

Divisions affected: Chalgrove & Watlington

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 26 JANUARY 2023

LITTLE MILTON: PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Little Milton as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation and the proposals themselves has been provided by the County Council's 20mph Speed Limit Project

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 encourage walking and cycling within Little Milton by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 10 November and 09 December 2022. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, South Oxfordshire District Council, the local District Cllrs, Little Milton parish council,

and the local County Councillor representing the Chalgrove & Watlington division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

- Two responses were received from statutory consultees. Thames Valley Police re-iterated their views on OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits; they consider their response as 'having concerns' rather than an outright objection. Stagecoach Bus Company responded but had no comments to make.

Other Responses:

- 39 responses were received via the online consultation survey. All online responses are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Object	Concerns	Support	Total
Little Milton 20mph	2 (5%)	1 (3%)	36 (92%)	39

- The table below provides a synopsis of the reasons for the objections and concerns expressed by Members of the Public, and the corresponding number of responses which mention them:

Reason	Responses Mentioning
Unnecessary	1
Increased delays and congestion	1
False sense of security	1
Increases hazard from driver frustration / tailgating / overtaking	1
Possible problems from cyclists being held up by cars and the safety implications when cyclists overtook cars.	1

- Those who responded online, were also asked whether if the 20mph speed limit proposals were implemented, would it likely influence a change to their mode of travel in the area, the results of which are shown below:

Travel Change	Number
Yes – walk/wheel more	17 (44%)
Yes - cycle more	6 (15%)
No	16 (41%)

11. The responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

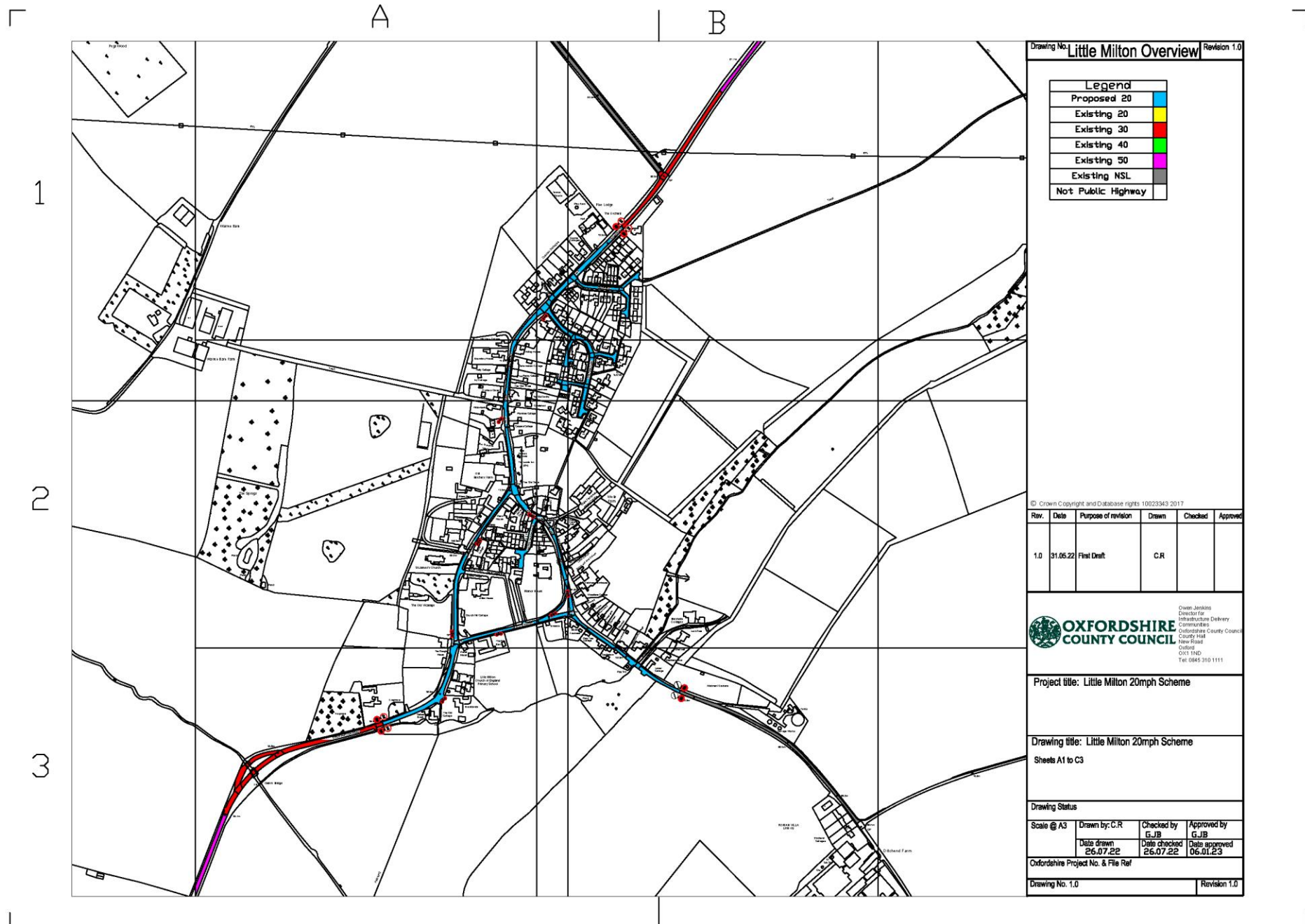
12. Both objections are similar to those expressed and considered in earlier similar schemes and were then not deemed to warrant a change in the proposals.
13. The main purpose of the scheme is to improve road safety and to encourage greater use of active travel by reducing speeds; this will also reduce accidents. The aim of reducing speed limits is to change driver's mindsets to make speeding socially unacceptable and make more environmentally friendly modes of travel such as walking and cycling more attractive – and also reduce the Counties carbon footprint. This forms part of a countywide programme of works that seeks to deliver 'a safer place with a safer pace'.

