

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 17 November 2022 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.05 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Andrew Gant – in the Chair

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Liam Walker (for Agenda Items 8 to 16)
Councillor Nathan Ley (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor Neil Fawcett (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor Andy Graham (for Agenda Item 8)
Councillor David Bartholomew (for Agenda Item 18)

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a supplementary document. Except as insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

61/22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 1)

There were no declarations of interest as it was proposed to defer Item 21 to a later meeting. Item 21 was in the Cabinet Member's division and the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor and Cabinet Member Duncan Enright to chair that item and make the decision. However, Councillor Enright was unwell and unable to attend.

Agenda Order

The Cabinet Member agreed to take Item 18 first after the Minutes of the Previous Meeting to facilitate a speaker who had to leave early.

The minutes on each item are recorded in the original agenda order.

62/22 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda No. 2)

There were no questions submitted.

63/22 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda No. 3)

Petition

Chris Heron on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Item 5. Abingdon - proposed 20mph speed limit

- Andrea Stewart
- Nadine Matough (Sustrans)
- Robin Tucker (Cohsat)
- Matthew Franklin (Statement only)
- Susan Clare (Statement only)
- Cllr Ley
- Cllr Fawcett

Item 8. Bladon – proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Andy Graham
- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 9. Brize Norton - proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 10. Clanfield - proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 11. Horton-cum-Studley - proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 12. Idbury - proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 13. Merton- proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 14. Piddington – proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 15. Sonning Common - proposed 20mph speed limit

- Paul Waterman
- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 16. Sunningwell and Bayworth - proposed 20mph speed limit

- Cllr Liam Walker

Item 18. Shiplake - A4155 proposed 30mph speed limit and traffic calming measures

- Cllr David Bartholomew
- Cllr David Pheasant (Shiplake PC)

Item 21. Oxford-A40 junction with Blandford Avenue and Davenant Road – proposed access restrictions and traffic calming measures

- Peter Barnett

- Ian French
- Mr Deas (statement only)
- Julian Wallis (Statement only)

Petition

Chris Heron presented a petition from over 600 OX4 residents and visitors calling on the Council not to introduce exemptions for the existing Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) schemes which they believed would undermine what had been achieved. They also called for stronger bollards to be installed to prevent the repeated vandalism of the existing infrastructure.

64/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Agenda No. 4)

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

65/22 ABINGDON - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 5)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses received to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph and 30mph speed limits in Abingdon.

Cllr Andrew Gant invited the speakers to address the meeting and read out statements received (as per Appendix 1 of the minutes) and responded to issues and comments made by each speaker.

Councillor Gant noted that the scheme consulted upon was not the same as the scheme presented here. The map on Page 80 still showed the original proposals and the speakers addressed those.

He noted the concerns expressed by bus companies that the proposals would result in longer times and reduced services. However, he stated that there were other constraints on speed – not just the speed limit. He wanted to consider this issue further.

The Council had adopted a policy that 20 mph should be the default and this decision was supposed to be about the implementation of that.

Councillor Gant believed that major changes had been made since the consultation. He was not certain that a decision taken at this meeting would be robust.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management agreed to defer a decision on the proposed introduction of 20mph and 30mph speed limits in order to discuss a way forward.

66/22 AMBROSDEN - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 6)

The Cabinet Member considered a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Ambrosden.

Councillor Andrew Gant noted that items 6 to 16 were all about 20 mph limits. His responses to some points made repeatedly in the consultations would be the same for each item. He asked if officers had responded to the points made by the police and bus company.

Officers responded that they had communication directly with the police and bus companies and that paragraphs 11 and 12 in the report covered their points and gave as assurance that the situation would be monitored.

Councillor Gant stated that it would have been better to include the officers' responses in the papers. However, he had read them. The Council policy was to implement 20 mph limits where communities ask for them. That was the approach he wanted to follow, taking into account the monitoring and ability to change in the future if necessary.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

67/22 BANBURY: LAND WEST OF A423 SOUTHAM ROAD – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 7)

The Cabinet Member considered a report presenting responses received to a statutory consultation on proposed 20mph speed limits on the new residential roads to the west of the A423 Southam Road.

Councillor Andrew Gant stated that it would be almost impossible to exceed 20 mph on the residential roads off the through road, so he believed that the only question was really about the through road. The police and bus company had made their usual points.

