

Divisions affected: *Faringdon*

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT – 14 DECEMBER 2023**

### **BUCKLAND: PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for Transport Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Buckland as advertised.

#### **Executive summary**

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Buckland 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 Buckland by making them safer and more attractive.

#### **Formal consultation**

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 26 October and 17 November 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, Vale of White Horse District Council, the local District Cllrs, Buckland parish council, and the local County Councillor representing the Faringdon division.

### **Statutory Consultee Responses:**

7. Thames Valley Police was the only statutory consultee who responded, and reiterated views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits which they consider as 'concerns' rather than an objection.

### **Other Responses:**

8. 49 online responses were received showing support from 39 local residents, two groups/organisations (which includes Buckland CE Primary School), and a local councillor. A couple also expressed support via email. A local resident supported in principle but expressed concerns over sign clutter. Six local residents objected claiming the proposals were unnecessary (five mentions), created sign clutter (four), a waste of money (three), and enforce existing / not enforceable / jeopardising the economy / was virtue signalling / longer journey times / no accident justification (one each).
9. 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:

<b>Travel Change</b>	<b>Number</b>
Yes – walk/wheel more	8 (16%)
Yes - cycle more	2 (4%)
No	39 (80%)

10. The consultation responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

### **Officer response to objections/concerns**




11. The main purpose of the scheme is to improve road safety and to encourage greater use of active travel by reducing speeds; this will also reduce collisions. The aim of reducing speed limits is to change driver's mindsets to make speeding socially unacceptable and make more environmentally friendly modes of travel such as walking and cycling more attractive – and also reduce the County's carbon footprint. This forms part of a countywide programme of works that seeks to deliver 'a safer place with a safer pace'.
12. The authority considers objections along the lines of it being unjustified, anti-car, a waste of money, not enforceable or pointless to not warrant amendments to a proposal. As such the authority has not addressed any specific comments made of this nature in this report.

Bill Cotton  
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes                      Annex 1: Consultation plan  
                                     Annex 2: Consultation responses

Contact Officers:              Geoff Barrell (Team Leader – Traffic and Road Safety)

December 2023

Legend	
Proposed 20	
Existing NSL	
Not Public Highway	



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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1.0	20.07.23	Proposal 1	C.R		

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Project title: Buckland 20mph Scheme

Drawing title:  
 Buckland 20mph Scheme A1

Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.R	Checked by: G.J.B	Approved by: G.J.B
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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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
(2) Buckland CE Primary School	<p><b>Support</b> – Supporting on behalf of Buckland CE Primary School.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(3) Local Cllr, (Buckland, Orchard Road)	<p><b>Support</b> – Small village with some narrow roads plus a village primary school which is majority non village residents and regularly attracts speeding vehicles to get children to school on time . There is also a lack of proper sidewalks in certain parts of the village so pedestrians have to walk on the highway often with dogs on leads.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
(4) Local resident, (Buckland)	<p><b>Object</b> – This is not needed. We do not want more signs spoiling our village. This is bureaucracy that is not enforceable, and by do-gooders who believe they are making a difference, but just wasting money. We have 2 - 3 people who drive too fast in our village, and this will not change their habits. The rest of us drive carefully, and don't need someone to enforce a speed limit on us. Stop this nonsense and use your money to repair the potholes, which is more likely to cause injury to cyclists.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

<p>(5) Local resident, (Buckland, Buckland Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> – Unnecessary for the nature of the roads through Buckland.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(6) Local resident, (Buckland)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> – Our road are the arteries of our country upon which our society, freedoms and economy are based. I am, like so many (unfortunately silent) members of society am sick of the current self appointed anti-vehicle lobby that seems desperate to damaging the above in the so called name of making all our lives better. The declared zero road injuries target is the most flagrant piece of virtue signalling and utterly unachievable. Of course we don't want anyone to get hurt going about their everyday lives but unless we all remain at home all day everyday never go to work or walk anywhere or play sport or heat up food or any of the hundreds of other things we all do everyday that have a small amount of risk people will get hurt.</p> <p>The proposed 20 mph limit for Buckland or anywhere else for that matter (I sure there might be a few exceptions) will change nothing except to make all our lives a little less convenient, waste some of our precious time and will result in more ugly street furniture. The road safety argument is deeply flawed, less than 10% of road crashes involve excess speed, so why are we, in the name of road safety, targeting 10% of the issue not the other 90%? The most dangerous vehicles on the roads for pedestrians are not internal combustion engines cars, vans and lorries but the almost silent electric cars and the other silent but dangerous road user the modern fast moving cyclist. Doing anything about them? Thought not. So please ask yourselves what your motivations really are and lets stop this ovine behaviour and show some common sense, 30 mph is fine as it is and certainly for the main thoroughfare in Buckland.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(7) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> – A reduction to a 20mph speed limit in Buckland is unnecessary in Buckland village as there are very few places in the village, if any, where speeds above 20mph are realistically achievable as borne out by there being no traffic accidents or injuries in the village in living memory. In view of this, a reduction in the average traffic speed would be difficult to realise meaning that under the terms of the 'Twenty is Plenty' scheme, the village would either be instructed to fund speed management initiatives or revert back to the original 30mph limit.</p> <p>There are only two roads in and out of the village, it is not on a main highway where drivers are more inclined/able to exceed any given speed limit. Why do you want to fix something that evidencially is not broken.</p>