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes Annex 1: Consultation Plan
 Annex 2: Consultation responses

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January 2023



Drawing No. **Little Milton Overview** Revision 1.0

Legend	
Proposed 20	■
Existing 20	■
Existing 30	■
Existing 40	■
Existing 50	■
Existing NSL	■
Not Public Highway	■

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1.0	31.05.22	Final Draft	C.R.		

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 Sheets A1 to C3

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.R.	Checked by: E.J.	Approved by: G.J.
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Drawing No. 1.0	Revision 1.0
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RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>Concerns – Thames Valley Police welcome the opportunity to engage on plans for road safety improvement and acknowledge that 20mph limits can be a useful tool in road safety. There are other reasons 20mph limits may be desirable for communities, such as environmental concerns, and creating a shared space environment to encourage greater diversity of road users.</p> <p>Compliance with 20mph limits is a challenging issue as there is a difference between the achievable results of the various available schemes. For example a sign-only scheme will only have a limited effect on the mean speeds, as opposed to other schemes that influence the road environment, which is recognised as being key to achieving compliance. If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored then this could result in the vulnerable road user being less safe. It can also cause a dis-proportionate number of drivers to criminalise themselves and could bring the system of speed limits into disrepute.</p> <p>Thames Valley Police have no policy to enforce based on arbitrary speed limits alone but will enforce based on threat of harm, risk and resourcing. 20mph limits are not excluded from this and will be enforced where appropriate. There should be no expectation that the police would be able to provide regular enforcement if a speed limit is set too low as this could result in an unreasonable additional demand on police resources and there are no additional resources available to support extra enforcement. Messages from partners that police will not enforce need to be discouraged. Such messaging can encourage non-compliance and should be avoided.</p> <p>The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria (Setting local speed limits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) 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.</p> <p>The key factors that should be taken into account in any decisions on local speed limits are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • history of collisions • road geometry and engineering • road function • composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users) • existing traffic speeds • road environment