The proposal only affected about 200m of the through road. He was happy to approve while noting that the effects would be monitored.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED as advertised the proposed 20mph Speed Limit.

68/22 BLADON - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 8)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Bladon.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited speakers to address the meeting and responded to the points made.

He believed that there was no requirement to provide speed or collision data because the 20 mph limit was a matter of Council policy. He believed that officers had acted correctly in describing certain responses to this consultation and others as “irrelevant” when that was factually the case.

Councillor Gant noted that consultation was essential but it was not a question of comparing the numbers for and against the proposal.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

69/22 BRIZE NORTON - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 9)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Brize Norton.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speaker to address the meeting.

Councillor Gant agreed that parked cars could have a traffic calming effect but he was uneasy relying on that because they posed dangers as well to pedestrians and cyclists.

Officers clarified that the road to the crocodile farm was included in the 20 mph limit as there was a potential for walkers on that road and there were houses there too. The Parish Council had asked for the whole village to be included.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

70/22 CLANFIELD - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 10)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Clanfield.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speaker to address the meeting.

Councillor Gant agreed that it would have made sense to include the Parish Council's consultation in the report and asked officers to consider that in future reports.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

71/22 HORTON-CUM-STUDLEY - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 11)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Horton-cum-Studley.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speaker to address the meeting.

Councillor Gant responded that modal shift was one objective of the policy but safety was probably the most important one.

Officers agreed that crash map data could be included in future reports.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

72/22 IDBURY - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 12)

The Cabinet Member considered a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Idbury and Foscot.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speaker to address the meeting.

Councillor Gant responded that the administration was not “anti-car”, as one respondent claimed, but was introducing measures to make car use safer and more responsible.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

73/22 MERTON - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 13)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Merton.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speaker to address the meeting.

Councillor Gant responded that it was not a requirement for the Parish Council or Local Member to respond to such a consultation. For an initial application it was required that the Parish Council and Local Member support the application. Officers agreed to include that information in future reports.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

74/22 PIDDINGTON - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 14)

The Cabinet Member considered a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Piddington.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speaker to address the meeting.

Councillor Gant agreed that the reports should be consistent in the information they contain regarding responses to the consultation.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

75/22 SONNING COMMON - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 15)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Sonning Common.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speakers to address the meeting.

Officers responded to the point about the 40mph stretch between two 30mph zones, noting that this was because the area was in a neighbouring parish. That will be taken account of when it comes to dealing with that parish.

Councillor Gant drew attention to a respondent's point about sign clutter and asked officers to be mindful of that concern.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

76/22 SUNNINGWELL AND BAYWORTH - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(Agenda No. 16)

The Cabinet Member considered a report presenting responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Sunningwell and Bayworth.

Councillor Andrew Gant invited the speaker to address the meeting.

Officers explained the reasoning for allowing a reduction from the national speed limit to 20mph in this case. Where the road is straight, they believe that this approach is safe, whereas if there was a bend in the road, they would put in a reduction to 40 or 30mph first.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits as advertised.

77/22 BENSON - A4074 AND OXFORD ROAD - PROPOSED 40MPH AND 30MPH SPEED LIMITS

(Agenda No. 17)

The Cabinet Member considered a report presenting responses received to a consultation on the proposed introduction of introduction of 40mph and 30mph speed limits as on the A4074 and Oxford Road at Benson.

Councillor Andrew Gant stated that he was happy with the officers' responses to the consultation as outlined in the report. This was a fairly minor alteration to where the speed limits change.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of 40mph and 30mph speed limits as advertised on the A4074 and Oxford Road at Benson.

78/22 SHIPLAKE - A4155 PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT AND TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

(Agenda No. 18)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses received to a consultation on a proposed 30mph speed limit and traffic calming measures on the A4155 at Shiplake.

Before considering the report the Cabinet Member agreed to hear speakers.

Councillor David Bartholomew, Sonning Common, stated that the speed limit had been 30 mph previously but was largely ignored and led to tailgating. The Parish Council asked for it to be raised to 40 mph which was implemented in 2019. When the planning application for the retirement village was considered, Council officers agreed 40 mph was safe. No reason has been given for the Council's change of mind on this. He asked for a decision to be deferred until proper consideration could be given to the response to a Freedom of Information (Fol) request submitted by Shiplake Parish Council.

