some of the excessive speeds we see with drivers passing through Sydenham.</p> <p>In all honesty I think we would have preferred for speed bumps to be introduced as I believe they provide a greater deterrent but, as a father of a three year old boy who loves riding his bike up and down the road, I wholeheartedly welcome the plans.</p>