

Divisions affected: *Shrivenham*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

WOOLSTONE: PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

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

Executive summary

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Woolstone 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 Woolstone by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 22 June and 14 July 2023. 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, Vale of White Horse District Council, the local District Cllrs, Woolstone parish meeting, Uffington Parish Council, and the local County Councillor representing the Shrivenham division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

7. Two statutory consultees responded. Thames Valley Police re-iterated their views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits, they consider their view as 'having concerns' rather than an objection. The Local Member voiced their support for the proposals

Other Responses:

8. Three online responses were received. A local resident and a local councillor expressed support, whilst an Oxford resident objected on the grounds the proposals were unnecessary.
9. 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

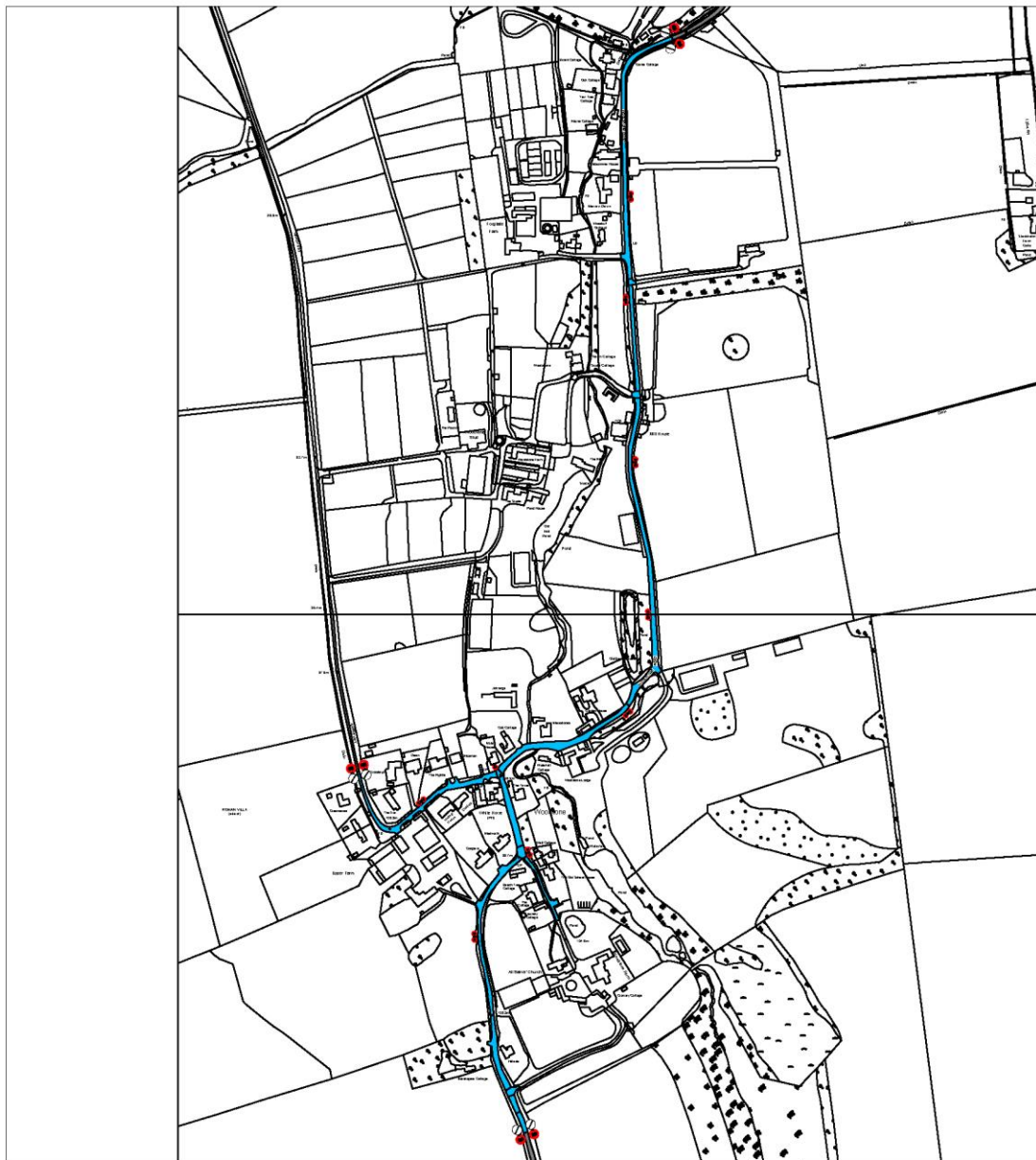
10. The main purpose of the scheme is to encourage greater use of active travel by reducing speeds; this is also expected to reduce accidents. The aim of reducing speed limits is to change driver's mindsets to make speeding socially unacceptable and make more environmentally friendly modes of travel such as walking and cycling more attractive, and also help 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'.
11. The authority considers objections along the lines of it being unjustified, anti-car, a waste of money, not enforceable or pointless to not warrant amendments to a proposal. As such the authority has not addressed the comments made of this nature in this report.

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes Annex 1: Consultation plan
 Annex 2: Consultation responses

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September 2023



Woolstone Overview		Revision 1.0			
Legend					
Proposed 20					
Existing 20					
Private Rd not P.H					
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	18.05.23	Final Draft	C.R		
		Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall Banbury Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0845 310 1111			
Project title: Woolstone 20mph Scheme					
Drawing title: Woolstone 20mph Scheme Overview					
Drawing Status					
Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.R	Checked by G.JB	Approved by G.JB		
	Date drawn 18.05.23	Date checked 18.05.23	Date approved 18.05.23		
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref					
Drawing No. 1.0					Revision 1.0

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>
(2) Local County Cllr, (Shrivenham division)	Support – I support the proposal to introduce 20 in place of 30mph in Woolstone, where I know the residents are agreed that 20mph would serve them well.
(3) Local resident, (Oxford, St Thomas)	Object – Not required.
(4) Local Cllr, (Uffington, Craven Common)	Support – Woolstone is a small rural village with a single narrow road running through it. The road has 2 long straight stretches and a winding sect through the centre of the village. The long straights encourage speeding and the winding stretch has poor visibility. Both these areas would benefit from stricter limits especially as the whole stretch of road is frequently used by walers and horse riders.
(5) Local resident, (Woolstone, Marsh Way)	Support – I support these proposals as Woolstone is a quiet village and we want to keep it that way.. Reducing the speed limit will make the roads safer to the many walkers who use the roads where there are numerous blind corners either for themselves or with dogs and horses. Noise will be reduced and pollution also. There are no footpaths in the village so residents are obliged to to use the roads to walk on.