

Divisions affected: *Goring*

## **DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT**

**18 JULY 2024**

### **GORING HEATH: WHITCHURCH HILL & B471 WHITCHURCH ROAD – PROPOSED 20MPH, 30MPH & 40MPH SPEED LIMITS**

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

Approve the following speed limits as advertised:

- a) 20mph speed limit within Whitchurch Hill (east of the B471),
- b) 30mph speed limit on the B471 Whitchurch Road adjacent to Whitchurch Hill village,
- c) 40mph speed limit on the B471 between Whitchurch Hill and Crays Pond.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit within Whitchurch Hill (part of Goring Heath parish) on the village roads east of the B471 as shown in **Annex 1**. Additionally, the proposals include a 30mph limit on the B471 adjacent to the village, and a 40mph speed limit on the B471 between the village and Crays Pond as also 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.

#### **Legal Implications**

4. No legal implications have been identified in respect of the proposals, with proposed changes to existing Traffic Regulation Orders governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and other associated procedural regulations.

Failure to adhere to these statutory processes could result in the proposals being challenged.

## Equality and Inclusion Implications

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

## Sustainability Implications

6. The proposals would help encourage walking and cycling within the Whitchurch Hill area of Goring Heath, and also improve road safety for all road users including active travel users on the B471 between Whitchurch Hill and Crays Pond.

## Formal Consultation

7. Formal consultation was carried out between 22 May and 14 June 2024. A notice was published in the Oxfordshire Herald 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, Goring Heath Parish Council, and the local County Councillor representing the Goring division.

### Statutory Consultee Responses:

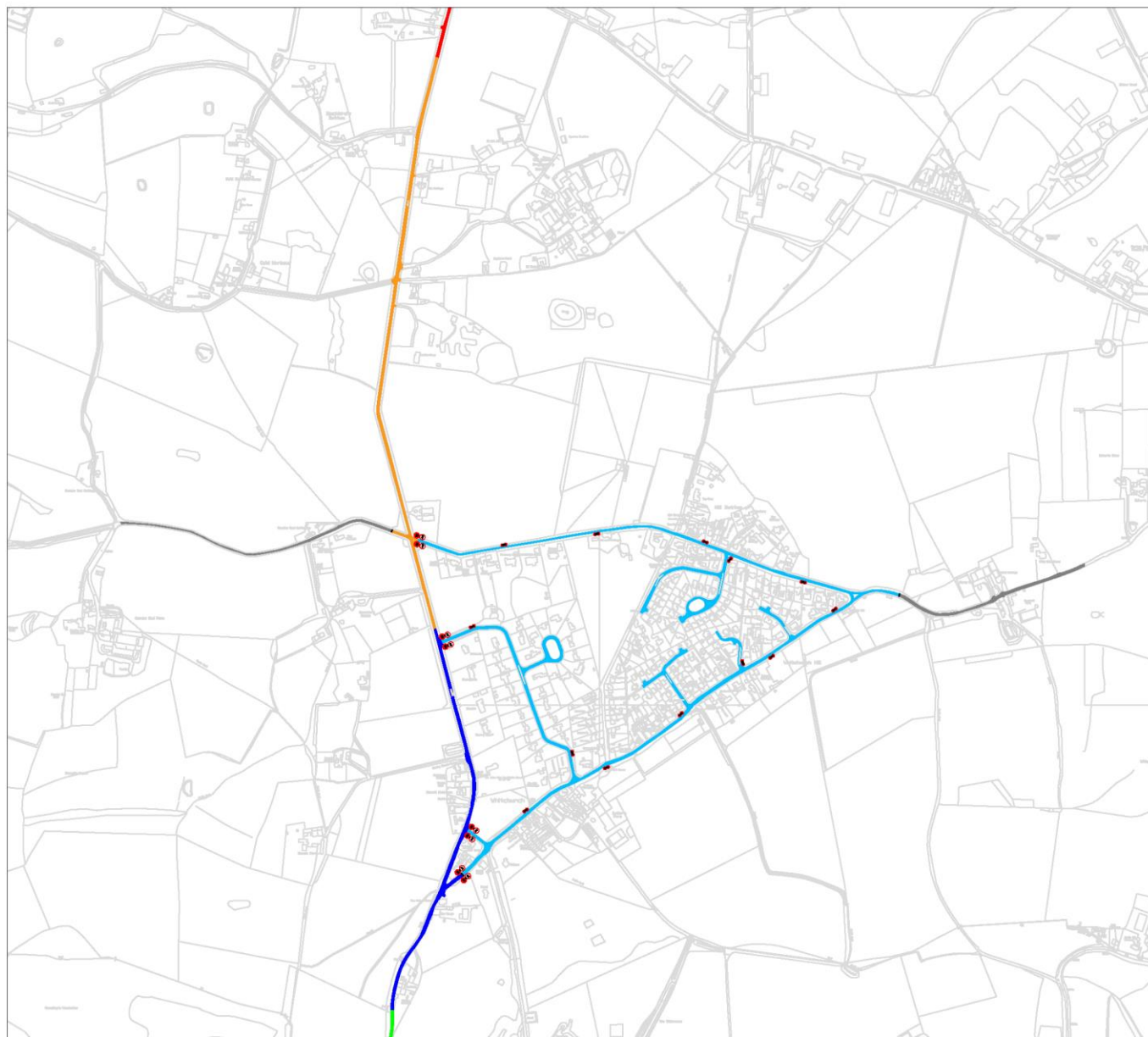
8. Thames Valley Police re-iterated their views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits and wish their response to be listed as 'having concerns' rather than an objection. They also cited that the speed data provided did not fully support the proposed changes.