	<p>However I recognise Oxfordshire County Council now have their own Policy for Setting Speed Limits and I expect full compliance of that policy going forward in relation to both monitoring , future engineering and self-enforcement through Community Speed Watch .</p> <p>Our stance remains that primarily 20 mph speed limits and zones should be self-enforcing</p> <p>Speed limits should be considered as part of a package of measures to manage vehicle speeds and improve road safety. Changes to the highway (for example through narrowing, providing vertical traffic calming or re-aligning the road) may be required to encourage lower speeds in addition to any change in speed limit. Though these may be more expensive, they are more likely to be successful in the long term in achieving lower speeds without the need for increased police enforcement to penalise substantial numbers of motorists.</p> <p>Yet another Fixed Safety Camera site effected once this new limit is imposed.</p>
<p>(2) Head of Strategic Development and the Built Environment, (Stagecoach Bus Company)</p>	<p>No objection – In line with our general practice, I am again happy to confirm that Stagecoach has no comments or observations to make and offers no objection to these proposals.</p>
<p>(3) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)</p>	<p>Object – It will increase the traffic congestion in the village by having more cars in the village at any moment in time. There are ample ways through the village for pedestrians that avoid the main road</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(4) Local Resident/Member of public, (Moulsford, Ferry Lane)</p>	<p>Object – This proposal for 20mph limit is in nobody's interest. As a motorist I always strive to strictly observe 20mph limits just as I observe other limits, but it usually leads to a very unpleasant driving experience owing to tailgaters, and often leads to dangerous overtakes by less patient drivers.</p> <p>As a pedestrian, when stepping into or crossing a road I certainly won't simply assume that oncoming traffic is crawling along at 20mph, just because there's a 20mph sign. Most will be going much faster and and therefor there is absolutely no benefit to the pedestrians - we still have to treat all traffic as travelling at similar speeds to a 30mph limit. Even worse, just occasionally, a vehicle will turn out to be actually driving at 20mph thereby causing me to wait longer for it to pass, before I can safely cross behind it.</p>

	<p>Regarding speed limit TROs, they have no legal significance for cyclists, yet many reasonably fit cyclists often exceed 20mph. This will give rise to the bizarre situation whereby those few motorists who actually observe the limit could find ourselves tailgated by impatient cyclists and when assisted by a slight gradient, perhaps even overtaken by cyclists - which is highly unlikely to be a safe manoeuvre. It may also give rise to a further temptation for cyclists to illegally ride on the footway, if it allows them to get past 20mph traffic more easily.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(5) Local Resident/Member of public, (Holton, Holton)	<p>Concerns – Concerns about school children walking along the main road and traffic driving passed very fast</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(6) Local Resident/Member of public, (Holton, Holton Road)	<p>Support – My children go to Little Milton school and it is currently extremely dangerous for them to walk to school as cars and lorries use it as a rat run and race through the village</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(7) Local Resident/Member of public, (Holton, Lye Hill)	<p>Support – I have concerns for the safety of the school children walking to and from school a couple of feet away from traffic speeding at 50 or 60 mph.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(8) Local Resident/Member of public, (Holton, Holton)	<p>Support – I have friends whose children go to Little Milton</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(9) Local Resident/Member of public, (Holton, Holton Place)	<p>Support – Cars passing school children too fast currently</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>

