

Divisions affected: *Hendreds & Harwell*

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

05 SEPTEMBER 2024

WEST HENDRED - PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) Approve the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in West Hendred, as advertised.

Executive Summary

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

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

3. No legal implications have been identified in respect of the proposals, with proposed changes to existing Traffic Regulation Orders governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and other associated procedural regulations. Failure to adhere to these statutory processes could result in the proposals being challenged.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Sustainability Implications

- The proposals would help to encourage walking and cycling within West Hendred by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal Consultation

- Formal consultation was carried out between 12 June and 05 July 2024. A notice was published in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspapers, 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, Vale of White Horse District Council, local District Cllrs, West Hendred, East Hendred, and Ardington & Lockinge Parish Councils, and the local County Councillor representing the Hendreds & Harwell division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

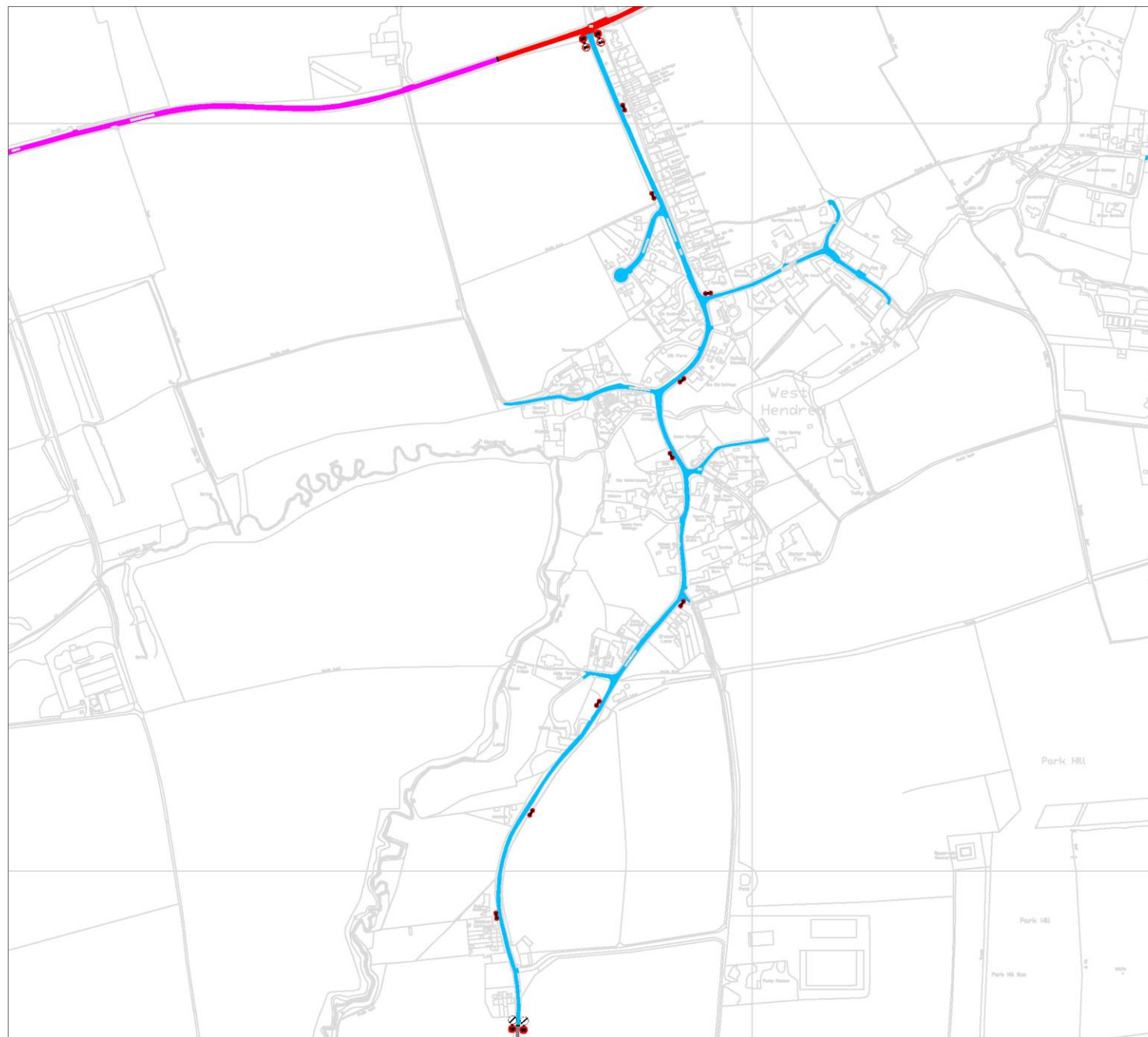
- Thames Valley Police re-iterated their views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits and wish their response to be listed as 'having concerns' rather than an objection.
- Oxford Bus Company offered no objection, citing that the proposals do not impact on regular scheduled bus services, provided that the speed limits on the A417 Reading Road through the parish are maintained at their current levels.