### Other Responses:

9. 37 responses were received via the online survey during the course of the formal consultation, and these are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Object	Partially support	Support	No opinion/ objection	Total
20mph speed limit in Whitchurch Hill	9 (24%)	3 (8%)	22 (60%)	3 (8%)	37
B471 30mph speed limit	6 (16%)	3 (8%)	27 (73%)	1 (3%)	37
B471 40mph speed limit	9 (34%)	3 (8%)	21 (57%)	4 (11%)	37





<b>B471 30mph &amp; 40mph</b>		Revision 1.0
<b>Legend</b>		
Proposed 20		
Existing 30		
Proposed 30		
Existing 40		
Proposed 40		
Existing NSL		
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<b>Rev.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose of revision</b>
1.0	26.04.24	B471 proposed limits for Consultation
<b>Drawn</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Approved</b>
C.R		
<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; font-size: x-small; margin-left: 10px;">             Owen Jenkins              Director for              Infrastructure Delivery              Communities              Oxfordshire County Council              County Hall              100 High Street              Oxford              OX1 1ND              Tel: 0845 310 1111           </div>		
Project title: Goring Heath 20mph Scheme		
Drawing title: B471 Proposed 30mph & 40mph limits		
Drawing Status		
Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.R	Checked by: <b>JJ</b>
	Date drawn: 26.04.24	Date checked: 29.04.24
		Date approved: 30.04.24
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref		
Drawing No. 1.0		Revision 1.0

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - Thank you for the consultation documents, in relation to the proposed speed limit changes. <u>These concerns refer to all changes.</u></p> <p>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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 – <b>Data provided do not fully support these changes</b></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) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Hocketts Close)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b></p> <p>1. I have not seen any details of serious or minor accidents accidents in the last 5 and 10 years to justify a 20mph speed limit.2. Proper enforcement of the existing 30mph speed limit would be a much better way to proceed.3. Money required for the new signs, etc would be far better used in pothole repairs.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>No objection</b></p> <p>If this policy is to be implemented then it should be properly enforced.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Support</b></p> <p>The only real justification for 20mph speed limits is proximity to schools, play areas or dense housing abutting roads. When &amp; where will the results of this survey be published?</p>

<p>(3) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Orchard Coombe)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b> focus should be on the bad drivers not over-riding impositions. This will not slow down the speeders or bad driving.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Object</b> Oxfordshire overall limits are an over-reach with justifications that fail to reflect the councils road management neglect with flooded roads and over loaded lorries on roads not designed to cope, increased evidence of potholes due to this neglect. Dangerous conditions forcing drivers into middle of the road to minimise damage to vehicles.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>No objection</b> Reasonable</p>
<p>(4) Local resident, (Goring Heath, Ladygrove)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b> A reduction in the speed limit to 20mph is unnecessary. The current 30 mph speed limit in the village is proportionate and reasonable. Speeding is a minor problem and those vehicles that do speed currently are unlikely to observe a lower limit.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Object</b> A 40-50 mph limit would be more appropriate to this stretch of road.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Object</b> A 50 mph limit is more appropriate to this stretch of road.</p>
<p>(5) Local resident, (Goring Heath, Ladygrove)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b> It is unnecessary to have a 20 mph speed limit. 30 is perfectly acceptable in a residential area where there is no school, carehome are any other such facility.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