<p>(10) Rather not say, (Kennington, Forest Side)</p>	<p>Support – Concerned about the young children who walk to school</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, A329)</p>	<p>Support – The pavement alongside the A329 in the village is extremely narrow in places and slower traffic speeds will significantly increase pedestrian safety. However an important change missing from the plan relates to the Haseley Road. There is no pavement alongside this stretch of road so residents living in the houses at Ditch End, and people accessing the allotments, have to walk on the road. The proposed 20 mph zone does not include either the houses at Ditch End or the entrances to the allotments. Therefore an opportunity to significantly enhance pedestrian safety on this stretch if road has been missed. The 20mph zone should start by Ditch End. Or if this is not poaaible then a 30mph buffer zone, similar to that at the other entrances to the village, should be introduced.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, A329 High Street)</p>	<p>Support – I hope this will make the road and pavement area safer for walking and cycling. At the moment cars, vans, lorries and motorbikes speed through with little consideration for pedestrians.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Blenheim Lane)</p>	<p>Support – The road through the village is single lane in places with no pavement, so walking can be quite risky.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(14) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Chiltern View)</p>	<p>Support – I have lived in the village since 1997 and in that time the traffic has got busier. It is dangerous walking through the village and trying to cross the road. As a driver, turning onto the main road from the side streets is difficult, especially at peak times. Slowing the traffic down would help pedestrians and residents to move around more safely. It makes sense to have a speed reduction throughout, as in the centre of the village the road winds round some tight bends, where there are often blockages, and there are safety concerns at both ends of the village - school at one end, nursery, playground and shop at the other. We also have a problem with loud motorbikes speeding through the village at times. It would be good to have a deterrent.</p>

	Travel change: No
(15) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Chiltern View)	Support – Near misses by the school for many years, tight turns through village Travel change: No
(16) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Church Hill)	Support – I live in the village and the volume of traffic goes to quickly through the village and is dangerous. It doesn't make walking or cycling pleasant. Travel change: Yes - cycle more
(17) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, A329 Church Hill)	Support – Safety, discouraging through traffic Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more
(18) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	Support – speeding vehicles on Haseley Road and also through the village on the main road. Travel change: Yes - cycle more
(19) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	Support – This is the right speed limit due to structure of the roads and nearby school. All schools are on 20 mph speed limit zone. The local primary school isn't and the whole area should be 20mph Travel change: No
(20) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	Support – I am supporting this proposal as the traffic travels too fast in our village. The pavements are often too narrow or non existent. There is no weight restriction on the main road where the pavements can be ludicrously narrow and very dangerous to pedestrians. Slower traffic would be a step in the right direction.

	Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more
(21) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – Pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(22) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – Several roads in the village are narrow and don't have footpaths . The existing 30 mph limit means traffic speeds at 35 plus putting pedestrians and children walking to the village school at risk. The school is at the bottom of a steep hill . School signage is poor and needs flashing lights when the children arrive and depart..</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
(23) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – I am a resident of Little Milton living on the Haseley Road having lived here for 37 years and have always had major concerns about pedestrian safety on the road, which has no footpaths at all. It is far more dangerous now than ever before due to the vast increase in the number of cars and HGV's using the road as a short cut through to Chalgrove. This is a very good opportunity to help improve the situation.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(24) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – I live on Haseley Road, Little Milton and there is no footpath along this road. Residents have to walk on the road to access the school, village shop, playground and other village amenities. Cars use this road as a cut through to Chalgrove and have no regard for pedestrians. Most are driving faster than 30mph. Also the A329 which is the main road through the Village is quite narrow with bends. There is a footpath which disappears in places where the road narrows. You can't walk from the Village Hall to the school without having to walk part way on the road. We need our village roads to be safer for pedestrians - especially the children.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>

<p>(25) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)</p>	<p>Support – to increase safety and perhaps deter some traffic from using the route through the village</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(26) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley road)</p>	<p>Support – I am renting a cottage in the village and have been for 1 year now. I was horrified at the speed of the vehicles going through the village after moving in. I did not expect it in a village like this. The house is an old building and actually shakes from the speed of cars as well as heavy load vehicles passing by. My front door opens up straight onto the road so I feel even more exposed to this violent and dangerous energy passing my house.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(27) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)</p>	<p>Support – Safety of residents</p> <p>Ease issues at junctions, joining the A329 from side roads can be very difficult.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(28) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – I live on the main road and experience traffic travelling in excess of the speed limit every day having 20 mph will make people more aware and slow down especially with camera in action.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(29) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Traffic is noisy and fast through the village; there is a primary school and an area of very narrow pavement where the road bends round - anything that reduces speed would help with road car and pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(30) Local Resident/Member of</p>	<p>Support – I support the 20mph speed limit because of the main road near the school and especially gold street where the children are picked up from (no paths). Lorries and cars come quickly pass the school gates</p>