Other Responses:

- A further 34 responses were received via the online survey during the course of the formal consultation, comprising of: seven objections (21%), 23 in support (68%), three partially supporting (9%), and one non-objection.
- 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	8 (24%)
Yes - cycle more	4 (12%)
No	21 (62%)
Other	1 (3%)
Total	34

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



West Hendred 20mph						1.0												
<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Legend</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposed 20</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Existing 30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Existing 50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Existing NSL</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Public Highway</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>							Legend		Proposed 20		Existing 30		Existing 50		Existing NSL		Not Public Highway	
Legend																		
Proposed 20																		
Existing 30																		
Existing 50																		
Existing NSL																		
Not Public Highway																		
© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10023343 2017																		
Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved													
1.0	07.03.24	Proposal 1	C.R															
<p>Oxfordshire County Council Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0845 310 1111</p>																		
Project title: West Hendred 20mph Scheme																		
Drawing title: West Hendred 20mph Scheme Overview																		
Drawing Status																		
Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.R	Checked by: G.JB	Approved by: G.JB															
	Date drawn: 07.03.24	Date checked: 07.03.24	Date approved: 07.03.24															
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref																		
Drawing No. 1.0					Revision 1.0													

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
<p>(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)</p>	<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 disproportionate 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>
(2) Head of Built Environment and Infrastructure, (Go-Ahead Group)	<p>No objection – In line with our usual practice I can confirm that the proposals referred to do not impact on regular scheduled bus services, as the A417 speed limits in the parish are maintained at their current values.</p>
(3) Local resident, (Wantage, Truelocks Way)	<p>Object – Total waste of time and money. 20mph speed limits elsewhere are ignored by most drivers and have a negligible impact on speed. The council complains it doesn't have enough money - well it could stop wasting vast amounts of money on these limits which don't achieve anything at all. How many injuries have happend on these roads? I suspect very few and even fewer where a lower speed limt would have any impact on their injuries. But the council will probably carry on virtue signalling no matter what local residents think.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(4) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)	<p>Object – Although this road is within a "built up area" I say with quotation as it has wide pavements and grassy banks between the buildings and road creating a perfectly safe space for pedestrians and even cyclists .It is also an access road for multiple businesses some with large lorries. I believe by slowing their speed, especially when heading up hill out of the village, this will make the engines work harder having to be in a lower gear to maintain the speed limit and momentum for the incline therefore revving higher than before creating more noise pollution and actual burnt fuel pollution in the village. Whilst I understand the want for safer roads . The village has sufficient pavements for pedestrians to remain safe. There is no white lines within the village dictating lanes and for this reason I see the road and a country lane . One which if outside</p>

	<p>of the village environment would be a national speed limit . Those are my reasons for the objection . Thank you for my opportunity to share my views</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(5) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Road)	<p>Object – A. complete waste of money for a village in which it is even hard to reach 30 mph</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(6) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Road)	<p>Object – Quite unnecessary as it is virtually impossible anyway to drive over 20mph through the village, apart from two straight stretches either end . Plus, emissions from driving at 20mph higher than at 30mph (esp. old farm vehicles). And how will it be monitored. The Council has many more important things to spend money on - not least monitoring speeds on the A417.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(7) Local resident, (West Hendred, Manor Lane)	<p>Object – 20 mph is so incredibly slow and unnecessary. I have been living in the village for 37 years and cannot remember any accidents. Please reconsider.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(8) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)	<p>Object – Most traffic in the village travels at sensible speeds. The money which will be spent on implementing the 20mph speed limit could be better spent.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(9) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)	<p>Object – It is impossible to travel at speeds above 20mph in most of the village. The only areas where higher speeds can be achieved are on The Greenway and on Ginge Road at the southern end of the village. It seems to me to be an awful waste of public funds to achieve practically nothing. The 20mph scheme will make very little difference to the traffic in the village. The funds would be better spent repairing the village roads which are in an appalling state,</p>

	<p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(10) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Road)</p>	<p>Partially support – No enforcement for current limit so what is impact assessment of the change please?</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(11) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Partially support – Improved safety is very marginal. The pavement from the A417 to Mill Lane is at least 5 meters from the road (therefore safe.) the road through the middle of the village (from Mill Lane) to the Church is by its nature speed limiting. Is this really a good way to spend money - even if it's not coming from local funds. the feedback I have from residents in East Hendred who have 20 mph imposed is very mixed. Are there more near misses now that pedestrians assume all are doing 20 mph and are less safety conscious. There is no case for encouraging pedestrians and cyclists in West Hendred - this is purely a safety debate.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(12) Local resident, (West Hendred, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Partially support – Given the limited visibility at various places along the proposed 20mph limit, and the number of pot-holes, driving more than 20 mph, regardless of the any speed limit, is in my view not a safe thing to do.</p> <p>Should one encounter traffic coming in the opposite direction, there is necessity to either stop, reverse, or proceed at "walking speed".</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(13) District Cllr, (Hendreds ward)</p>	<p>Support – I welcome the introduction of a lower speed limit in West Hendred. Lower speeds should improve safety for all road users and particularly pedestrians and cyclists. This is particularly welcome as parts of the speed limit area do not have pavements or have pavements which are too narrow for some users.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>

<p>(14) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Road)</p>	<p>Support – To make our village safer. Currently at 30 mph our cats get killed and it is only a question of time before someone is seriously hurt. The road through the village is too narrow for all vehicles to travel at 30 mph. There are at least two areas where only one vehicle can pass. Drivers are not always aware and have to brake suddenly. The risks would be reduced with 20 mph speed restrictions in place.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(15) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Road)</p>	<p>Support – Because a slower speed limit will increase the safety of all road users</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(16) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Road)</p>	<p>Support – Many vehicles drive far too fast along the slightly straighter stretches of road within the village. Particularly on the Greenway and further into the village on Ginge Road leading out towards Ginge. We are a 'through route' to enormous Lorrays going up to the barns in Ginge and the Stable users who roar up and down our road twice a day with little regard for the village life around them.</p> <p>We are anxious that it is only a matter of time until a child, or even adult or pet will be the victim of an accident. A 20mph will dramatically reduce this risk.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(17) Local resident, (west hendred, Ginge Road)</p>	<p>Support – 30mph is crazy fast around some of the bends - i get super worried my dog is gonna be run over by lunatics</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(18) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Road)</p>	<p>Support – I strongly support the 20 mile an hour proposal. This is for many reasons such as children should be able to walk to the park without the fear of being run over by huge Lorries driving too fast through the village up to Ginge where the road is far too small for them to be travelling through anyway. I also feel that it will make the village a more sociable place with people being more likely to walk dogs in the centre of the village. The horse owners in Ginge would also have to be mindful of the fact that they cannot drive too fast through the village and disregard the fact that there is any form of community here.</p>

	<p>The introduction of the new 30 mile and hour zone at the top of the village also has been successful making it much safer for school children while waiting at the bus stop. I therefore feel that the slower speed proposal will have similar positive effects, especially in some of the tight areas where you may be met with oncoming traffic in a small single track area.</p> <p>Travel change: Other It will make me more likely to scoot, cycle and walk more- which will positively impact the environment around us within the village</p>
(19) Local resident, (West Hendred, Green Road)	<p>Support – Dangerous crossing for school kids</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(20) Local resident, (West Hendred, Manor Lane)	<p>Support – West Hendred is a quiet hamlet through which too many cars exceed the current 30 mph limit. Not only that, but I would extent a weight limit on the bridge that crosses the stream, making the articulated Lorries that use the road re-route via a better, more appropriate route.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(21) Local resident, (West Hendred, Mill Lane)	<p>Support – The lane I live on has a 30mph limit and it's far too fast, especially considering the size and types of vehicle that regularly fly down it. The majority of surrounding villages are now. It's better for everyone.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
(22) Local resident, (West Hendred, Mill Lane)	<p>Support – there are many parts of the roads in West Hendred where there is no pavement or the pavement is muddy due to the brook, especially near the village Hall and playground.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>