	<p>B471 30mph – <b>Object</b> Is there a need to change the limit?</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Object</b> Why not leave the limit as it is.</p>
<p>(6) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Hill Bottom Close)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b> People driving through our village already ignore the 30mph signs so why are they more likely to adhere to a 20mph limit? Unless there is an enforcement measure such as road bumps on cameras, I see this as a waste of government money. I would rather money be spent on preventing drink driving from the local pub!</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Object</b> Again, I think it's a waste of public money without additional enforcement measures.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Object</b> As above</p>
<p>(7) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Hill Bottom)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b> It's not necessary. We lived with 30mph since 1934, it's been fine - they are no reports of injuries or near misses due to people driving at 30mph. Spend your budget on the potholes, that's what the roads need, they are the danger.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Object</b> Again, un-necessary meddling. People are quite mature enough &amp; capable enough of monitoring what a safe speed is according to the conditions themselves with a 40mph max. Having multiple speed limits on the same road just causes confusion &amp; ADDS danger. Leave it alone. Fix the pot holes!</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Object</b></p>



	<p>Again, un-necessary meddling. People are quite mature enough &amp; capable enough of monitoring what a safe speed is according to the conditions themselves with a 50mph max. Having multiple speed limits on the same road just causes confusion &amp; ADDS danger. Leave it alone. Fix the pot holes!</p>
<p>(8) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Hill Bottom)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b> There is no benefit to be had from introducing 20 mph. Most people drive careful through the village taking prevailing conditions into account. Those that don't won't obey the new limits anyway. The only part of the road where there have been accidents (Whitchurch Hill itself) is not included in these proposals. I can see a case for reducing the 40 mph to 30 on the B471 but again recent accidents have involved people ignoring the existing limits.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Partially support</b> I can see a case for reducing the 40 mph to 30 on the B471 but again recent accidents have involved people ignoring the existing limits.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Object</b> There is no obvious benefit from this proposal apart from pursuing an anti-car policy. It's a rural road with no appreciable hazards</p>
<p>(9) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Hill Bottom Close)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Object</b> Limits won't be enforced so waste of time and money. I appreciate that this money is ringfenced for the 20mph scheme however investment would be far better spent policing drink drivers (prolific in the area), repairing potholes which force people to drive down the centre of some of the roads in the village and cutting back hedgerows to improve visibility, particularly at the junctions onto the B471.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b> Support the principle as this is a dangerous stretch of road, particularly the exit to the village hall carpark, the Goring Heath Road junctions and the narrow twisty section prior to Castrol. However, if the limit is not enforced it will be a further waste of time and money. Also there is a potential for increased likelihood of accidents involving cyclists travelling down towards Pangbourne who are frequently travelling in excess of 30mph on this downhill section of the</p>

	<p>road. Also, the comments that I have detailed for the 20mph scheme apply re: drink drivers, potholes, hedgerows being cut back as well as improved road markings, white lines etc.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – No objection</b>  Support the principle as this is a dangerous stretch of road, particularly due it's poor condition. However, if the limit is not enforced it will be a further waste of time and money. Also, the comments that I have detailed for the 20mph and 30mph scheme apply re: drink drivers, potholes, hedgerows being cut back as well as improved road markings, white lines etc.</p>
<p>(10) Local resident,  (Crays Pond, Goring Road)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Object</b>  I completely disagree with the 20 mph speedlimits introduced in Oxfordshire - except when close to schools, parks etc. Rarely do you see anyone go 20 mph so everyone now speeds. Whereas before people respected the speed limit and if they were caught speeding understood it was wrong. Now onone is caught - I haven't seen any police at all because literally everyone would be breaking the law. I have personally seen several cars over take cars in Woodcote - only since the 20 mph introduction. It makes people angry.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b>  This is a reasonable request - especially by the church, park, village hall and car park on that bend. I know there have been several crashes here in the past.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Object</b>  I feel this is more difficult to justify and doubt that people will adhere to this speedlimit. There are few houses and visabilty is good.</p>
<p>(11) Local resident,  (Whitchurch Hill, Coombe End)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Partially support</b>  I support a 20mph speed limit in some areas to help protect wildlife, walkers , horse riders etc.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Partially support</b></p>