Parish Councillor David Pheasant stated that he had travelled the stretch of road in question with a Council officer who had agreed that 40mph was safe. Scant information had been provided to justify the Council's change of mind. The Fol request from the Parish Council had not been responded to within the statutory deadline and they did not have enough time to consider it. He called on the Cabinet Member to reject the proposal.

Councillor Gant responded that he had deferred the item from the last meeting to clarify some points that arose in the discussion. When the Parish Council asked for a 40mph limit, the County Council decided not to oppose.

His understanding was that the Council officers' opinion had been that 30 or 40mph were both acceptable. He agreed that 30mph was not a requirement due to the retirement village development but officers were now advising that it would ensure that it would be safer and more pleasant for residents walking to Shiplake village.

With regard to the late response to the Fol request, Councillor Gant had consulted the Monitoring Officer and she was clear that it was not grounds on which to defer a decision.

The recommendation included limited traffic calming measures and he was minded to ask officers to consider including more. He had considered the responses to the consultation. There were clearly different opinions and it was his role to decide. Councillor Gant was satisfied that the issues that led to the deferral had been addressed.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED:

- a) The proposed 30mph speed limit in place of the current 40mph speed Limit
- b) The following proposed traffic calming measures:
 - Visual road narrowing achieved using white lining and coloured textured surfacing at one new location south of the development entrance
 - Renewal of existing red coloured textured surfacing area.
 - A new vehicle activated sign (VAS)
 - 'SLOW' road markings
 - 30mph roundel on the carriageway

79/22 EAST HAGBOURNE - MAIN ROAD PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND ADDITIONAL / AMENDED TRAFFIC CALMING

(Agenda No. 19)

The Cabinet Member considered a report presenting responses received to a consultation on proposals to introduce new sections of 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) on both sides of Main Road, and a new traffic calming feature in the vicinity of East Hagbourne C of E Primary School, which have been put forward as a result of the development of adjacent land for residential purposes.

Councillor Andrew Gant noted comments in the responses about the displacement of parking to the village hall car park which some people said was already full much of the time. He would encourage everyone to inform the Council of the impacts of the changes.

One response suggested a humped pedestrian crossing and Councillor Gant asked officers to consider if that was appropriate in this case.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED as advertised the proposed measures on Main Road in East Hagbourne as follows:

- a) New 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) parking restrictions, and
- b) A full-width road hump to be located approximately 20 metres west of the junction with Manor Farm Lane.

80/22 KINGSTON BAGPUIZE - A415 ABINGDON ROAD - PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING

(Agenda No. 20)

The Cabinet Member considered a report on the formal consultation on the provision of a zebra crossing & associated removal of the redundant bus stop on Faringdon Road in Kingston Bagpuize which followed representations being made by Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council and the local County Councillor on the safety and amenity of pedestrians – and in particular those walking to and from the adjacent primary school, shop and housing developments.

Councillor Andrew Gant noted that there was disagreement among respondents as to the best location for the pedestrian crossing. Some believed that it should be on the Witney road where children have to cross to school.

Officers responded that they had had discussions with the Parish Council regarding the Witney road. There was a central island in place to aid safe crossing. Officers would be happy to discuss this with the Parish Council again.

Officers also confirmed that the necessary speed monitoring and design standards had been used in the preparation of this proposal.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed zebra crossing on the A415 Faringdon Road at Kingston Bagpuize.

81/22 OXFORD- A40 JUNCTION WITH BLANDFORD AVENUE AND DAVENANT ROAD – PROPOSED ACCESS RESTRICTIONS AND TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

(Agenda No. 21)

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management agreed to defer this item as it was in his division and he was unable to arrange for another member of the Cabinet to take the Chair to make a decision on this item.

82/22 WALLINGFORD - READING ROAD - PROPOSED BUS STOP CLEARWAY

(Agenda No. 22)

The Cabinet Member received a report presenting responses received to a consultation on the proposed introduction of bus stop clearways on the Reading Road at Wallingford.

Councillor Andrew Gant asked why the bus stop needed to be moved as that did not appear to be explained in the report. Officers clarified that it was related to a new development and the desire to make the bus a more attractive option to residents there.

Officers also responded to the comments on the design of the bus stop. That was a matter for the District Council, the County Council's involvement was simply to provide a bus stop clearway.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management APPROVED the proposed introduction of bus stop clearways as advertised.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing