

Divisions affected: *Benson & Cholsey*

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 20 JULY 2023**

### **CROWMARSH: 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 Crowmarsh and North Stoke as advertised.

#### **Executive summary**

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Crowmarsh and North Stoke as shown in **Annexes 1 & 2**.

#### **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 Crowmarsh and North Stoke by making them safer and more attractive.

#### **Formal consultation**

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 01 June and 23 June 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, South Oxfordshire District

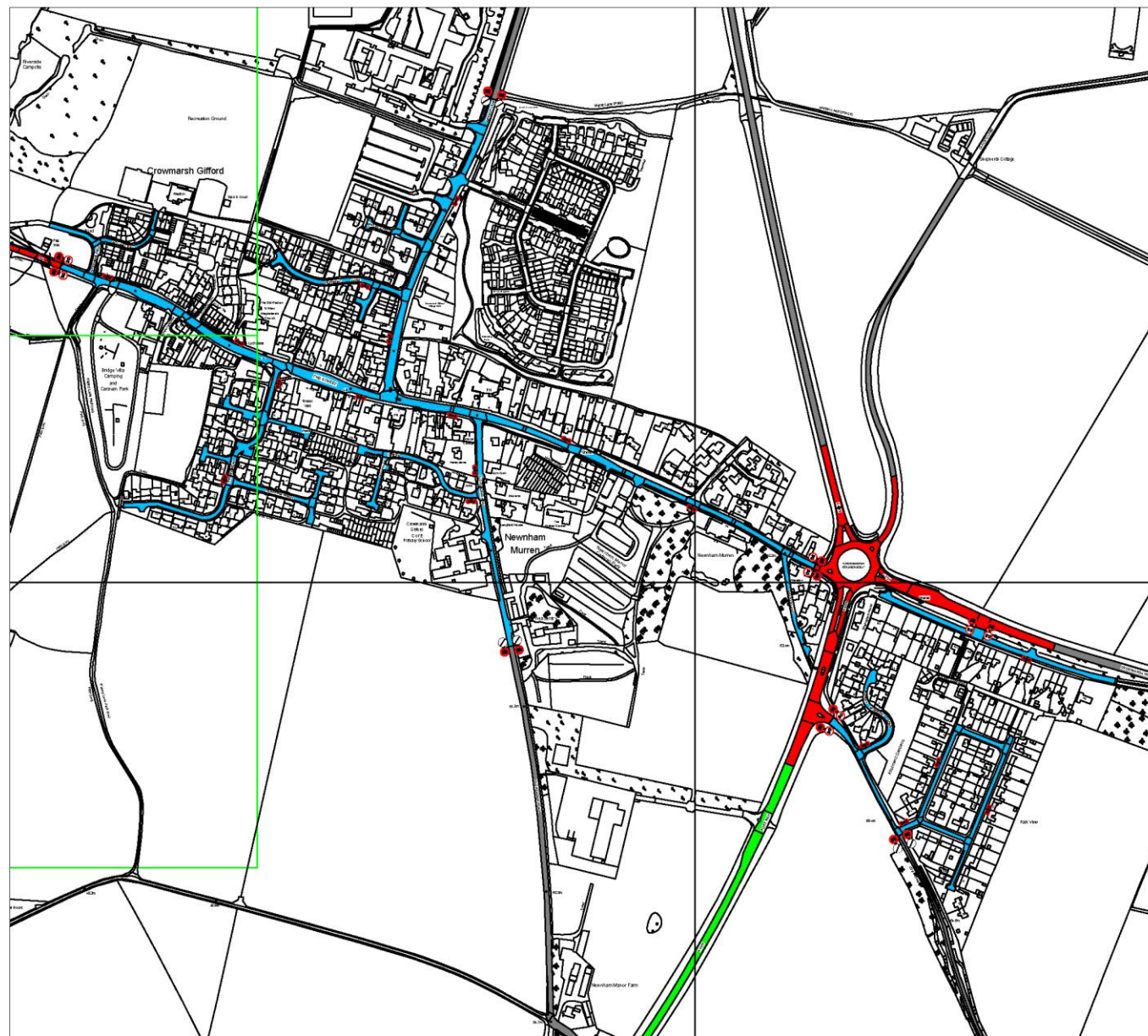


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Crowmarsh Gifford 20mph		Revision 1.0															
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<p><b>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>  <small>Owen Jenkins          Director for          Infrastructure Delivery          Communities          Oxfordshire County Council          County Hall          100, High Street          Oxford          OX1 1ND          Tel: 0845 310 1111</small></p>																	
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North Stoke Overview					
<b>Legend</b>					
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 Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0845 310 1111					
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RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – 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 (<a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>)) 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"> <li>• history of collisions</li> <li>• road geometry and engineering</li> <li>• road function</li> <li>• composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users)</li> <li>• existing traffic speeds</li> <li>• road environment</li> </ul>

