

I am the District Councillor for North Leigh and have been a resident there for 25 years. I am a retired Chartered Surveyor and have experience with highway issues in various contexts over a 47 year career.

I have, for some years, been trying to get some consistency on the speed limit along this very busy section of the A4095 - namely from the junction of Common Road to the 40 mph limit that starts as you approach the turn to Freeland shortly after the Cuckoo Lane turn. **In my view the whole section should be limited to 40 mph and not 50mph as at present**, given the predominant tree lined bends, poor visibility, busy junctions, blind summits, often excess water due to poor drainage (Osney Hill in particular), and various "no overtaking" markings or double white lines.

In particular, I invite you to compare the A4095 east of Cuckoo Lane to Long Hanborough - which is largely straight with good visibility in all directions with fewer junctions - it's all 40 or 30mph and then ask why our section permits 50mph, so often ignored in practice.

On the section I refer to, **we have had two fatal accidents and numerous other RTAs** between Osney Hill Farm just west of Common Road and Boddington Lane/Cuckoo Lane staggered junctions in the last ten years or so. Motorbike riders regularly speed at c. 80 mph along this section of road and many cars well over 50mph and TVP do no speed enforcement to discourage it.

In the last six years, almost 200 houses have been built in North Leigh (and hundreds more in and around Witney) and a further 55 have been granted consent to use the recent new access(for 50 houses) directly onto the A4095 between Common Road and the Park Road junction, which is almost opposite Estelle Manor's revised entrance - the subject case.

There is no cycleway along the A4095 in this section but one is planned and already partly funded. Creation of the cycleway would complete a missing link in the cycleway between Witney and Long Hanborough rail station - providing it would encourage more cyclists to connect to trains, something you and OCC are keen to encourage if I understand it. At present, cyclists who dare use this section are at greater risk.

I am not a highway engineer, but it is obvious to me (and to many residents I have spoken to about it) that with the increase in traffic along the A4095 over the last twenty years or more and using these new and existing junctions, involving left and or right hand turn manoeuvres, the extra traffic Estelle Manor is already and will be generating once their approved development is completed, the Football Club entrance on a bend with double white lines - with buses and supporter traffic - having a consistent 40 mph limit between Common Road and 40mph limit existing just east of Cuckoo Lane start would be so much safer for all and less muddling. Given the poor accident in this section, what is proposed in Item 9, is simply not addressing the real speed /safety issue properly or in a common sense approach - **so I would ask you as the Cabinet member responsible and empowered to make positive changes to enhance road safety here to have this rethought and impose a consistent 40 mph limit on the whole section from the Common Road junction through to the current east of Cuckoo Lane 40mph limit.**

If you haven't driven or cycled along this section I suggest that you do so before making the decision before anyone else is killed or injured.

**Thank you for hearing me.
Harry St John**