

Divisions affected: *Berinsfield & Garsington*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –
12 OCTOBER 2023**

NEWINGTON: 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 Newington as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Newington as shown in **Annex 1**.

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

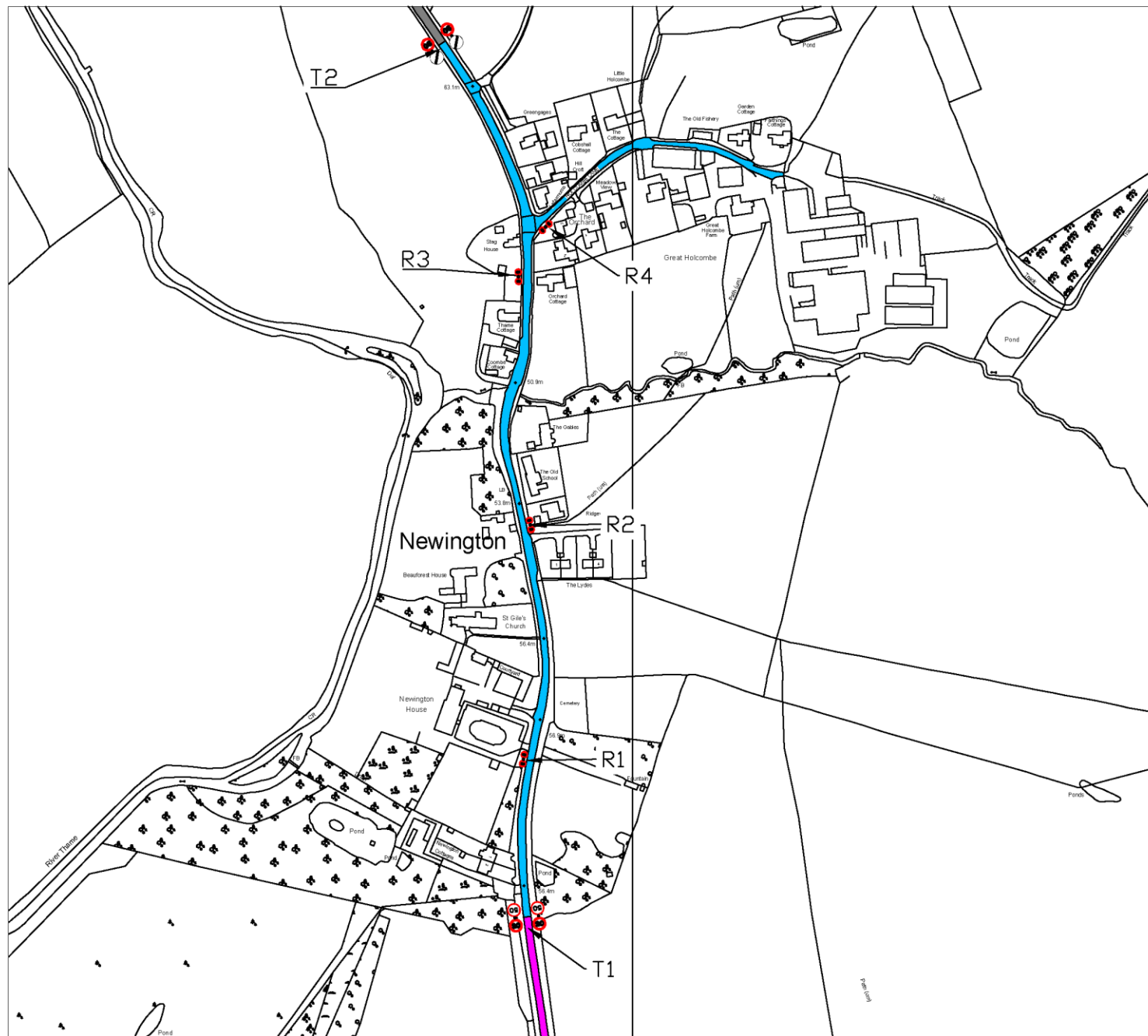
4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Sustainability Implications

5. The proposals would help encourage walking and cycling within Newington by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 31 August and 22 September 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 Council, the local District Cllrs, Newington parish council,



Newington Overview

Legend	
Proposed 20	
Existing 50	
Existing NSL	
Not Public Highway	

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1.0	06.06.23	Proposal 1	C.R		

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Project title: Newington 20mph Scheme

Drawing title:
 Newington 20mph Scheme Overview

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.R	Checked by: G.JB	Approved by: G.JB
	Date drawn: 06.06.23	Date checked: 07.06.23	Date approved: 07.06.23

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No. 1.0	Revision 1.0
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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 .</p> <p>Compliance with new speed 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. 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 (Speed data received would support a lower speed limit) • 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>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) Local Cllr, (Drayton St Leonard, Church Lane)	Support - We see inconsiderate driving in our own lanes in the neighbouring village (Drayton St Leonard), so I fully support Newington's initiative
(3) Local Cllr, (Newington, Holcombe Lane)	Support - Responding to residents request and concerns
(4) Local Resident, (Newington, A329)	<p>Support - As resident beside the A329 in Newington for some 40 years I could say that the proposal is long overdue. It remains an urgent issue that is increasing in severity along with traffic flows. Such only set to rise with new & proposed residential development, both locally & within the area, & of course the beneficial advent of more electric (quieter?) vehicles is only adding to an existing problem similar to that encountered along Holcombe Lane & at its junction with the A329 in the village.</p> <p>A long established, much repaired, "traffic calming" installation at the bottom of Primrose Hill for traffic from the South can only be partly effective - of course many drivers do take heed that care is needed through the village but without doubt, as found by a recent speed survey, the majority do not. In reality the need to wait for any oncoming traffic can result in irritation & when the way is clear, every effort is made to regain an excessive speed as quickly as possible. This is achievable before the blind corner by the Church & before it becomes evident to any after it, either by sound or sight. A minority also take advantage of the approach down the hill to achieve the fastest speed possible, although more obvious occasionally during the regular Sunday parades of motorcycles! I have lost count of the near misses encountered in either circumstance, personally or by family members & our neighbours, attempting to cross the road on foot or pull out on to or off of the road while driving.</p> <p>These experiences are reiterated, often coincidentally, from the other direction where another blind corner exists for road users travelling South, adjacent to the slip road opposite The Gables The new automated speed sign perhaps of</p>

	<p>less deterrent to those more intent on their own interests than the safety of others</p> <p>All that said, a reduction of the existing 30mph limit to 20 can only have a limited effect with similar reasoning, but certainly another step in the right direction. However, what enforcement was forthcoming would result in a considerable increase in penalties for any that continue to ignore it & fall foul of the speed camera - when it is present & even with the current infrequency.</p>
(5) Local Resident, (Newington, A329)	Support - Driveway exits onto a blind bend and hill. Speeding drivers have frequently underestimated the bend after the hill and crashed into garden fences. As a keen cyclist 20mph would be far safer.
(6) Local Resident, (Newington, Holcombe Lane)	Support - The road is very fast, there's a sharp bend and the pathways are narrow.
(7) Local Resident, (Newington, Holcombe Lane)	Support - Child safety
(8) Local Resident, (Newington, Holcombe Lane)	Support - Cars go too fast through our village. Pedestrians need safety esp children
(9) Local Resident, (Newington, Holcombe Lane)	Support - To make the village more accessible especially for young children. Quite often cars and larger vehicles drive along the A329 passing through Newington at dangerous speeds. I would like pedestrians to feel safer walking along that road.
(10) Local Resident, (Newington, Main Road)	Support - Large numbers of vehicles drive through the village at speeds much higher than 30mph and I hope that reducing the limit would at least slow them a bit even if not to 20mph. I live near a bend on this road and to pull out of my driveway we always have to wind down our windows and listen for approaching vehicles but with many more quiet electric cars on the road we need to adapt our speed limits in residential areas to suit current needs.
(11) Local Resident, (Newington, Newington)	Support - Will support any measures to reduce the speed of Traffic through the village. Our son walks through the village daily to catch school bus. The speed of some cars, vans and motorcycles is terrifying.

(12) Local Resident, (Newington, Newington Road)	Support - People drive through at 50mph which is dangerous and noisy
(13) Local Resident, (Newington, Thame Road)	Support - Cars speed through village which only has partial pavement. Live next to the brow of the hill so cars are speeding over the brow and unable to see in advance any obstacles.
(14) Local Resident, (Newington, Thame Road)	Support - I live in the first cottage as you pass the Newington signpost and the road speed limit changes from 50mph to 30mph. Very often motorbikes and cars are passing my house at 50mph although it is 30mph as they can see the signage ahead that changes to 50mph. Having two very small children this is a daily concern and stress for me as it feels like we have to wait for a fatality until something is done about it. I would like you to consider not only amending the speed to 20mph but also moving the 50mph slightly further up the road so that drivers don't put their foot down directly outside my house or consider speed bumps. With lots of small families and pets in the village which occasionally escape it feels like we are just waiting for a day that a tragedy is to happen at present although we try our utmost daily to prevent this. We would be really grateful for your support as I am sure you appreciate the concerns I raise.
(15) Local Resident, (Newington, Thame Road)	Support - I live on the main road through Newington and I strongly support the reduction to 20mph. Traffic speeding through the village is a real and serious issue; and as someone with a small child I would love to see the road made safer through the introduction of a reduced speed limit. Vibration from passing traffic is also an issue which the reduction would reduce, and I would be very grateful for that amongst many other benefits. Our small and rural village is divided by the road and I feel isolated living on the far side of the rest of the village, split in half by a road that has become increasingly congested and fraught with speeding drivers, that a reduced speed limit might help to create more cohesion in the village and help foster a greater sense of community - allowing residents to more safely cross the road. I strongly support the 20mph limit.
(16) Local Resident, (Newington, Thame Road)	Support - Hello, we live at Tamarisk House the last house out of Newington if you are traveling towards Warborough. We fully support the 20MPH proposed limit as the road through Newington is getting very busy and is used as a race track in the evenings and weekends by cars and especially motorbikes. We have a very small and narrow footpath that leads down the hill. we have small children and its quite dangerous to walk down the footpath as cars and especially motorbikes use this road as a race track. outside our property the road speed increases to 50MPH as you go up the hill and has a traffic choke point to try to slow vehicles down as they enter Newington. Both of these are in totally the wrong place. The Choke point just means that cars try to pass quickly if they see a car coming so speed up or have to brake hard as they miss time it. Our front garden wall has been

	<p>knocked down twice this year already, by cars having to break hard and swerving into our property. once with the children in the front garden and the car knocked concrete blocks 10 feet into our garden narrowly missing the children. The traffic pollution both car exhaust and noise are terrible due to cars breaking hard and then revving up to pull away. With large lorries breaking hard out side, the house is literally being shaken to bits. We can feel the house shaking when these large vehicles are forced to break in front of our house. we have several structural cracks now getting wider due to the road vibration and the sheer energy being dispersed as vehicles are forced to break hard. The 50MPH signs that are just past our property are again in the wrong position. All they do is give a green light for all vehicles to put their foot down and speed up the hill causing both exhaust and noise pollution. Both the Choke point and the 50mph sign need moving 100mts up the hill away from Newington as they are in Milton etc so they are not near properties.</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Newington, The Lydes)</p>	<p>Support - As resident beside the A329 in Newington for some 40 years I could say that the proposal is long overdue. It remains an urgent issue that is increasing in severity along with traffic flows. Such only set to rise with new & proposed residential development, both locally & within the area, & of course the beneficial advent of more electric (quieter?) vehicles is only adding to an existing problem similar to that encountered along Holcombe Lane & at its junction with the A329 in the village.</p> <p>A long established, much repaired, "traffic calming" installation at the bottom of Primrose Hill for traffic from the South can only be partly effective - of course many drivers do take heed that care is needed through the village but without doubt, as found by a recent speed survey, the majority do not. In reality the need to wait for any oncoming traffic can result in irritation & when the way is clear, every effort is made to regain an excessive speed as quickly as possible. This is achievable before the blind corner by the Church & before it becomes evident to any after it, either by sound or sight. A minority also take advantage of the approach down the hill to achieve the fastest speed possible, although more obvious occasionally during the regular Sunday parades of motorcycles! I have lost count of the near misses encountered in either circumstance, personally or by family members & our neighbours, attempting to cross the road on foot or pull out on to or off of the road while driving.</p> <p>These experiences are reiterated, often coincidentally, from the other direction where another blind corner exists for road users travelling South, adjacent to the slip road opposite The Gables The new automated speed sign perhaps of less deterrent to those more intent on their own interests than the safety of others.</p> <p>All that said, a reduction of the existing 30mph limit to 20 can only have a limited effect with similar reasoning, but certainly another step in the right direction. However, what enforcement was forthcoming would result in a</p>

	considerable increase in penalties for any that continue to ignore it & fall foul of the speed camera - when it is present & even with the current infrequency.
(18) Local Resident, (Newington, The Lydes)	Support - The speed that cars and motorcycles come through Newington is frightening. What I use to consider a safe road to run and cycle on, is now too dangerous to walk on. There is little footpaths to walk on when you want to get to local bridleways. The twisty nature of the road through Newington attracts motorcyclists all summer long, and many of the deaths on local roads on Monday nights probably came through the village. I've lived in the village for 26 years, and more and more have instances with speeding cars , pulling out on to the road and through the traffic calming.