

Division(s): Burford and Carterton North

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 19 DECEMBER 2019**  
**SHILTON: HEN AND CHICK LANE & UNNAMED ROAD TO B4477 –**  
**PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT**

**Report by Interim Director for Community Operations**

**Recommendation**

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

**Executive summary**

2. Speed limits are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout or usage as a result of development and when requested by the local member or local councils due to concerns over road safety.

**Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a 30mph speed limit on Hen and Chick Lane and the unnamed road to the B4477 at Shilton. It should be noted that a previous consultation on a proposed 40mph speed limit on these roads was carried out in May 2019 but the responses to this indicated that a 30mph was favoured by the local community.

**Background**

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward following a request from County Councillor Field-Johnson and County Councillor Handley and, if approved, would be funded by their Councillor Priority Fund.

**Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 2 October and 1 November 2019. A public notice was placed in the Witney Gazette newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Shilton Parish Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and the local County Councillor.
6. Four responses were received. 1 objection, 2 in support and 1 response expressing neither support or objection. These are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

## **Response to objections and other comments**

7. Thames Valley Police objected to the proposals on the grounds that a 30mph speed limit is not consistent with national guidance taking account of the character of the road (which is only partly built up) and also current speeds, leading drivers being unlikely to respect it and noting also that a 30mph limit here would set a serious and unwelcome precedent from a police perspective where current guidelines are ignored and, if the limit is approved, in turn could bring other 30mph limits into disrepute.
8. Noting the police response it is accepted that the proposal is not fully consistent with either the national guidance on setting local speed limits or Oxfordshire County Council speed limit policy. In considering their recommendation officers have taken account the comments from the police but also the strong concerns over safety here as reflected in the views of the local members funding the proposal (noting that the proposal itself lies within the Burford and Carterton North division) and also the comparatively limited scope of the proposal on a relatively lightly traffic unclassified road.
9. West Oxfordshire District Council have not objected.
10. Two expressions of support were received from members of the public; one of these however noted that without effective enforcement, there would be little value in introducing the limit, but also requested consideration of a 20mph speed limit in Shilton village itself.

## **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

11. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

## **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

12. Funding for the proposed speed limit has been provided from the respective Councillor Priority Fund.

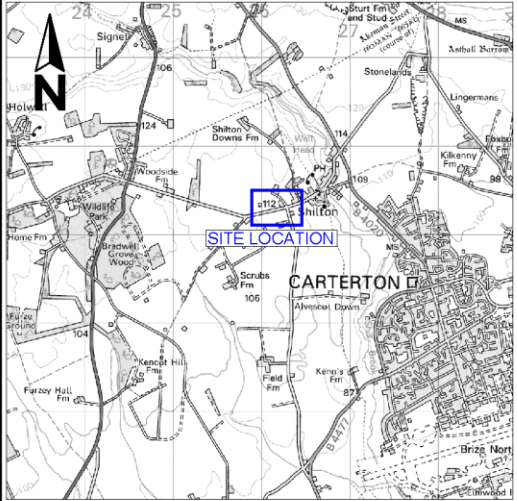
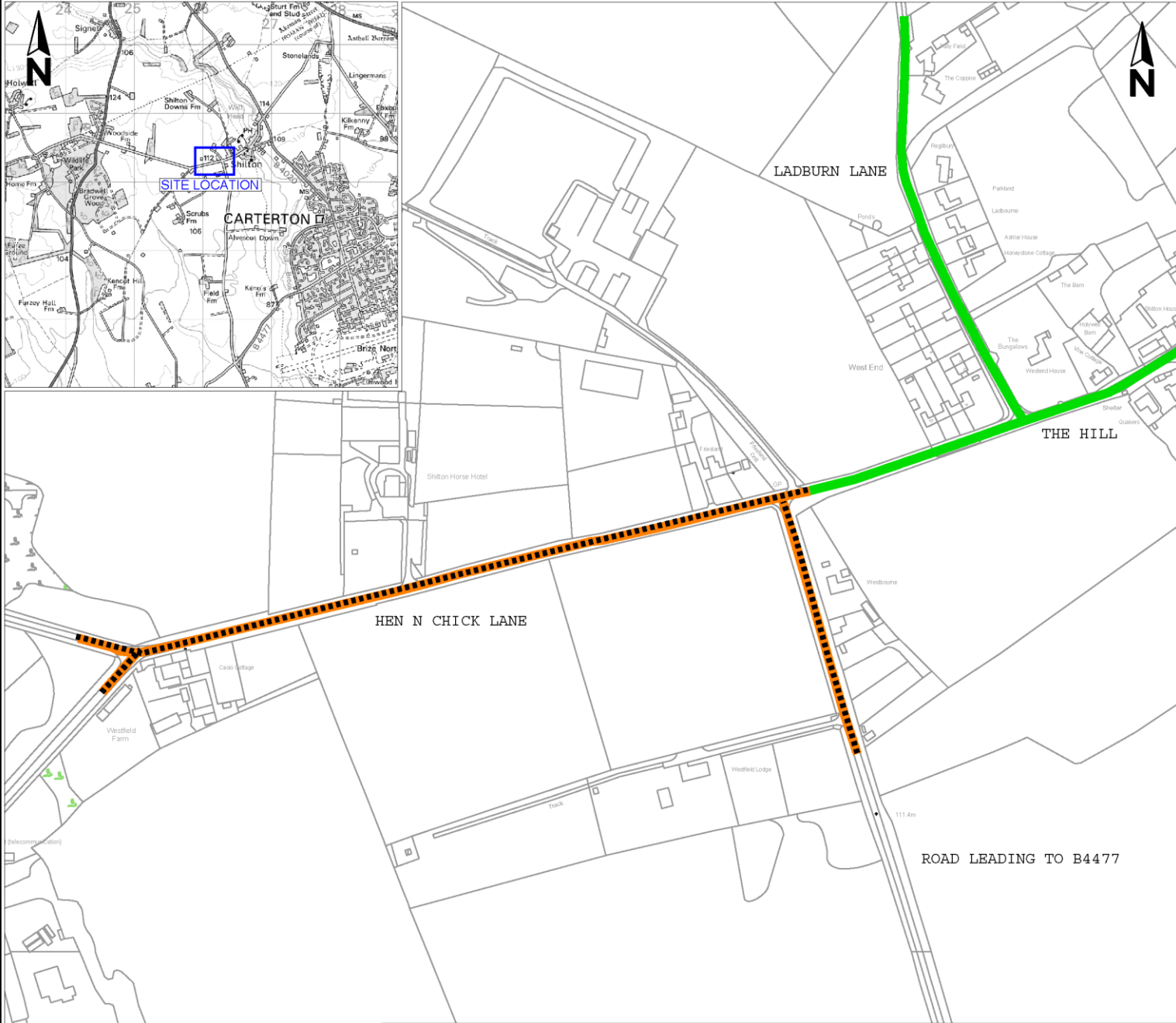
JASON RUSSELL  
Interim Director for Community Operations

