

Divisions affected: *Berinsfield and Garsington*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 13 Oct 2022

GARSINGTON: WHEATLEY ROAD - PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING AND NORTHERN TRAFFIC CALMING BUILD OUT

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve:
 - a) The proposed zebra crossing on Wheatley Road,
 - b) The proposed Northern traffic calming build-out on Wheatley Road.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a consultation on a proposed zebra crossing together with Northern and Southern traffic calming buildouts on Wheatley Road in Garsington as shown in Annex 1 and Annex 2. Due to a number of key concerns raised within the consultation process, the Southern traffic calming buildouts have been removed from this approvals process. The remaining proposals seek to help improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Garsington C of E Primary School, and to help improve road safety by reducing the speed of traffic.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for the proposal, including consultation, if approved has been received from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds bid from South and Vale District Council

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 the safe movement of traffic.

Consultation

6. Consultation on the proposed zebra crossing was carried out between 12 May and 10 June 2022, with a separate consultation on the proposed traffic calming build outs being carried out between 24 June and 15 July 2022. Emails were sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Garsington Parish Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, and the local County Councillor. Letters were also sent to approximately 69 adjacent properties with regards to the proposed zebra crossing, and an additional 20 properties adjacent to the proposed traffic calming features. Street notices were also placed on site in the immediate vicinity.
7. 24 responses were received during the formal consultation* (see point no.9 below), and these are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Object	Concerns	Support	No opinion/ objection	Total
Zebra crossing		1	3	1	5
Traffic calming	5	3	11		19

8. The responses are shown at **Annex 4**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.
9. Several further responses were received after 07th July from nearby residents concerned that the proposed Southern buildout would adversely affect them. No immediate feasible solution could be identified, and it was decided to remove this proposal from this process/consultation. Discussions are ongoing with the local member, residents and parish council and should an agreed solution be identified it will be reported to a future CMD.

Officer response to objections/concerns

10. Thames Valley Police submitted no objection to the zebra crossing providing that the current speeds support such a crossing at this location, and that the proposed design meets latest design standards. They did however raise concerns regarding the initial southern Wheatley Road proposals, citing that the priority would do nothing to slow traffic approaching the crossing, potentially causing traffic to queue within the controlled area and restrict visibility of pedestrians waiting to cross.
11. Objections and expressions of concern cited pollution and congestion (6); waste of money (5); visual pollution from additional signs (3); real problem is poor parking by parents (2); and compromised safety (1).

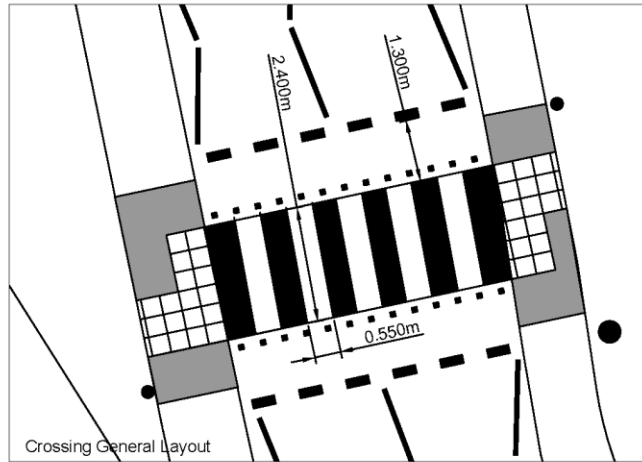
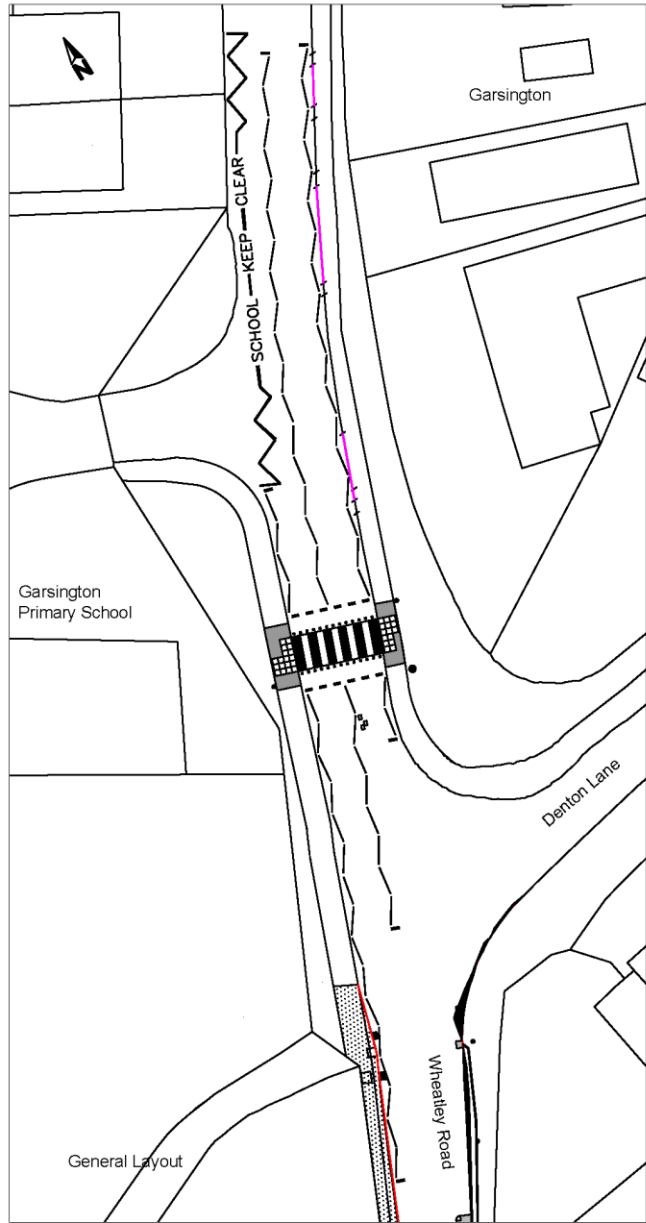
12. The Northern buildout received fewer concerns than the Southern one and officers have sought to allay matters that were raised by site visits and liaison with local residents & the parish council.


Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

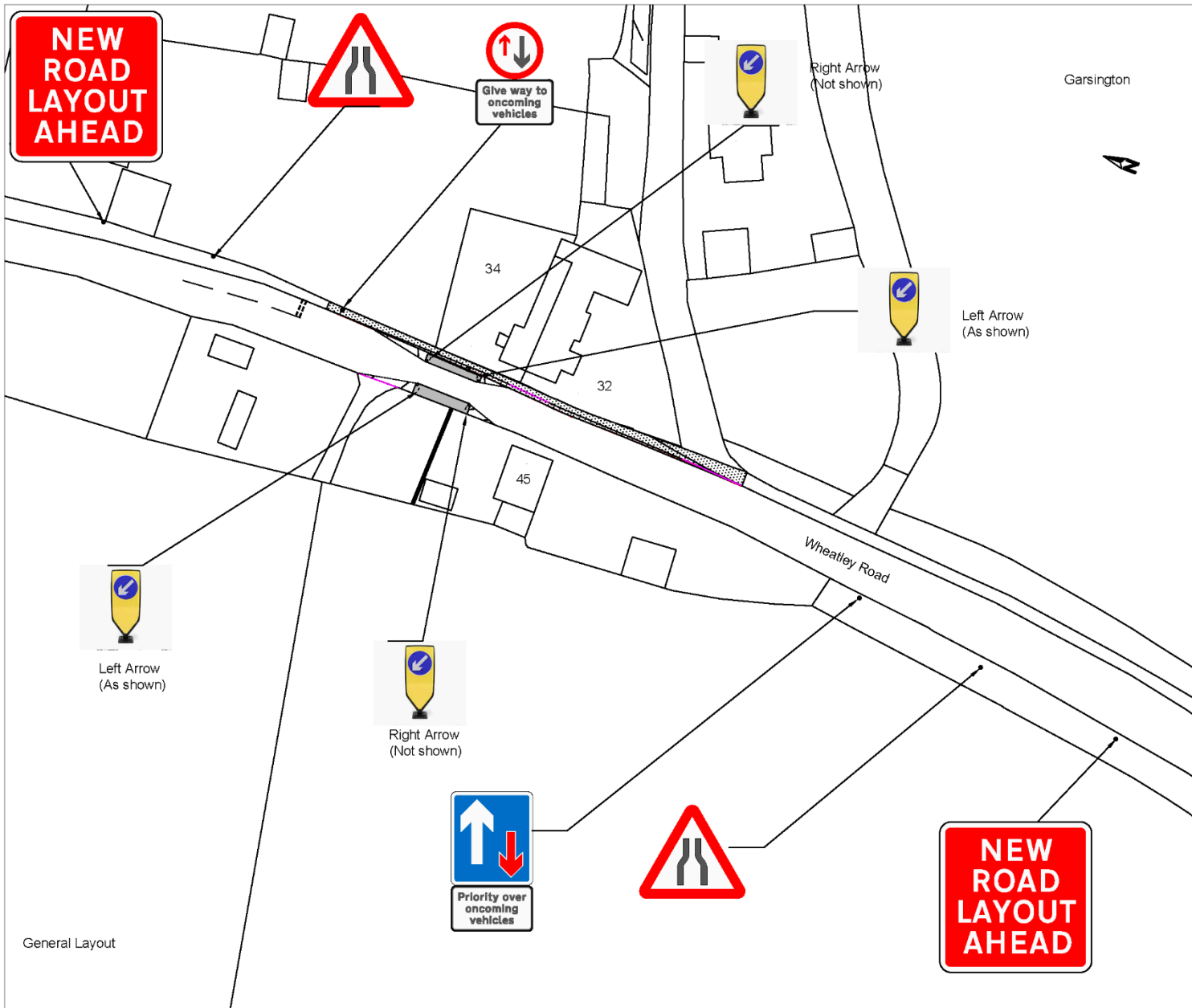
Annexes Annex 1-2: Consultation Plans
 Annex 3: Consultation responses