	<p>I partially support it because without a speed camera there I don't think it would make much difference to most road users.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Partially support</b> I partially support it because without a speed camera there I don't think it would make much difference to most road users.</p>
<p>(12) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Partially support</b> I support the objective generally of introducing lower speed limits in the area but would be concerned that a 'new' limit would only add further inconsistency to the numerous existing limits on this piece of carriageway.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> Too many people drive well in excess of the existing limit and reducing the limit as per the proposal would contribute to reducing this problem.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> As per 6 above</p>
<p>(13) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Unnamed road)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Partially support</b> I think that 20 mph is too slow and I have sometimes found that if I'm driving at that speed in a 20 mph area, vehicles behind get frustrated and overtake, causing more danger.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> Traffic is far too fast down this road and I think that a reduction in the speed limit would help slow it down</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> Traffic is far too fast down this road and I think that a reduction in the speed limit would help slow it down</p>

<p>(14) Local resident, (Whitchurch hill, Coombe End Road)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>No objection</b> It's a residential area with children,walkers and dogs</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Object</b> I don't think people would drive at 30mph on this stretch</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Support</b> 50 mph is too fast and 30mph probably too slow for this stretch</p>
<p>(15) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>No objection</b> Makes local lanes safer</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b> The church and the village hall are on opposite sides of the road on a blind bend. People exceed the current 40 mph as they know there is a long straight road ahead. My access drive enters the B471 after this blind bend and is also a footpath and this morning I was trying to cross the road with my dog when a very quiet electric vehicle came round the bend too fast and I was very nearly run down.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>No objection</b> Hopefully will slow traffic generally as many vehicles use this as a an overtaking opportunity</p>
<p>(16) Member of public, (Romsey, Sycamore Close)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>No objection</b> Safer when walking with children/for local children</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b></p>

	<p>My grandchildren cross this road between their grans house tand the park, and play close to the road in the park. We have to walk along the road to access a local footpath. I need to turn into and out of a tight blind driveway when visiting.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Support</b> Safety for local residents</p>
<p>(17) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Whitchurch Hill)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> I live with my partner on the B471 road. We've had a collision with 2 vehicles which resulted In one of these vehicles crashing into our fence. If it wasn't for pure luck that it hit the supporting post it would have been in our front garden. We have poor visibility when trying to pull out of property and makes it extremely dangerous to do so with current imposed speed limit.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Partially support</b> Ideally 20 would be much safer. I live with my partner on the B471 road. We've had a collision with 2 vehicles which resulted In one of these vehicles crashing into our fence. If it wasn't for pure luck that it hit the supporting post it would have been in our front garden. We have poor visibility when trying to pull out of property and makes it extremely dangerous to do so with current imposed speed limit.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Object</b> 40 is to fast for the village as the b471</p>
<p>(18) Local Parish Cllr (Whitchurch Hill, Coombe End Lane)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> The areas subject to the 20mph limit are narrow residential roads on which residents' cars are parked. All pf our community should be able to safely walk on the roads and footways. Their lives should not be plagued by fast moving traffic.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b></p>

	<p>The B471 is a through route from the M4 to the M40 and a busy commuter route. Being the first section of 'open' road since the other side of Pangbourne, it is subject to a lot of anti-social high speed driving. The 30mph limit legitimises those 'locals' who choose to drive with respect for the community.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – No objection</b> I don't think there will be much adherence to the 40mph limit, but again it legitimises those of us who do choose to drive with respect for the community</p>
<p>(19) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b> We regularly walk our dog around the area with our Grand children in tow and invariably cars are driving way too fast 40mph+ just too dangerous</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> we live on that road and opposite the green where the road is on a slight bend as on many occasions trying to cross the road comes a lottery as cars are doing well in excess of 50mph sometimes later at night 60/70mph, so dangerous especially with the green, church and parish hall</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Object</b> too fast</p>
<p>(20) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b> I live with my partner on the B471 road. We've had a collision with 2 vehicles which resulted in one of these vehicles crashing into our fence. If it wasn't for pure luck that it hit the supporting post it would have been in our front garden. We have poor visibility when trying to pull out of property and makes it extremely dangerous to do so with current imposed speed limit. We also need to manage our hedge to ensure it doesn't obstruct road or any drivers vision and with the current imposed speed limit this is almost impossible or extremely high risk and dangerous.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b></p>

