

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 17 JANUARY 2019

EAST CHALLOW: A417 PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of a 30mph speed limit as advertised.

Executive summary

2. Speed limits are 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. Proposed changes are assessed applying the County Council's Procedure for Speed Limits.

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received in the course of a statutory consultation on a proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A417 between East Challow and Wantage from 40mph to 30mph.

Background

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been put forward in conjunction with approved residential development on the north side of the A417 between East Challow and Wantage which creates two new junctions giving access to the development. It should be noted that in addition to the proposed speed limit reduction, proposals for a signalled pedestrian crossing and a traffic calming build-out have also been prepared as part of the development and are due to be consulted on separately.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 14 November and 14 December 2018. A public notice was placed in the Herald Series newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, the Vale of the White Horse District Council, Wantage Town Council, East Challow Parish Council and the local County Councillor.

6. Five responses were received. 3 objections, 1 expression of support and 1 non-objection from the District Council. The responses are set out at Annex 2, with copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

7. Thames Valley Police expressed an objection to the proposal on the grounds that compliance by drivers with the reduced speed limit may be very poor and that the proposed speed reduction is not necessary.
8. Although the above concerns are noted, the development will require the construction of two new junctions and it is proposed also to provide a signalled pedestrian crossing and traffic calming feature, with these being subject to a separate consultation. The proposed speed limit is considered necessary to safely accommodate the additional turning traffic and pedestrian crossing demand.
9. The Vale of the White Horse District Council expressed no objection, noting that the reduction in speed limit is a requirement of planning permissions granted for housing developments on the northern side of this part of the A417.
10. Two objections were received from members of the public; one cited concerns that the speed limit was unnecessary given the growth in traffic due to development in the area which already helped reduce speeds and also expressed concerns over the level of new development in the area which they considered excessive. The other objection did not cite any grounds. Although these objections are noted, the proposed reduction in speed limit is considered necessary for the reasons given above.
11. One expression of support was received from a member of the public who considered that the proposal was appropriate taking account of the approved development.

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 the developers.