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October 2022



Drawing No.		Revision			
SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION					
<small>IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS</small>					
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
 <small>Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1BD Tel: 0845 310 1111</small>					
Project title Garsington Wheatley Road Improvements					
Drawing title Proposed Zebra Crossing General Layout					
Drawing Status Consultation					
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by		
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	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved		
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref					
Drawing No.					Revision



Drawing No.		Revision			
<p>SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION</p> <p>IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>MAINTENANCE/CLEANING</p> <p>DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION</p> <p>© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10023343 2017</p>					
Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
<p>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Committee Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 01865 310 1111</p>		<p>Project title</p> <p>Garsington Wheatley Road</p>			
<p>Drawing title</p> <p>Proposed Pinch Point No. 1</p> <p>General Layout</p>		<p>Drawing Status</p> <p>Information</p>			
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	Date drawn		Date checked	Date approved	
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Drawing No.		Revision			

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
<i>A. Zebra Crossing</i>	
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection – Providing that speed data has been obtained and that current speeds support such a crossing at this location. And this design meets latest design standards .
(2) Local County Cllr, (Berinsfield & Garsington division)	Support – I am 100% supportive of this project and think it is essential for pedestrian and child safety.
(3) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley Road)	Concerns – I am in favour of the crossing. However, we already have our driveway blocked off from time to time by parents dropping pupils off at the school. This will get worse for us because of the extension of the yellow zigzags. It is a narrow road with unavoidable household parking on the school side of the road. Is it possible to restrict parking on the other side of the road , up to the North Manor junction during drop off times please?
(4) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley Road)	Support – To ensure children can travel to school safely and prevent an accident waiting to happen.
(5) Member of public, (Garsington, Denton Lane)	<p>Support – I am supporting the proposed Zebra Crossing as in my opinion it will be more safe for pedestrian. My building is very near to the C and I can see from my kitchen window C of E Primary School and in the certain time when road is busy that is very difficult to cross the road, especially young mothers with babies who comes to pick up their older child from school. I am sure that will improve safety for other pedestrians.</p> <p>My only concern is about pollution that will increase and probably affect the micro area. It will be nice if we get information about that research.</p> <p>Finally, I think that is any action to improve safety in our community deserve to be support despite some disadvantage.</p>

<i>B. Traffic Calming</i>	
(6) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>Concerns – I would further comment on the Wheatley Road south proposals .</p> <p>The priority does nothing to slow traffic approaching the crossing . It might cause queuing within the controlled area and restrict visibility of pedestrians waiting to cross. The priority Give way lines appear within the controlled area which I believe is not permissible. The School Keep Clear should be shortened and replaced with pedestrian crossing markings ,making parking illegal and enforceable.</p>
(7) Member of public, (Denton, Brookside)	<p>Object - As a resident of Denton, I regularly go through the junction of Denton Lane and Wheatley Road. I feel that both the South pinch point and proposed Zebra crossing are too close to the junction of Denton Lane. I feel this will make turning out of Denton Lane in either direction more hazardous for drivers and pedestrians alike. When turning left out of Denton Lane you will immediately be at the southern pinch point and as oncoming traffic has priority there will not be enough distance to check for oncoming traffic to see if it is clear to proceed. If turning right out of Fenton Lane a driver would immediately be at the Zebra Crossing meaning that pedestrians waiting to cross will have to check for cars turning out of Denton Lane as well as each way along the Wheatley road. The road doesn't offer great visibility to drivers as it is due to hills, corners and parked cars. In the other local places where these pinch points are located (Wheatley and Horspath) there is much more visibility of the road ahead for drivers to assess if the road ahead is clear and if it is safe to pass. I would like to see the southern pinch point moved away from Denton Lane and the Zebra Crossing changed to a Pelican crossing so that it is clearer for drivers and safer for pedestrians to cross.</p>
(8) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley Road)	<p>Object - With regard to the proposal for Wheatley road, Garsington Pinch Point No 1, then, as a resident of Wheatley road, I am very concerned with the adverse impact this would have on our immediate surroundings and the way that traffic flows along the road.</p> <p>The scheme will increase the visual pollution significantly, with the erection of 3 new traffic signs on the Wheatley</p>

road, in addition to the existing one, and the posts themselves will cut down the effective width of what is already a very narrow pavement. (20 signs and bollards in the overall scheme – really?!) The scheme will increase traffic queueing back along the Wheatley road, to the north of PP1, increasing both noise and vehicle pollution, and will also result in the more frequent blocking of peoples' driveways. The deliberate narrowing and obstruction of the road further by the proposal, will make it more difficult for the agricultural vehicles that need to pass through on a regular basis, together with the school coaches, (and Emergency vehicles!!). It will also restrict access to the drive of No 34! There is already a natural narrowing of the road in this area, and vehicles, in the main, do stop and give way, so there is never a massive build-up of traffic in either direction. However, by giving permanent priority to vehicles coming out of the village centre, then this will lead to increased queueing back along the Wheatley road, and the Wheatley road being used as a 'buffer zone' for the centre of the village.

I have lived in Garsington for the whole of my life, it is a lovely village, and I, for one, do not want to have multiple traffic signs, white lines, traffic bollards, etc, defacing our streets and impacting on the natural beauty of the village around us.

This scheme will not reduce or solve the fundamental issue of the amount of traffic that flows through the village, and will not reduce the excess speed of that traffic. People leaving the M40 at Wheatley use Garsington and Horspath as 'rat runs' to travel in to Cowley and the surrounding district, and this can be seen in the amount, type and origin of the many vans, heavy lorries, etc, that drive through the village each day.

Rather than this proposed heavy-handed scheme, I would like the village to be able to adopt a 20mph speed limit, as indicated in the recent South Oxon newsletter, to have a more visible vehicle weight limit assigned to the village roads, and for the council to assist in providing the means to enforce both of these measures, ie Speed/ANPR cameras and local traffic enforcement. I am more than happy to contribute to a village funding scheme, in order to enable these cameras to be deployed as an alternative measure to the passive 'pinch points'.

Finally, the issue of cars parking around the school needs to be addressed. We WALK to the school every Friday, to pick up our Grandson, and by far the most dangerous part of the journey is negotiating the cars parked completely on the pavement, and so having to walk in the road, whilst other cars are pulling out and trying to drive through the slalom course created by the haphazard and irresponsible parking. This area is by far the most dangerous part of the village overall and, again, this is not going to be addressed by the installation of the pinch point at the junction of Denton Lane. Also, I'm not sure the pedestrian crossing itself will make a meaningful difference if the parking is allowed to continue.