	<p>I live with my partner on the B471 road. We've had a collision with 2 vehicles which resulted In one of these vehicles crashing into our fence. If it wasn't for pure luck that it hit the supporting post it would have been in our front garden. We have poor visibility when trying to pull out of property and makes it extremely dangerous to do so with current imposed speed limit. We also need to manage our hedge to ensure it doesn't obstruct road or any drivers vision and with the current imposed speed limit this is almost impossible or extremely high risk and dangerous.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Object</b>  40mph is too fast for this piece of road through a village. The road has poor visibility and narrows in areas where there isn't space for cars and lorries (which we get a lot of) to pull aside without mounting curbs/ fence + hedge lines. It imposes high danger and risk to us who need to access this road to enter and exit our properties both in car and on foot. There has already been a number of accidents along this road which could have potentially be avoided with a reduced speed limit.</p>
<p>(21) Local resident,  (Whitchurch Hill, B471  Whitchurch Road)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b>  My wife and I regularly either walk or drive along these roads, and they run by entrances to properties or small laneways where people are often walking. To drive at 30 mph is definitely dangerous. (We ourselves drive already at 20 mph.)</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b>  I live at Milo Crispin, on the west side of the B471 along the affected part of the road. The B471 curves by our property and it is extremely dangerous to pull out, even though our car has a very short bonnet. It is also extremely dangerous to walk down the road to our neighbour at Grey's Court Cottage, or north to the Thames Path just past the Parish Hall. Reducing the speed limit to 30 mph would make a huge difference.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Partially support</b>  I think it would be silly (and potentially dangerous) to go from 30 mph up to 50 mph and then back down to 30 mph over such a short distance, although I have seen this elsewhere (e.g. between Pangbourne and Tidmarsh in neighbouring Berkshire). So I don't have strong views in this respect.</p>
<p>(22) Local resident,  (Whitchurch Hill, Goring  Heath Road)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b></p>

	<p>I live directly on the Goring Heath road. Vehicles rarely go as slow as 30mph, and even that seems too fast. Local businesses can be the worst.  It has become a VERY busy road in the past 40 years we have lived here.  There are a LOT of houses that are built directly onto this road, and trying to pull out or into drive ways with speeding cars coming around bends etc. is dangerous.  The village has a large number of children now.  It is sometimes like living along side a motorway!  Last weekend I had my new front window completely smashed by a speeding car flicking up a stone. This is now going to cost ME over £400 to fix, as I am not claiming on insurance as excess is £300.  I also have a lot of stone damage to my car.  A lot of locals walk along this road, with children and dogs, prams, wheelchairs, disabled buggies etc. It can be very unpleasant and dangerous.  I have been reporting this issue for about 20 years, it is about time something is done.  Villages with much lesser need than ours have got a 20mph limit.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b>  It is a dangerous piece of road if vehicles are speeding - there are bends in the road, more than one hidden junction, also on bends, pulling out onto this road.  A LOT of very large lorries use this very narrow road.  NO footpaths.  The village green and play area edge onto this road.  The Village Hall is on the opposite side of the road to the Church, which both edge onto this road, and the rest of the village.  There have been many accidents in the past.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Partially support</b>  I definitely agree with 40mph between Church and Hill Bottom Junction.  It should stay 50mps between Hill Bottom and Crays Pond.</p>
(23) Member of public, (Barton under Needwood, Wales Lane)	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b>  Safer when entering/exiting drives on B471</p>



	<p>Crossing to park &amp; church with children Walking with children in village Dangerous bend</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b> As previous</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Support</b> As previous</p>
<p>(24) Local group/organisation, (Crays Pond Goring Heath Community Speedwatch)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b></p> <p>I am the Lead Coordinator of the Crays Pond Goring Heath Community Speedwatch Group set up by Goring Heath Parish Council in collaboration with Thames Valley Police (TVP). It is organised via the Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner and supervised by Thames Valley Police. Since its establishment in August 2022 the Speedwatch Group has undertaken 65 Speedwatch sessions in our local community.</p> <p>Volunteers are deployed at regular intervals to monitor speeding in our local roads—we have two sites in Whitchurch Hill and four in Crays Pond. During the period and funded by the Parish Council Community Speedwatch signs have been erected at the entry gated to both Crays Pond and Whitchurch Hill.</p> <p>I would like to give some background based on our field experience and also to comment specifically why the B4526 and B471 in Crays Pond (part of Goring Heath Parish) has not been included in the speed reduction process. We have six TVP approved sites however despite our best endeavours three problem areas remain—two in Crays Pond (the B4526 &amp; B471) and one which is covered in the proposals reducing the 40mph to 30mph on the B471 going past St Johns Church/the Village Hall in Whitchurch Hill.</p> <p>The majority of speeders come from these three troublesome blackspot locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garton End, Crays Pond; traffic travelling east on the B4526 from Goring direction (30 mph)</li> <li>• Goffs Hill, Crays Pond; traffic heading north on the B471 from Whitchurch Hill direction (30 mph)</li> <li>• St Johns Church, Whitchurch Hill; traffic heading south on the B471 from Crays Pond direction (40 mph)</li> </ul>