OWEN JENKINS

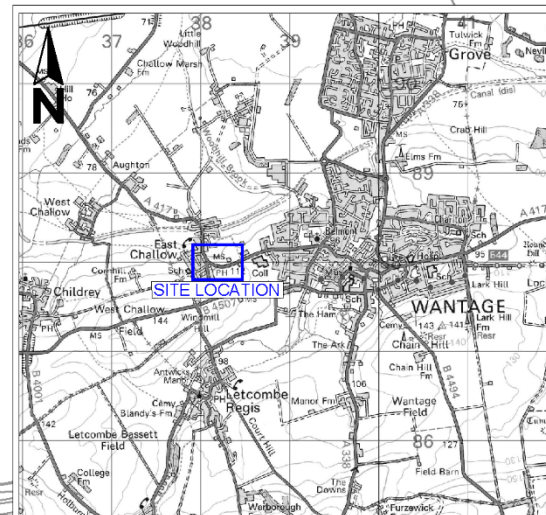
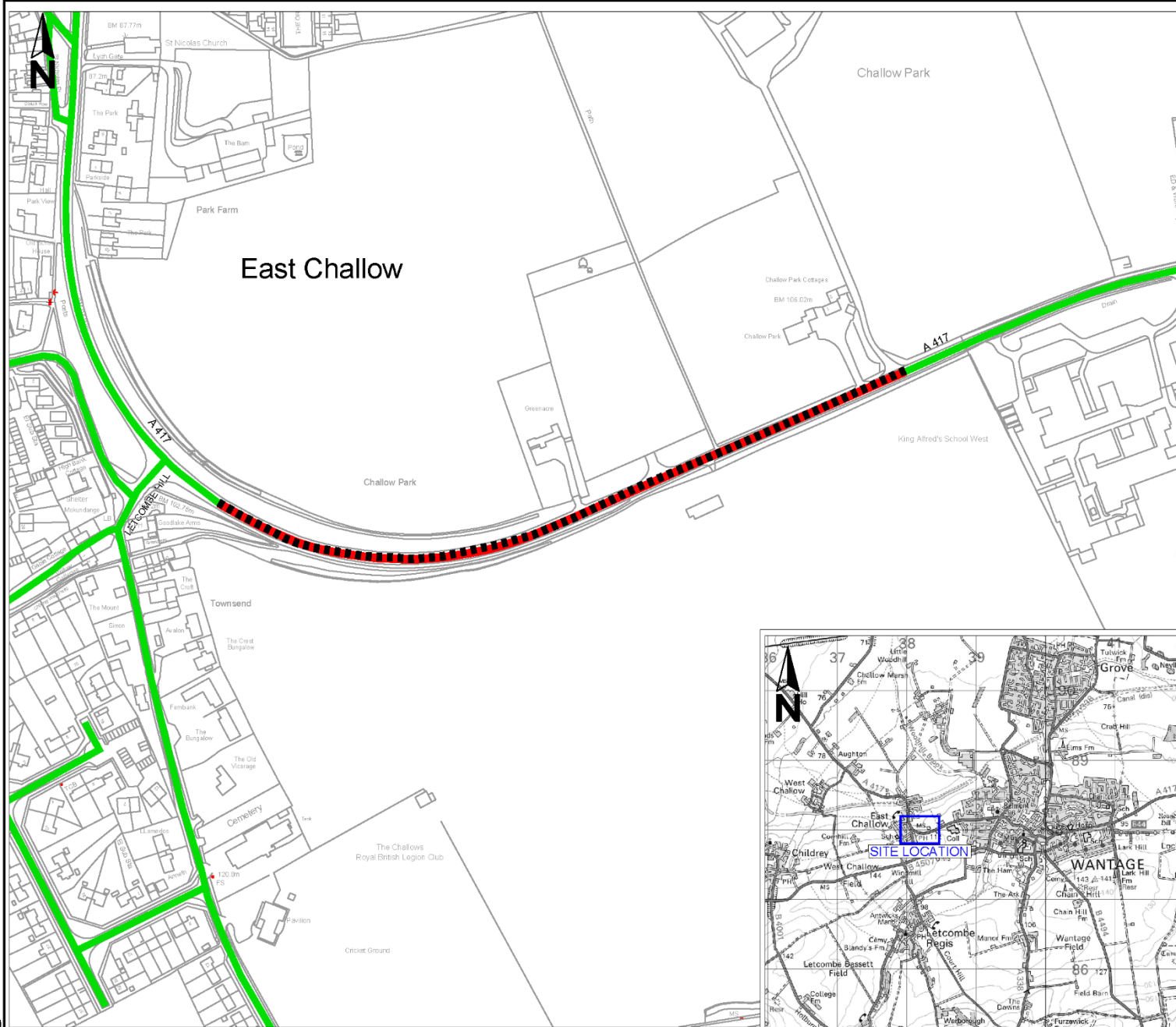
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed speed limit
Consultation responses

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January 2019

Oxfordshire Transport & Highways\4. Improvement Schemes\Traffic and Road Safety\Projects - East Challow 30mph extension\PLANS\East Challow 30mph speed limit.dwg



Drawing No.		Revision 0	
Key			
		Proposed 30mph Speed Limit in place of existing 40mph (approx 452 metres)	
		Existing 30mph Speed Limit (to remain)	
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn Checked Approved
Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0345 310 11 11 Fax: 01865 241577			
Project title			
PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION			
Drawing title			
EAST CHALLOW A417			
Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref			
Drawing No.		Revision 0	

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	Object - This current proposal would connect two existing 30 limits, I would have grave concerns on the effect this would have on current speeds. There are also examples in this area where lowering the speed limit outside new development has not been necessary and I urge the Authority to reconsider this current proposal.
(2) Vale of White Horse District Council	No objection - the change is a requirement of planning permissions granted for housing developments on the northern side of this part of the A417.
(3) Local Resident, (Wantage)	Object - There is no need to slow traffic down even further, the condition of the road and amount of traffic on it already is bad enough and restricts it either way, reducing the speed limit doesn't help anyone at all ever. Stop building more and more houses and not doing anything to the roads to cope with the extra traffic. Build houses away from main roads.
(4) Local Resident, (Wantage)	Object – <i>No comment.</i>
(5) Local Resident, (Grove)	Support - Sounds sensible - this is a very small stretch of 40mph currently squeezed between 2 30mph zones - with the additional houses being built along there requiring egress this seems a logical move.