<p>(9) Member of public, (Garsington, Oxford Road)</p>	<p>Object - Garsington does not need calmer traffic we need slower traffic near the school. If the need is to slow traffic, why don't you reduce the speed limit from 30 to 20 near the school instead of causing congestion in one direction with lane narrowing.</p> <p>Or enforce the 30 speed limit with a police presence or a speed camera. This design will potentially slow traffic down in only one direction because of the congestion. Cars driving North don't have to slow and will not unless the speed limit is enforced.</p> <p>The trouble with these traffic calming measures is they cause more stop start traffic and queues. At busy times (school drop-off) this will back queuing traffic up to the zebra crossing causing a dangerous visibility problem for children crossing and motorists stopping. This causes increased pollution from stationary traffic outside a school. More congestion and pollution at every other time of the day not just the twice a day school drop times. What evidence supports your view this type of measure stops speeding motorists?</p>
<p>(10) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley Road)</p>	<p>Object - The road is already narrow at both these points and I do not feel that making them narrower will achieve any good results. The North side particularly provides a natural slowing of the traffic as it is almost impossible to pass a car there. The proposals will create more traffic queues outside our property as it will give priority to traffic from the south, we already have enough queuing traffic as it stands at the moment and accessing our driveway will become even more difficult. The proposals will also add lots of unsightly signs in an otherwise pleasant road and in effect provide no benefit to road users or residents. The real problem here is the very bad parking by parents collecting children from school. They park on both sides of the road without thought to other road users. A crossing is a good idea but educating parents to park responsibly would be a much better idea.</p>
<p>(11) Member of public, (Oxford, Rymers Lane)</p>	<p>Object - This is un-necessary. The public notice doesn't even provide an explanation of the reason for disrupting the flow of traffic in this way, never mind actually make a case for it.</p>
<p>(12) Member of public, (Garsington, The Hill)</p>	<p>Concerns – I am very concerned about the traffic calming proposed in Garsington. The two kerb narrowing approx 168 metres is fine but the one 20 metres south is going to cause great problems for the people living at that part of the hill. I also think all the farm machinery we have going though would have a problem getting through the narrower road especially at harvest time.</p>

<p>(13) Member of public, (Garsington, Elm Drive)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am objecting as the trouble with these traffic calming measures is they cause more stop start traffic and queues. This causes increased pollution with stationary traffic. More congestion at every other time of the day not just drop times. It's fine as it is - it works. There are other problems like people parking on hills and not driveways that cause the traffic to keep stopping and not flowing through. I haven't witnessed speeding just terrible parent drivers dropping kids at the school who show no respect for the road they cause more problems than just letting the traffic flow!</p> <p>It's a waste of money and Oxford spend too much money on traffic calming ltn's that cause more problems. Try repairing the state of the road surfaces and pathways and put more pathways in and there wouldn't be an issue.</p>
<p>(14) Member of public, (Denton, Denton lane)</p>	<p>Support - The place where the zebra crossing is proposed has always been dangerous. Cars fly up and down with no regard for people, children, animals or parked cars. There have been a number of occasions I have been verbally abused by signalling people to slow down. Having a school there is not a deterrent. I welcome the road narrowing as the pavements cannot support safe use as they are extremely narrow anyway. Slowing the traffic can only be a good thing, as it is used as a through route from Wheatley. Just get a move on before there is a serious accident.</p>
<p>(15) Rather not say, (Garsington, Combewell)</p>	<p>Support - The village has been complaining about the traffic speed and no footpath for years, but nobody has got this far with plans. I send my children to the school but there is no pathway or crossing near the school to make it safe for them. There is also no path for them to get to the recreation ground even when they cross the road.</p>
<p>(16) Member of public, (Garsington, Combewell)</p>	<p>Support - The road outside the school is extremely dangerous for pedestrians and a new road safety scheme is required for the safety of everyone in the village.</p>
<p>(17) Member of public, (Garsington, The Hill)</p>	<p>Support - Anything that slows traffic through the village would be welcome, people speed and it's a hazard to pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists and villagers who live close to the roads.</p>
<p>(18) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley Road)</p>	<p>Support - Traffic needs to slow down in this area, improved safety for drivers, residents, local home owners, pedestrians etc. Fully support this plan.</p>

<p>(19) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley Road)</p>	<p>Support - Great for safety, fully support!</p>
<p>(20) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley Road)</p>	<p>Support - For safety of our roads, thank you.</p>
<p>(21) Member of public, (Garsington, Willow Close)</p>	<p>Support - The current footpath is too narrow for a pushchair and drivers do not always pass with care</p>
<p>(22) Member of public, (Garsington, Wheatley road)</p>	<p>Support - To make the roads and path in the village safer for all residents, but especially for the school children travelling to and from school</p>
<p>(23) Member of public, (Oxford, Wheatley Road)</p>	<p>Support - I support the proposal as it will slow traffic down for the safety of the schoolchildren and parents dropping them off. Still think it needs a zebra crossing though right outside the school.</p>
<p>(24) Member of public, (Oxford, Shepherd's Hill)</p>	<p>Support - There is a need for a safe crossing for pupils and parents to safely get to Garsington primary school. I strongly support this application.</p>