These three sites account for 33 Speedwatch sessions since August 2022 which have resulted in 399 motorists being formally reported to TVP for speeding from these blackspots.

A review of each site follows:

Garton End B4526 Heading: East (30 mph)

No of sessions: 9

No of Offenders: 114

Average Offender No: 12.67

Commencement Date: 23.8.2022

Last Session: 8.1.2024

Chronological History: % of speeding vehicles since commencement date: 18.5%, 16.6%, 20.3%, 10%, 4.39%, 7.23%, 7.41%, 7.41% and 5.62%.

Goffs Hill B471 Heading: North (30 mph)

No of sessions: 10

No of Offenders: 143

Average Offender No: 14.3

Commencement Date: 30.11.2022

Last Session: 18.6.2023

Chronological History: % of speeding vehicles since commencement date: 14%, 12.6%, 15%, 8%, 11.4%, 11.2%, 11.5%, 8.66%, 15.5%, and 10.42%.

St Johns Church B471 Heading: South (40 mph)

No of sessions: 14

No of Offenders: 142

Average Offender No: 10.14

Commencement Date: 10.8.2022

Last Session: 4.12.2023

Chronological History: % of speeding vehicles since commencement date: 13.1%, 9.86%, 9.45%, 6%, 15.9%, 11%, 12%, 6.94%, 9%, 5.5%, 10.9%, 4.07%, 9.57%, and 8.89%.

The B471 Goffs Hill and B4526 Garton End in Crays Pond are both equally bad as each other in terms of motorists who fail to slow down after passing through the gates on entry to the 30mph zone. Garton End has shown some

	<p>improvement over time, possibly due to our activity and high visibility, but it remains to be seen if this is permanent, or just a temporary blip.</p> <p>It would also be helpful to reduce the speed limit on the B4526/B471 in Crays Pond from the current 30 mph to 20 mph to accord with Woodcote. Speed cameras and/or SID's would still be required irrespective of the prevailing speed limit.</p> <p>The approach to St Johns Church on the B471 heading south, and the recreation ground in Whitchurch Hill, a reduction in the speed limit is most welcome. The approach to the church is particularly dangerous—we have recorded speeds in excess of 60 mph at this location. However, without TVP enforcement our view is that a speed camera, or at the very least a SID is required or else motorists will continue to speed on this road.</p> <p>Whilst we welcome the current speed reduction plans for Goring Heath (actually only Whitchurch Hill) we call also for a reduction from 30mph in Crays Pond to 20mph to accord with both Woodcote and Whitchurch on Thames.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b> See previous comment</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Support</b> See previous comment</p>
(25) Local resident, (Goring Heath, Deadman's Lane)	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> Residential area with no pavement so pedestrians sharing roadway with cars etc. Road is not very wide so speeding cars cause a safety hazard to pedestrians and cyclists. The research complex in the village increases the traffic flow through Whitchurch Hill.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b> This stretch of road runs through a residential area, and passes the church, recreation ground and village hall. All these local facilities generate both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The current limit means that cars are going</p>

	<p>unacceptably fast and making crossing, or walking beside the road both hazardous, especially where crossing by the bend.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b>  This stretch of road whilst not in the village does have several properties along it. It is fairly straight so encourages cars to go faster than is sensible. It does not make sense to allow cars to go over 40mph between 2 sections of the road which are 30mph ( or will be if the order goes through)</p>
(26) Local resident, (Whitchurch, Goffs Hill)	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b>  Generally drivers are going too fast around the village and there are children and animals walking around so is dangerous</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b>  I strongly support the reduction in the speed limit but i also think other measures need to be added as cars regularly speed at over 60mph. There are lots of children’s parties etc in the village hall and someone is going to get seriously hurt as cars hurtle towards the bend. A camera or give way Chicane which forces people to slow down. The speed due to the straight part of the road is extremely dangerous with people trying to overtake. I find it hard to understand why the village is proposing 20 mph elsewhere when this area covers the village hall, park and church which are all regularly used.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b>  Following the same comments as from previous question - drivers are simply going too fast even round sharp bends at the top of the road.</p>
(27) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b>  Fully support the proposed 20mph limit for public safety. There is a childrens playground , national long distance footpath and a 'rat run' route through the village. There are few pavements for pedestrians to avoid the traffic.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b></p>