public, (Little Milton, Main Road)	Travel change: No
(31) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Old Field)	<p>Support – Safety of children and pets in this small village which unfortunately is used as a route for so many vehicles, including large HGVs unsuitable for this route. There is a school, park and church all just off the Main Street and access to these would be less dangerous if the speed limit was reduced.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(32) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Blenheim Lane)	<p>Support – The traffic through Little Milton is often at far too great a speed especially down Haseley Road and High Street. This includes large vehicles which really shouldn't be permitted through the village. Haseley Road in particular is very tight and traffic needs to be slowed before there is an accident. Hopefully the reduced speed limit will be enough, otherwise speed humps should be researched as an option</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(33) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Blenheim Lane)	<p>Support – We need some form of traffic calming through the middle of Little Milton, it's dangerous</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(34) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Church Hill)	<p>Support – I am supporting the proposals due to HGVs, buses, commercial vehicles and motor cars travelling through Little Milton at excessive speeds creating unnecessary danger to both inhabitants and their property. I live on the A329 and have had vehicles mounting the pavement at speed and damaging garden borders. The wall to the house at the bottom of Church Hill on the left side of the right hand bend lost its border wall some years back due to a vehicle travelling at excessive speed. I do not use Haseley Road to travel up to the A329 from Gold Street as it is extremely dangerous due to the speed of vehicles coming in the opposite direction. In addition travelling towards Ditch End Farm towards Chalgrove is also extremely dangerous with Haseley Road being a rat run to travel to Chalgrove from the Thames direction. I even find Gold Street dangerous as I get in my car and vehicles pass at excessive speed. Unless this speed limit is introduced, a serious accident is just waiting to happen sooner or later. Access from Gold Street onto the A329 is very difficult at rush hour times due to speeding vehicles of all classes. An accident waiting to happen as inevitably it will.</p>

	<p>I welcome a move to make Little Milton a safer place to live, move around and property to be better protected from damage from speeding vehicles</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(35) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – Little Milton through traffic is far too fast.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(36) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – Traffic speeds through the village are excessive, even with a 30 mph limit</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(37) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – I live on Haseley road and I find every day walk to the little Milton school is dangerous. The cars drive very fast. I think if it was 20limit, it wouldn't be so frightening. Another road is gold street. The drivers drive on 30m/ph despite there are kids on the road.</p> <p>I do cycle to work every day and i see drivers rushing passing by me leaving a little gap. I cycle, but I am very anxious and terrified. I think if there was 20ml/ ph on gold street, Haseley road, church hill road, stadhampton road, would be much safer.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
(38) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)	<p>Support – No pavements. Road used as a cut through from Chalgrove to main road A329 with cars speeding travelling at 40mph. Children have to walk in road to get to school. General safety for all.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(39) Local Resident/Member of	<p>Support – As a resident and a parent with children at the school I am very concerned at the speed at which traffic comes through the village</p>

<p>public, (Little Milton, Haseley Road)</p>	<p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(40) Local Resident/Member of public, (Little Milton, Stadhampton Road</p>	<p>Support – The speed at which lorries, motorcycles and other vehicles drive through the village is unsafe , especially near a school.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(41) Local Resident/Member of public, (Urchfon, Wiltshire)</p>	<p>Support – My Daughter lives in Little Milton and I visit on a regular basis. Traffic, particularly Motor bikes, use the main Stadhampton Road through Little Milton as a race track with little or no consideration for other road users or residents</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>