	Travel change: <b>No</b>
(8) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)	<p><b>Object</b> – Rather than investing effort in making the law abiding people drive slower everywhere, I would like to see more effort in enforcing existing regulations for dangerous parking, reckless overtaking and exceeding the current speed limit. Erecting signs is easy. Changing behaviour us much harder.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(9) Local resident, (Buckland, Unnamed Road)	<p><b>Object</b> – Buckland has narrow, curvy roads and is not a thoroughfare to anywhere. 20 mph is a reasonable practical upper speed limit that most locals stick to anyhow. However, Oxfordshire has gone nuts in implementing 20 mph in larger areas like Witney. So I object on principle not in practice, stop punishing motorist with fines. Spend more on making the roads safer with better surfaces, more dual carriageways to avoid through traffic getting entangled with local traffic, and more traffic controls like traffic lights and speed bumps at appropriate places.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(10) Local resident, (Buckland, Unnamed Road)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – I do not object in principle. But I would object to any increase in street furniture, road markings etc. as these are not fitting in a rural village and would significantly detract from the visual amenities of the place.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(11) Local resident, (Buckland, Malthouse Paddock)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – Turning onto Buckland Rd from Summerside and onto St George's Rd from Buckland Rd would be much safer with a 20mph limit</p>
(12) Local resident, (Buckland, Buckland Road)	<p><b>Support</b> – small village with tight roads and plenty of parking on streets. buckland village has no child play area so children often in road.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>



<p>(13) Local resident, (Buckland, Buckland Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – People drive too fast now Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(14) Local resident, (Buckland, Buckland Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Buckland is a small quiet village. There is no reason anyone would ever need to go above 20 mph, and with the village being so small, it's not as if people would be 'losing time' by travelling slower. More importantly, the village has many children and elderly occupants who could be at risk from faster moving cars Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(15) Local resident, (Buckland, Buckland Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – 20mph is more than enough for the narrow roads and bends in this village, especially with so many children around. Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(16) Local resident, (Buckland, Buckland Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Too much speeding within the village, reducing to 20mph will improve awareness and increase safety for villagers and the school children who come to the village Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(17) Local resident, (Buckland, Buckland Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – My drive leads directly onto Buckland Road. I have had a number of near misses with cars driving too fast along this road so extra speed restrictions would be helpful Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(18) Local resident, (Buckland, Church Court)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Cars drive much too fast through the village making it unsafe for children and elderly people Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

<p>(19) Local resident, (Buckland, Home Farm)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – There are only really three roads in Buckland and they are all lined by houses. There are a number of young children in the village and several blind corners. Regrettably some of the parents of the schoolchildren who live outside of the village find it impossible to drive at a reasonable and safe speed through the village.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(20) Local resident, (Buckland, Malthouse Paddock)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Buckland is used as a "rat run" for easier access to the A420 and when I say easier there is nothing easy about it! Any measure that slows traffic through the village has to be a good thing. Having said this, I am not a supporter of all 20mph areas, there can be too much of it and is sometimes inappropriate but in the case of Buckland it makes sense.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(21) Local resident, (Buckland, Unnamed Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Will make the village a safer, quieter place, especially as our house (along with many others in the village) is right on the road. Our front door opens directly on to the road and it can feel very dangerous if anyone uses this entrance especially during the busy times such as the school run</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(22) Local resident, (Buckland, Orchard Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – The roads are narrow and not in good condition, and there are also children around because of the school. The pavements are also not in good condition so walkers often resort to the road so as not to fall.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(23) Local resident, (Buckland, Orchard Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – There are many places in the village where the pavement is missing or poorly maintained. There are also several blind corners which is dangerous with electrical cars being inaudible. Parents of the school often career around the village twice a day often distracted by children at inappropriate speeds especially along Orchard Road towards Holly Tree Cottage.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>