	<p>Strongly support for the following reasons: * dangerous bend * church opposite the carpark * long distance footpath crossing * Parish Hall with frequent children focused sessions * playground/park * elderly residents crossing * no footpath/pavement * numerous pedestrians. Would be even better if it were to be a 20mph limit though.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> Safer and more pedestrian friendly - there are no pavements when walking to Crays Pond</p>
<p>(28) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b> It does not feel safe as a pedestrian to walk through the village, especially for the elderly and kids (I'm middle aged and already don't feel safe). There are no real sidewalks along the road for large parts of the road and the technology centre brings lot of commuting traffic that does make the situation worse.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> The church is right on the B471 and church goers are being put at risk walking along the road to reach the church. Our property is directly on the B471, and with increasing traffic these days it is extremely dangerous to get out of our lot given the speed the people drive by. I am also afraid for my elderly neighbour to have to get in and out of his property, which is in an even more dangerous location with not much sight.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> I had a couple close calls at the big curve between Whitchurch Hill and the catholic school. People ride too fast and cannot drive curves. Especially true for big SUVs.</p>
<p>(29) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b> The village of Whitchurch Hill has a lot of people walking dogs, walking to park with children etc which needs additional caution from road users. Having cars drive through tight roads with limited visibility to go in and out of driveways is dangerous if the cars passing through are going too fast.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b></p>

	<p>Strongly support, the road has tight bends and a lot of blind spots. The footpaths are almost unusable along this stretch of road, especially for those who use a pram or wheelchair which means walking on the road or driving what should be short walks. The village hall and church are located on this bit of the road which have a significant amount of foot traffic.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b>  In order for cars to slow down to 30mph as they approach Whitchurch Hill they need to be doing a reasonable speed on approach. There is only a short distance between the 30mph in Cray’s Pond and the proposed 30mph in Whitchurch Hill meaning any limit higher than 40mph would require rapid acceleration and deceleration for anyone driving this road.</p>
(30) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b>  We live on the B471 and trying to get in and out of our property is a daily struggle, because of the current 40 mph speed limit, which is far to fast for this road. There have been several accidents and we have had several near misses. Reducing the speed limit to 30mph should be the bear minimum and in reality the speed limit should be 20mph on this stretch of road.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b>  We live on the B471 and trying to get in and out of our property is a daily struggle, because of the current 40 mph speed limit, which is far to fast for this road. There have been several accidents and we have had several near misses. Reducing the speed limit to 30mph should be the bear minimum and in reality the speed limit should be 20mph on this stretch of road.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b>  We live on the B471 and trying to get in and out of our property is a daily struggle, because of the current 40 mph speed limit, which is far to fast for this road. There have been several accidents and we have had several near misses. Reducing the speed limit to 30mph should be the bear minimum and in reality the speed limit should be 20mph on this stretch of road.</p>
(31) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b></p>

	<p>In Whitchurch Hill there is a playing field with a children's play area, a village hall, a church and long distant walk all catered for by a car park with no footpath on either side of the B471. With the current speed limit of 40 mph it is a hazardous manoeuvre for residents joining or leaving the B471 from private driveways, this coupled with the increase in traffic from various delivery companies making home deliveries, increasing the danger to all parties.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> I support the proposed 30mph speed limit but for this stretch it should be a 20 mph limit. In Whitchurch Hill there is a playing field with a children's play area, a village hall, a church and long distant walk all catered for by a car park with no footpath on either side of the B471. With the current speed limit of 40 mph it is a hazardous manoeuvre for residents joining or leaving the B471 from private driveways, this coupled with the increase in traffic from various delivery companies making home deliveries, increasing the danger to all parties.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> It should be much reduced from 40 mph</p>
(32) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471)	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> Improve quality of life</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> Support as its dangerous in the village</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> Dangerous getting out of drive like playing russion roulette.</p>
(33) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, B471 Goffs Hill)	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> Safety around the village - children, dog walkers etc</p>