	<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>
<p>(2) Member of public, (Chinnor, Chinnor Hill)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Object</b> I visit my family regularly in Crowmarsh. I don't think 20mph is necessary. It only makes travel time increase but nothing else.</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Object</b> I visit my family regularly in Crowmarsh. I don't think 20mph is necessary. It only makes travel time increase but nothing else.</p>
<p>(3) Member of public, (Cholsey, West End)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Object</b> 20mph speed limit is completely unreasonable and unnecessary. The vast majority of motorist are sensible and drive at a reasonable speed for the prevailing circumstances. These measures are politically driven and are a major annoyance to drivers, increasing their frustrations with our driving conditions and our over-zealous local politicians.</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Object</b> Unnecessary and taking away our freedom of choice</p>
<p>(4) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, Benson Lane)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Object</b> I object Oxfordshire blanket 20mph. It stated it was meant to be a research for 3-5 years. Oxfordshire is not like London where there is constant flow of traffic and packed with pedestrians. It's a countryside filled with lovely people and easy to drive.</p>

	<p>Why local councils are working together to make Oxfordshire less joyful to live and drive in?</p> <p>It is frustrating and confusing to simply put 20mph in the area with an excuses of minimising deaths and injuries. Vision Zero is a failure from start just like the Chinese Zero Covid policy. It won't work scientifically. No matter how much you reduce the limit, there is always an accident. Most of the time might not even be the driver's fault. This policy should not be promoted and it's taking a wrong direction already.</p> <p>Government and councils should focus on cyclist safety such as building a separate cycling lanes to avoid crashes with vehicles; for pedestrians should be focusing on widening footpaths and footpath access.</p> <p>30mph was a safe road speed until someone had to make use of their precious time to point out unnecessary flaws from the political parties to justify their pay.</p> <p><b>North Stoke - Object</b></p> <p>I object Oxfordshire blanket 20mph. It stated it was meant to be a research for 3-5 years. Oxfordshire is not like London where there is constant flow of traffic and packed with pedestrians. It's a countryside filled with lovely people and easy to drive.</p> <p>Why local councils are working together to make Oxfordshire less joyful to live and drive in?</p> <p>It is frustrating and confusing to simply put 20mph in the area with an excuses of minimising deaths and injuries. Vision Zero is a failure from start just like the Chinese Zero Covid policy. It won't work scientifically. No matter how much you reduce the limit, there is always an accident. Most of the time might not even be the driver's fault. This policy should not be promoted and it's taking a wrong direction already.</p> <p>Government and councils should focus on cyclist safety such as building a separate cycling lanes to avoid crashes with vehicles; for pedestrians should be focusing on widening footpaths and footpath access.</p> <p>30mph was a safe road speed until someone had to make use of their precious time to point out unnecessary flaws from the political parties to justify their pay.</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, McCulloch Meadows)</p>	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford - Object</b></p> <p>I do not support the whole Oxfordshire blanket 20 mph scheme. I think it is only adding inconvenience more than anything else. I have read the reasonings behind the scheme which are only promoting pedestrians, less accidents and better for environment.</p>