Background papers:            Plan of proposed waiting restrictions  
   Consultation responses

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December 2019

Drawing No.		Revision	
		0	
<b>Key</b>			
Proposed 30mph Speed Limit Extension			
Existing 30mph Speed Limit			
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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 SPEED LIMIT CHANGES			
Drawing title			
SHILTON HEN N CHICK LANE			
Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	JaC	JaC	
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved
	04/19		
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref			
Drawing No.		Revision	
		0	



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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>Object</b> - As we stated at the informal stage Thames Valley Police are not opposed to speed limits being lowered provided they are appropriate applied within DfT criteria and road environment and likely to have casualty reduction benefits. All aspects of the proposed speed limit are taken into account i.e. collision history, speed of existing traffic, road environment character enforcement, and driver perception. This location does NOT meet that criteria in our view.</p> <p>The current speed of traffic is a reliable indicator of how acceptable a new speed limit would be. The recognized way of ascertaining this level of self-compliance is the 85th percentile speed. If the 85th percentile speed is 7mph or more over the proposed limit it is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or continual enforcement. No speed data has been provided to support lowered limits in this context to my knowledge at this location?</p> <p>There is a proven link between road environment/character and drivers speed. This location and specifically the length towards the A361 is rural and will not offer significant built up and or changed character! The section to the south from the junction would be accepted as there are several and continual frontages.</p> <p>Drivers must respect the need for a speed limit. Consideration at this location in these circumstances can if applied as an example reduce the impact of speed limits in built up areas where few or single properties are being considered for 30mph limits. If it is not accepted as realistic it will quickly be abused and be the source of constant demands for police action which would never be sufficient even if it were a priority collision site which it is not.</p> <p>I have visited the location again and am familiar with the roads in Shilton where there are no collisions recorded on our database in the last five-year period which is our recognised policy.</p> <p>The area does have several farm stable businesses and I have seen Horses and riders on the highway, but this does not set it apart from many other locations which retain national speed limit cover. If this were a specific concern, I would advocate consideration to appropriate warning signs rather than application of a lower speed limit which may be outside Dft guidelines in any case on this a two-lane narrow highway.</p> <p>We are surprised this section is under scrutiny for safety measures given its remote location and history. Application of</p>

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	<p>a 30mph limit here would set a serious and unwelcome precedent where current guidelines are ignored and weakens the message in locations with collision history which should be the priority!</p> <p>The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria (Circular Roads 1/2013) 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 Speed Limit should not be used to attempt to solve the problem of isolated hazards, for example a single junction or reduced forward visibility.</p>
(2) West Oxfordshire District Council	<p><b>No objection</b> – No comments.</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Shilton)	<p><b>Support</b> - You need to consider reducing the speed limit through the village of Shilton along Bridge Street to say 20 mph because there are 2 “pinched” sections which are blind until you are upon them that are barely wide enough for vehicles to safely pass each other. The road has become a rat run.</p> <p>Vehicles frequently enter/ leave the village from/ to Hen n Chick Lane direction at speeds clearly well in excess of 30 mph so it seems likely that in practice the proposed new speed limits will have little if any practical effect unless speed checks are also implemented. It used to be safe for pedestrians to use Hen n Chick Lane - Not anymore!!!</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> – No comments.</p>