	<p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b>  I support this proposal but it needs to be backed up by some form of enforcement (e.g. speed camera) or a means of slowing traffic (e.g. speed restriction chicanes). Without some enforcement measures most drivers will ignore the revised limit. It is common for cars to drive at over 60 mph in the current 40 mph zone. Exiting one of the properties on the B471 between St John’s Church and Orchard Coombe (going towards Cary’s Pond) has become extremely dangerous as cars frequently overtake each other as the road straightens . Also, pedestrians on the grass verges are at risk.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b>  I support this proposal because exiting Orchard Coombe (going towards Cary’s Pond) has become extremely dangerous as cars frequently overtake each other at this point</p>
<p>(34) Local Cllr  (Whitchurch Hill, Goring Heath Road)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b>  The area concerned has a lot of pedestrian traffic including local people of all ages and many others from further afield, attracted by the AONB. We have no streetlights and limited provision of pavements. Several residents have contacted the Parish Council requesting a reduction in speed limits to 20mph. The proposal was presented to the Annual Parish Meeting in April this year to general support and with no opposition expressed. It has been debated by the Parish Council who are fully supportive of the proposal.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b>  The stretch of road concerned contains major Parish amenities - the Church and the village hall - and a significant number of houses. The road contains blind bends for which a 40mph limit (as at present) is not appropriate in a residential area. Residents have petitioned the Parish Council for a reduction in the speed limit, expressing a high level of concern about road safety based on personal experience and the history of accidents along this stretch of road. The Parish Council has debated the proposal and is fully supportive of it.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b>  The stretch of road concerned contains some housing and links the communities of Whitchurch Hill and Crays Pond. There is some history of accidents along the road. The local speed watch team have identified problems with speeding at both ends of the proposed 40mph zone with traffic not slowing down sufficiently as they enter the two</p>



	<p>settlements, leading us to conclude that the current 50mph limit would not be compatible with 30mph limits at either end of this stretch of road. The Parish Council has debated the proposal and is fully supportive of it.</p>
<p>(35) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Unnamed road)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> Our side ate backs onto Goring Heath Road and vehicles coming up from Whitchurch do not slow down when turning into it</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b> 4mph is too fast for the bend just pass the church as proven by a number of accidents</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Support</b> 50mph is too fast for turning safely onto this road from connecting roads in the triangle</p>
<p>(36) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Goring Heath Road)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> Most of the roads affected do not have pavements or street lighting. It can feel very dangerous to walk on them. The existing 30mph speed limit is often exceeded. This change would be long overdue if carried out.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p>B471 30mph – <b>Support</b> Slowing down the traffic will make crossing the B471 from the village green to the parish hall and car park much safer.</p> <p>B471 40mph – <b>Support</b> It is a partially residential area where a 40mph limit would be the most appropriate.</p>
<p>(37) Local resident, (Whitchurch Hill, Goring Heath Road)</p>	<p>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – <b>Support</b> we fully support this application which has been a long time coming</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

	<p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> we fully support this application as we have always regarded this stretch of road as dangerous because of the crossing of the road between the church and the village hall. There have been a number of accidents on the bend there.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> we fully support this proposal</p>
<p>(38) Member of public, (Worthing)</p>	<p><b>Whitchurch Hill 20mph – Support</b> The road is currently very unsafe when walking on it, as there is no pavement on one side and the cars travel very fast when crossing. We often go to the park by the church, however gaining access across the road is challenging. The road has a significant bend in it, making visibility of cars limited, further adding to the danger when cars are travelling at speed. Additionally it is a challenge when with children or my elderly mother who is disabled when trying to cross. I fully support the need to reduce the speed on this road. Thank you for working on these proposals.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p> <p><b>B471 30mph – Support</b> The road is currently very unsafe when walking on it, as there is no pavement on one side and the cars travel very fast when crossing. We often go to the park by the church, however gaining access across the road is challenging. The road has a significant bend in it, making visibility of cars limited, further adding to the danger when cars are travelling at speed. Additionally it is a challenge when with children or my elderly mother who is disabled when trying to cross. I fully support the need to reduce the speed on this road. Thank you for working on these proposals.</p> <p><b>B471 40mph – Support</b> Yes fully support- safer for walking and cycling. Would encourage me to use the area more and will promote active travel</p>