	<p>As a regular road user, I travel back and forth to from Crowmarsh to Lewknor and Chinnor for work and family regularly. I already think Benson 20mph is causing me more time to think about 20mph than having to driving safely within 30mph. I think the scheme is not efficient and thoughtful enough for regular road users. First, adding lengthy travel time from town to town. Second, it is more dangerous to constantly watching the speed to go over 20mph as 20mph is merely a normal driving speed in a wide enough road even in "build up areas" (I think the term build up areas are too wide to cover all roads. Like Crowmarsh, it is true we have houses on both side of the road but they are spaced out and not many pedestrians). Third, the requirement for applying 20mph is loose in all towns.</p> <p>It is more like a scheme to largely increase local councils income for lots of potential speeding fines. When there are cars, there are accidents involved. It is obvious if you lower the speed down, accidents rate would go lower. For example, researchers can compare the accidents rate between 10mph and 20mph. Figures do not always mean the whole picture.</p> <p>If the council and local government would like to promote safe streets, other measurements should be brought in such as introducing separate cycling lanes and widening pedestrian roads. But not to blame vehicle users for driving at 30mph which has always been reasonable.</p> <p>So far for areas that have already implemented 20mph do not have all the right enforcements in place and road signs are very confusing. Such as Watlington, straight after leaving 20mph, there is a short stretch of 30mph (around 100 yards) then up to 50mph. If 20mph is adamant, there should be a more detailed change, such as 20 40 60 mph zone, instead of random areas 20 30 50. For a road user, it is more distracting at looking at speed signs and will cause more frustrated drivers which will more likely to cause accidents after leaving the 20mph areas.</p> <p>North Stoke – <b>Object</b> Same reason as Crowmarsh</p>
(6) Member of public, (Witney, Oxford Hill)	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Object</b> Unnecessary for the community and a waste of money. Unopposed to schools having a 20 zone but blanketed everywhere is completely unnecessary, creates further pollution going slower, has no benefit to the community and will be an eyesore having 20 signs every 10 yards like Zs in a Russian street. Council is not prepared to listen to other views of this and call on them to drop this policy.</p>



	<p>No road safety concerns in the Village and undoubtedly Parish Council is raising this as a likely false flag rather than being a road safety concern. This is only serving as a campaign to attack motorists regardless of their journey reason.</p> <p><b>North Stoke - Object</b>  Unnecessary for the community and a waste of money. Unopposed to schools having a 20 zone but blanketed everywhere is completely unnecessary, creates further pollution going slower, has no benefit to the community and will be an eyesore having 20 signs every 10 yards like Zs in a Russian street. Council is not prepared to listen to other views of this and call on them to drop this policy.</p> <p>No road safety concerns in the Village and undoubtedly Parish Council is raising this as a likely false flag rather than being a road safety concern. This is only serving as a campaign to attack motorists regardless of their journey reason.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident,  (Crowmarsh Gifford,  Wallingford Reach)</p>	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford - Object</b>  I feel that if people stick to 30 then this is adequate - I feel the huge cost involved could be used for more important things</p> <p><b>North Stoke - No opinion</b>  I don't live here</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident,  (Crowmarsh Gifford,  Bellamy Way)</p>	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford – Concerns</b>  Whilst I agree a 20mph limit on side roads is a good idea I have not seen it adhered to in any other through route (like Nettlebed) and 30mph is fine. Unless all over SODC you are going to have speed cameras and actually use them it is useless. No delivery driver will stay at 30mph let alone 20mph.  The 10mph limit on Stephens Field to the car park is only showing one way and nobody follows it.</p> <p><b>North Stoke - Concerns</b>  If it is on the Goring Road it is not necessary. If it is in the actual village I agree.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident,  (Crowmarsh Gifford, Park  View)</p>	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford - Concerns</b>  I think 20 is indeed plenty on residential streets lined by parked cars &amp; other obstacles, but on the main drags through a town/village (Such as 'The Street') feels awkwardly slow.</p> <p>As a motorist, having just recently driven a trip from Crowmarsh to Wendover along the B4009 where every town</p>

	<p>already has the new 20mph limits, it's a frustrating misery and i felt it increased the work-rate (gear changes, trying to keep the car below 20 either manually or operating the speed limiter) of the drive considerably. I actually felt tired when i arrived.</p> <p>As a cyclist, I am compelled to try and ride at the limit so that cars don't try to make the long, drawn-out &amp; dangerous overtakes they do if i ride at ~12-15mph.</p> <p>But ultimately, the existing 30mph zones are not policed anyway so i really don't see the point in changing them. I am BY FAR more concerned by the speed controls not enforced on the Portway section of the ringroad. I have to navigate over this everyday (from Cox's Lane) by bike or by car and you have to try and judge if the cars coming at you are doing anything close to the speed limit (CLUE - Usually well in excess of it...)</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Concerns</b> See previous answer for Crowmarsh. Fine for side roads or places with on-street parking, not so for major thoroughfares.</p>
(10) Local Resident, (Mongewell, Carmel Terrace)	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Concerns</b> I have found in 20mph areas I concentrate less on the road as I find I have time to look at everything else alongside the road</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Concerns</b> As for Crowmarsh</p>
(11) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh, Marshfield)	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> I 100% agree with Crowmarsh going 20mph. Please do it!</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Support</b> Yes</p>
(12) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh, Crowmarsh Hill)	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> Safety</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Support</b></p>

