

Divisions affected: *Eynsham*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 13 OCTOBER 2022

CASSINGTON – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the 20mph speed limit at Cassington.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a 20mph speed limit at Cassington with the existing 30mph speed limits being replaced in their entirety. The proposal is shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by the County Councils 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 facilitate walking and cycling within the village and the safe movement of traffic.

Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 04 August and 02 September 2022. A notice was published in the Oxford Times 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, West Oxfordshire District Council, the local District Cllrs, Cassington parish council, and the local County Councillor representing the Eynsham division.

7. 17 responses were received via the online consultation survey during the course of the formal consultation, and these are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Object	Concerns	Support	No opinion/objection	Total
Cassington 20mph	1	1	15 (88%)	0	17

8. 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	5 (29%)
Yes - cycle more	3 (18%)
Yes – scoot more	1 (6%)
No	7 (41%)
Other	1 (6%)

9. Additionally, two emails were received, with Thames Valley Police (TVP) raising concerns, and Oxford Bus Company confirming they had no comments in relation to the specific proposals.
10. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors

Officer response to objections/concerns

11. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection to the proposals but confirmed their stance that primarily 20 mph speed limits and zones should be self-enforcing. They welcomed the engineering measures that are included and suggested further measures should not be dismissed.
12. The objections received stated that the proposed changes were unnecessary – unnecessary and that they were a waste of money.
13. The county council is changing its approach and acceptance of 20mph restrictions, which will enable a much greater coverage across Oxfordshire.
14. The proposal is aimed to make streets safer, encourage residents to walk or cycle & reduce noise and pollution. The consultation proposal put forward a

scheme that encompasses the whole village but this extent may be reduced prior to implementation in accordance with your comments and in discussion with the Parish Council. Signing and other measures will as far as possible be sympathetically applied bearing in mind the aesthetic of the village.

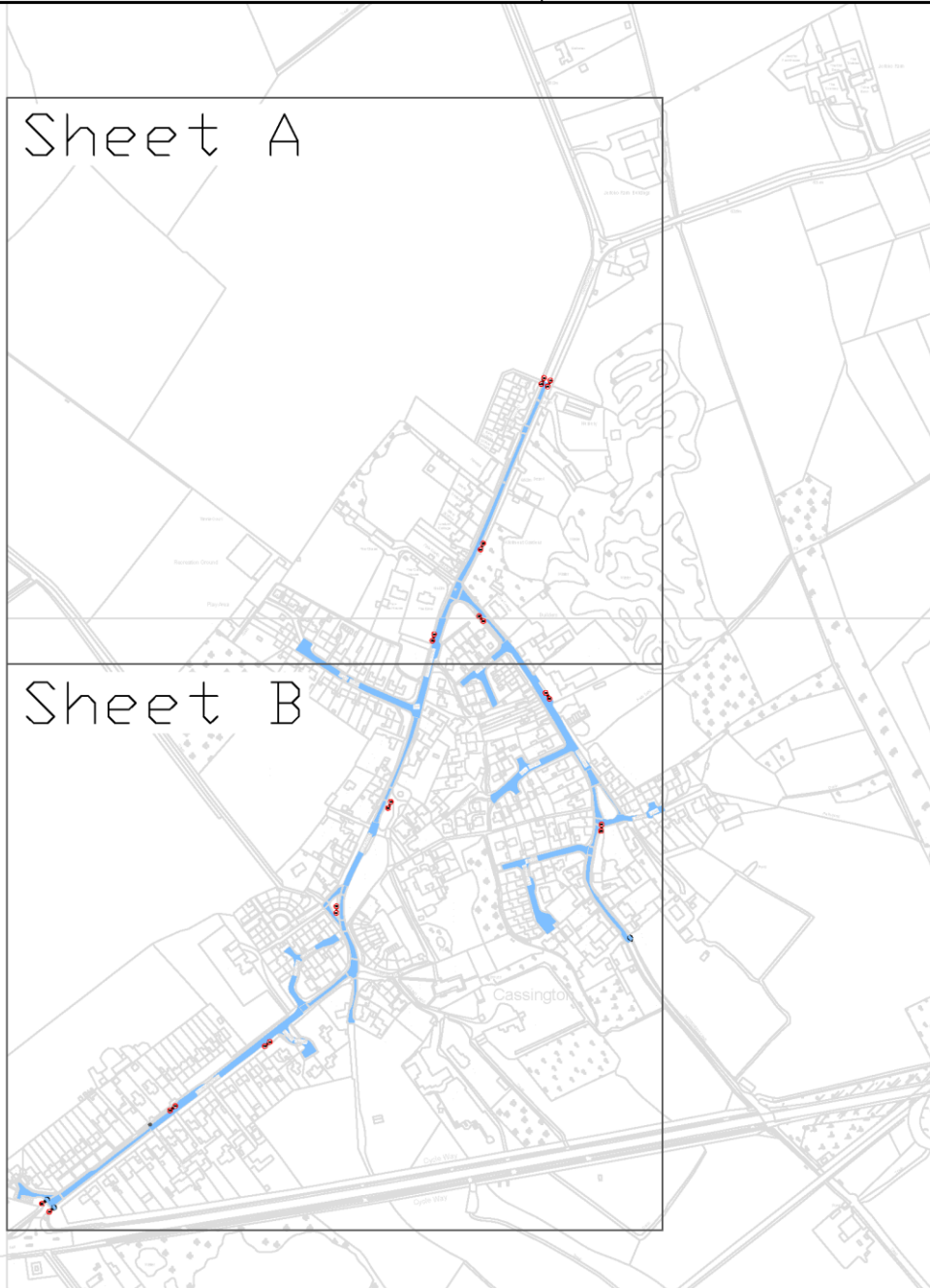
15. The Parish Council and local elected member are both in support of the proposal.


Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes	Annex 1: Consultation Plan Annex 2: Consultation responses
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Contact Officers:	Tim Shickle 07920 591545 Geoff Barrell
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October 2022



Drawing No.		Revision			
Notes:					
		Proposed new 20mph			
<small>© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10023343 2017</small>					
Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; font-size: x-small; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">Bill Cotton Director of Communities & Operations</div> <div>Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0845 310 1111</div> </div>					
Project title					
Cassington 20mph Limit					
Drawing title					
General Layout					
Drawing Status					
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by		
	ER				
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved		
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref					
Drawing No.		Revision			

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) Oxford Bus Company	No comments
(3) County Cllr, Eynsham division)	Support – I am wholly supportive.
(4) County Cllr, Witney North & East division)	<p>Support - This will make a good contribution to making the village a safer place, and also offer new opportunities for residents to make use of the public areas for village activities it seems to me. Good luck.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
(5) Member of public, (Eynsham, Clover Place)	<p>Concerns - I believe the policy of introducing blanket 20MPH speed limits is fundamentally flawed, potentially dangerous, and a waste of money.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(6) Member of public, (Witney, Colwell Drive)	<p>Object - unnecessary</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(7) Member of public, (Cassington, Hollow Furlong)</p>	<p>Support - I have observed unsafe driving speeds on the roads in Cassington, walking my children across the road daily to the village school provides me with major concerns, especially given no toucan crossing.</p> <p>The footpaths in the village are also very narrow as well as narrow roadways with turns.</p> <p>20mph is an approach speed for the village.</p> <p>I have observed vehicles driving too fast around the turn resulting in them spinning off into footpaths and verges.</p> <p>I ask that you please make this change to protect our the people who live in and visit the village.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(8) Member of public, (Cassington, Elms Road)</p>	<p>Support - People consistently break the current speed limit of 30mph. With no immediate plans (as I'm aware of) to put in a speed camera etc then the best option for making the main road safer is to have a much lower speed limit. This will hopefully mean that those driving safely and legally will stick to the 20mph and those speeding will perhaps at least be at 30 or under. We currently have cars doing 40-60mph through our village. It is extremely dangerous at times to cross and the school sits on this main road, which goes right through middle of village.</p> <p>Travel change: Other</p> <p>We, as well as other villagers, already walk everywhere within the village. Other than the fear of this very fast road, walking is the perfect mode of transport around Cassington. It is incredibly unfair that commuters from elsewhere make our own village unsafe by speeding through.</p>
<p>(9) Member of public, (Cassington, Elms Road)</p>	<p>Support - I walk my child to school on this busy road each day. People go too fast especially as the road narrows in the centre of the village. We can't ride bikes to school as this road is too dangerous. Cars are parked on the road and so crossing is very scary most of the time but at school drop off, and pick up it's also very difficult to see the whole road clearly. Large vehicles use this road , cars and bikes, I worry a child will get hit, we have had some very near misses.</p>

	Travel change: Yes - cycle more
(10) Member of public, (Cassington, Lynton Lane)	Support - People drive very fast through the village and I have two children who would like to walk to the park and cross the road without worrying they might get run over. Also turning right from Bell lane is quite scary when people are driving so fast. Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more
(11) Member of public, (Cassington, Yarnton Road)	Support - Cars drive too fast through Cassington when I am walking my kids to school. Also our cat got run over by a car speeding Travel change: Yes – scoot more
(12) Member of public, (Cassington, Elms Road)	Support - I help with the speed-watch group. Last week, within 1 hour we had 13 people going above 35 mph, including THREE cars that were doing 50mph! This was down Eynsham road which has houses on both sides! Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more
(13) Member of public, (Cassington, The Green)	Support - Cars drive far too fast through Cassington, especially near the school. Which is dangerous at school drop off and pick up. Travel change: No
(14) Member of public, (Cassington, Hollow Furlong)	Support - PEOPLE SPEED THROUGH THE VILLAGE AT RUSH HOUR WHEN CHILDREN ARE CROSSING THE ROAD TO GET TO SCHOOL. THERE ISNT A ZEBRA CROSSING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL AND AN ACCIDENT WILL HAPPEN. Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more

(15) Member of public, (Cassington, Yarnton Road)	<p>Support - Cassington has become a rat run for a high volume of traffic many of which speed through the village. A 20mph zone would go some way to helping to reduce the impact on residents. Other traffic calming solutions such as a camera would also help.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(16) Member of public, (Cassington, Yarnton Road)	<p>Support - We have young children and pets who are endangered by the speed of traffic through the village.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(17) Member of public, (Cassington, Yarnton Road)	<p>Support - The village now has far more traffic than it was ever designed to, and it poses a significant risk to children in particular with the frequency and speed of cars/lorries that come through. The road is not meant to take such a volume and a reduction in the speed limit will at the very least mitigate some of the risk to life.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(18) Member of public, (Cassington, The Green)	<p>Support - I live off a private road which exists straight onto the main road. Visibility is poor and a reduction in speed will make this process safer</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(19) Member of public, (Cassington, Orchard close)	<p>Support - I think a reduction in speed limit would benefit everyone in Cassington</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>

(20) Member of public,
(Cassington, Hollow
Furlong)

Support - People regularly speed through the village after leaving the 60mph A40, making it dangerous for residents, particularly on bends in the road and outside the school.

Travel change: **No**