<p>(24) Local resident, (Buckland, Orchard Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – The roads in the village are generally quite narrow. Buckland road in particular is a problem with vehicles travelling to fast. In school term time the village has around sixty cars arriving at 8.30am and then at 3pm with parents dropping off and collecting children. As a result cars of this cars are parked on the roads throughout the village.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(25) Local resident, (Buckland, Orchard Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I live in Orchard Road which is very narrow and there is no pavement on my side of the road. Also to drive out of my drive is dangerous as vehicles passing can not be seen in both directions until one is almost on the road</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(26) Local resident, (Buckland, Pusey Furze)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – This is a good idea to help the children of Buckland School stay safe.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(27) Local resident, (Buckland, Shoals)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – There is a primary school in the village and people use Buckland to cut through... the parents and other drivers should slow down!</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(28) Local resident, (Buckland, St George's Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Tiny narrow streets and no through road. Any one going above 20 serious risk of accident. People whizz into the village. 20 mile speed should be enforced. In full support</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>
<p>(29) Local resident, (Buckland, St George's Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Small village and therefore for safety reasons believe a reduced speed limit is appropriate.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>

<p>(30) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – We have many hedgehogs (and pet cats!) in the village and a slower speed limit will save more of their lives.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(31) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Fully supportive of the speed reduction.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(32) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – It will make the village safer for school children and residents</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(33) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – With spindly windy roads around the village I can't see it's possible to do more than 20mph safely anyway.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(34) Local group/organisation, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – To increase the safety of children walking to and from school/ around the village to the hall and church etc</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(35) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – In recent years there has been an increase of young families in the village. From a safety perspective, I think that reducing the speed will help mitigate the risk of injury or a vehicle / pedestrian accident.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(36) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – The roads in Buckland simply cannot handle speeds in excess of 20 m.p.h.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>

<p>(37) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – People drive too fast through the village a speed limit will reduce pollution and be safer for pedestrians in streets with no or narrow pavements and no street lighting.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(38) Local resident, (Buckland)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Buckland has become a rat run for traffic trying to avoid the T-junction on the A420 with the road to Bampton. Cars wishing to turn left to Oxford avoid the long queues by cutting through on a lane with a faster speed limit than the A420 and continue to race the queue through the village. Buckland is also subjected to heavy school traffic with most attendees driving in, all in a rush coming from a 60mph into a village. Speeding is not limited to people who live outside the village. The roads into and through the village are narrow, uneven, without pavement in many places and used heavily by walkers and cyclists. A significant number of cars travel too fast for the conditions both to and through the village.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(39) Local resident, (Buckland, Church Court)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – We are a small village with narrow and rough roads. We have many elderly residents and a school. Any journey through the village is a short one and the 20mph limit would benefit the village from a safety perspective whilst not inconveniencing car drivers in any discernible manner.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(40) Local resident, (Buckland, Church Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Narrow roads, no pavements in some areas, bends, pedestrians and young children</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(41) Local resident, (Buckland, Estate Driveway)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – We have young children that we are walking to school</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>

<p>(42) Local resident, (Buckland, Home Farm)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Because it will be safer. I would also suggest reducing the speed limit on the A420 (to 40 mph) between mollie’s diner and the up to past the turning to Tadpole bridge. There are lots of pedestrians in this area at certain times of day because of public buses and school buses and it really is very dangerous.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(43) Local resident, (Buckland, St George’s Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Buckland has a primary school, lots of children as residents, many elderly and many dogs. It makes absolute sense to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(44) Local resident, (Buckland, St George's)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Narrow roads, blind bends/junctions, village environment with no need to exceed 20mph. Concern though, that unless limit enforced it will be completely ignored, particularly by those who currently ignore existing limits.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(45) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – With the increased use of cars in and around the village and the difficulty in parking, the new speed limit would make the roads around the village safer for the school children and villagers</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(46) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – There are many roads that do not have pavements. Allot of the roads are quite narrow with sharp 90 degree bends</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(47) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Living on Summerside which is narrow and very uneven road surface with lots of parked car plus the School Traffic 20mph will hopefully help it be safer majority of cars these days are electric and very quiet its difficult to hear them come up the Road</p>

	Travel change: <b>No</b>
(48) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside)	<b>Support</b> – People drive too quickly on many areas of the village ignoring the current speed limit. At school drop off and pick up in particular delivery vans in particular who do not know the area drive too quickly  Travel change: <b>No</b>
(49) Local resident, (Buckland, Summerside Road)	<b>Support</b> – Safer limit especially down Summerside road where there is a school and people tend to drive too fast down there  Travel change: <b>No</b>
(50) Local resident, (Buckland, Unnamed Road)	<b>Support</b> – We are small village with elderly residents, numerous dog walkers and children who walk the narrow roads which serve the village  Travel change: <b>No</b>
(51) Local resident, (Buckland, Church Street)	<b>Support</b> – Many residents walk around the village of a very wide range of ages, levels of physical capacity including children ... and many also walk with dogs so a 20 should be safer for everyone.  Travel change: <b>No</b>
(52) Local resident, (Buckland)	<b>Support</b> – We would like to support this proposal which if adhered to will make Buckland a safer and quieter place to live. We hope the proposal will be adopted