	Safety
(13) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, Benson Lane)	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford - Support</b>  People drive too fast through the village, and everywhere. How is it to be enforced?  Be son Lane is used as a cut through to nail road. I support 20mph and also chicane type layout like in Benson  The roads are too dangerous for kids to walk and people to cycle.  I drive but support plans. Sooner the better</p> <p><b>North Stoke - Support</b>  Same as reasons in Crowmarsh and Benson. Too many fast cars</p>
(14) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, Benson Lane)	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford - Support</b>  Vehicles drive along Benson Lane at excessively high speeds, especially at night time. It is used as an impromptu race track throughout the night and there have been several near misses, including our vehicles being scraped and knocked. Several cats have been killed in the last few months and wildlife. With the new housing development, Benson Lane is now dangerous and busy.</p> <p><b>North Stoke - Support</b>  It will make the area safer.</p>
(15) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, Rush Way)	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford - Support</b>  This is a residential area and drivers should expect the unexpected for example children cyclists pedestrians animals using roadway.</p> <p><b>North Stoke - Support</b>  I support this proposal as I am worried a serious incident will happen</p>
(16) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, The Street)	<p><b>Crowmarsh Gifford - Support</b>  Traffic speeds far too fast all through the village. It is dangerous for the residents especially the many children living in the village and in The Street where the cars go so fast. I think reducing the speed limit would encourage drivers to go slower and make it much safer. Please make our village a 20.</p>

	<p>North Stoke - <b>Support</b> To make it safer. Cars race through North Stoke.</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford , Benson Lane)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> Drivers speed very fast through the village, benson lane is 30-60mph. When going in either direction some drive in excess of 60mph. The new estate that houses families , children and elderly have to try to cross the road to access the pavement. They should have traffic that is able to stop, and the 60 should be reduced as well so they don't come into the residential area at that speed.</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Support</b> Again a small village housing children and elderly and has a 50 either side which people don't bother slowing down for.</p>
<p>(18) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford , McCulloch Meadows)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> Safer</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Support</b> Safer</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford , Robert Sparrow Gardens)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> Vehicles travel too fast</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>Support</b> As previous</p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, The Street)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> To try to control the speeding that currently is a big issue</p> <p>North Stoke - Support Similar problem to other villages</p>
<p>(21) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh, Marshfield)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b></p>

	<p>Because I feel it would be much safer for all pedestrians, especially school children. I personally feel the whole of Benson Lane should be a lower limit as there has been near misses due to speeding cars. Even if it means going down to 30 in the nation speed limit. Being a driver myself with a child going to secondary school, i feel there is no need for it to be 60</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>No opinion</b> I am not a resident and do not go that way</p>
<p>(22) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, McCulloch Meadows)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> I think a 20mph limit is a fantastic idea and can only benefit the local community. Although we are a small village in Crowmarsh, we have a fairly major and busy road passing straight through us into Wallingford. I see a lot of cars and delivery drivers often going way above 30mph on The Street and on Benson Lane too so I think a 20mph limit would be great to protect our community and to also reduce general road noise in the area. I would also like to see the limit enforced in better ways to ensure drivers stick to the limit regardless of what it may be.</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>No opinion</b> I don't tend to visit or pass through North Stoke so I have no opinion as to whether this would be a good idea or not.</p>
<p>(23) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, McCulloch Meadows)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> People currently speed near me on Benson Lane. Reducing the limit to 20 might keep them under 30!</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>No opinion</b> I don't know what the traffic is like in that area.</p>
<p>(24) Local Resident, (Crowmarsh Gifford, Rush Way)</p>	<p>Crowmarsh Gifford - <b>Support</b> We live down Benson lane which people drive much faster than 30 miles per hour. If the limit is 20 maybe people might drive slower than they do currently.</p> <p>North Stoke - <b>No opinion</b> I have no knowledge of the current situation regarding speed we don't live there.</p>