<p>(23) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – People treat the main road in to the village like a 40-50mph+ road. Anything that can be done to reduce the speed of vehicles in the village, should be attempted. Pulling out of driveways on the Greenway is difficult having to contend with vehicles appearing from behind parked cars at high speed. The village is home to several small businesses, including some that operate large articulated vehicles, often clearly being driven over the existing 30mph limit. It makes little sense West Hendred appears to be one of the very few villages that does not already have a 20mph limit in place. As a parent and pet owner, the volume and speed of traffic in the village is a significant concern.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(24) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – West Hendred is used to get to Ginge for many people and businesses. These business do have very large lorries and our road is only narrow and most places just one cars width. There is frequently fast travelling traffic, tractors and lorries and for the safety of our residents I support it going down to 20mph</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(25) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – The road through West Hendred is narrow, single-track, with tight bends and restricted vision in many places. I walk along the length of this stretch of road every day (with dogs) and have had several near misses with vehicles taking these sharp turns too fast. Many of the speeding vehicles are not residents, but are passing through the village to reach the stables and scaffolding business at Ginge.</p> <p>Pet cats are frequently killed on this stretch of road.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(26) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – The speed some vehicles go past is sometimes well above the current speed limit and it makes it very dangerous where the road is narrow and has blind corners. Also there are a lot of children and adolescents in the village who may not have the awareness of dangers around them especially fast vehicles. We also have quite a lot of large vehicles that travel down the road through the village so slowing these down would improve safety too.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>

<p>(27) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – Too many vehicles drive through our village at speeds of 30 and above miles per hour. This makes it unsafe for pedestrians, children, cyclists and horse riders. We live near a very sharp bend and frequently hear brakes being slammed on. A speed limit of 20 mph would b make the village feel a much safer place.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
<p>(28) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – Residents, businesses and visitors frequently exceed the posted limit and it's simply too fast for a narrow road in a rural village where kids are playing. I have serious concerns a child may be hurt if this limit is not lowered</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(29) Local resident, (West Hendred, Ginge Lane)</p>	<p>Support – As a parent, cyclists and walker i support this proposal. There are many occasions when the width of the road is a potential risk to road users. If the speed is reduced to 20 mph then the is additional time for two way traffic and cyclists/ pedestrians/ horse riders and dog walkers to take appropriate action safely.</p> <p>My 12 yr old daughter was knocked off her bike by a vehicle that would have been avoided if travelling slower.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(30) Local resident, (West hendred, Ginge Road)</p>	<p>Support – Road safety for pedestrians (some of the road has no pavement) and children walking and cycling to school.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(31) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – As a West Hendred resident, I regularly witness cars and heavier vehicles exceeding 30 mph within the village. The narrow residential roads are unsuitable for this. I am under no illusion that adding a 20 mph limit will prevent this, but hope it will reduce this thoughtless behaviour.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>

<p>(32) Local resident, (West Hendred, Reading Road)</p>	<p>Support – We live on the A417 and the new 30mph speed limit has made no difference to most drivers passing through they completely ignore this limit and stove way too fast perhaps a 20 will help also a flashing face SID display that actually works all the time would make a difference two are needed one approaching the village from east Hendred and one exciting at The Hare</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(33) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – I live in the village on the Greenway. Cars, vans and lorrys travel fast down the road and also around bends further into the village and up towards the Ridgeway. All these areas are regularly used for walking and cycling by me and my family and many others in the village. A lower speed limit would help reduce the chances of an accident.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
<p>(34) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – I live on the greenway, walk dogs everyday. The cars go to fast, there young children. Cats being killed by cars!</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(35) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>Support – It would be safer to have a slower speed limit through the village given the road surfaces, local residents, local animals and children.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(36) Local resident, (West Hendred, The Greenway)</p>	<p>No objection – I don't see the change negatively impacting the village nor do I see it have much of a desired affect either as most drivers don't currently drive faster than 20mph through the village and the areas in which people may go faster are outside of the village where virtually no one lives.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>