

Divisions affected: *Bicester North; Bicester Town; Bicester West; Otmoor; Ploughley;*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 24 MARCH 2022

BICESTER AND LAUNTON – PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the proposed speed limits in Bicester & Launton as follows:
 - a. 40mph speed limits on:
 - i. the A4095 (comprising sections of Howes Lane, Lords Lane & Southwold Lane),
 - ii. A4421 Buckingham Road north of Bicester,
 - iii. A4421 'ring' road (comprising Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester Road , Charbridge Lane , Wretchwick Way , Neunkirchen Way & Seelscheid Way)
 - iv. A41 east of Bicester towards Aylsebury,
 - v. B4030 Middleton Stoney Road,
, and
 - vi. Bicester Road in Launton.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on proposed speed limit reductions on part of the A41 and on the roads forming the peripheral route around Bicester. Although these roads are an important part of the local transport strategy which aims to reduce traffic flow through the central corridor, they no longer lie on the edge of the town and with housing and employment sites now located on the other side of them there is a need to reduce the speed of traffic. The proposals seek to decrease the speed limit on the Bicester peripheral road to allow a uniform speed limit, thus addressing concerns from a road safety and active travel point of view. The proposals will also aid connectivity for residents of the planned new housing developments that are adjacent to the peripheral route, such as Wretchwick Green and North West Bicester. In addition to the peripheral road, 40mph speed limits are proposed to be introduced on the A41 east of the ring road, and on the A4421 Buckingham Road leading northwards from the ring road. The consultation also proposed a 50mph speed limit on the Boundary Way section of the A41 but this

is not recommended to take forward. A plan showing the proposals are shown in **Annexe 1**

Financial Implications

3. The total cost estimate for this work is £205,000 - £165,575 plus 20% for staff costs . Five of the sites will be delivered through held s106 – Skimmingdish Lane, Charbridge Lane, Bicester Road Launton, Middleton Stoney Road and A4095 Howes Lane. The other sections will be delivered through development or scheme work – A4095 Lords Lane, B4100 Banbury Road (north and south of the peripheral road), A4095 Southwold Lane and Buckingham Road (north and south of the peripheral road).
4. The total cost of the speed limit changes recommended to be amended using held s106 funding is £79,655 . Total signage costs include installation costs and four-night shifts for road marking and staff costs . There is contingency funding for any unexpected cost pressures during installation.

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 benefits of the Bicester Speed Review include:
 - Increasing safety along the route (lower speed limits have been found to be effective in reducing casualty rates)
 - Speed reducing features will also improve facilities for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, children and older people
 - Reduced emissions with the removal of the frequent change in speeds on the roads.

Consultation

7. Formal consultation was carried out between 20 January and 18 February 2022. A notice was published in the Bicester Advertiser newspaper and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, Bicester Town Council, Ambrosden Parish Council, Caversfield Parish Council, Chesterton Parish Council, Launton Parish Council, Cherwell District Council and the local County Councillors covering the Bicester, Otmoor & Ploughley divisions.
8. 72 responses were received during the formal consultation and these are summarised in the tables below:

Proposal	Object	Concerns	Support	No opinion	Total
40mph speed limits:					
A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane)	44 (61%)	4 (6%)	18 (25%)	6	72
A4421 Buckingham Road	47 (65%)	4 (6%)	17 (24%)	4	72
B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive	41 (57%)	3 (4%)	18 (25%)	10	72
Vendee Drive	50 (69%)	2 (3%)	16 (22%)	3	72
Bicester Road (Launton)	34 (47%)	3 (4%)	29 (40%)	6	72
A4421 (ring road)	52 (72%)	5 (7%)	12 (17%)	3	72
A41 (to Ambrosden)	49 (68%)	3 (4%)	14 (19%)	6	72
50mph speed limit:					
A41 (Southern bypass)	36 (50%)	9 (13%)	21 (29%)	6	72

9. The individual responses are shown in **Annex 2**; copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

10. Thames Valley Police objected to A41 Boundary Way extent and Vendee Drive extent, change in speed limit. Officers are recommending not to implement the speed limit reduction on the Boundary Way section as this will be considered further through the A41 Corridor Study. Officers are also recommending not to implement the speed limit reduction on Vendee Drive currently – this will be covered if proposed development is approved which would enable the characteristic of the road to change in future
11. Bicester Chamber had concerns that reduced speed will have a negative impact on the economy. Individuals objects are summarized:
- Bicester is a commuter town and must allow for free flowing traffic to move away from the town centre efficiently and quickly.
 - No factual reason to impose draconian reduced speed limits.
 - Waste of money.
 - Reducing speed limit will increase journey times and move traffic through the middle of the town.
12. There were other objections to some of the proposed speed limit changes but following further consideration officers are recommending that these should be implemented.
13. However, officers recommend that a reduction in speed limit will improve the safety of vulnerable road users, promote active travel schemes and help to decarbonise transport which is in line with various Policy and Guidance documents (including but not limited to the Bicester Local Cycle & Walking Infrastructure Plan, Garden Town principles, Area Strategy Policy, Local Transport Plan 4, emerging Local Transport & Connectivity Plan , Local Plan, Climate Action Framework etc.)

14. Chesterton Parish Council supported the proposed changes but asked that other roads in their village be considered for speed reductions. Officers will engage with the parish council to progress this.

15. The sites that officers are recommending are delivered with the held s106 funding are:

Road section	Extents
Skimmingdish Lane/Charbridge Lane	Buckingham Road to Launton roundabout
Bicester Road Launton	Launton boundary to roundabout
A4421 Eastern Perimeter Road	Launton roundabout to Rodney House roundabout
B4030 Middleton Stoney Road	Between terminal point and roundabout
A4095 Howes Lane	Middleton Stoney Road to Bucknell Road

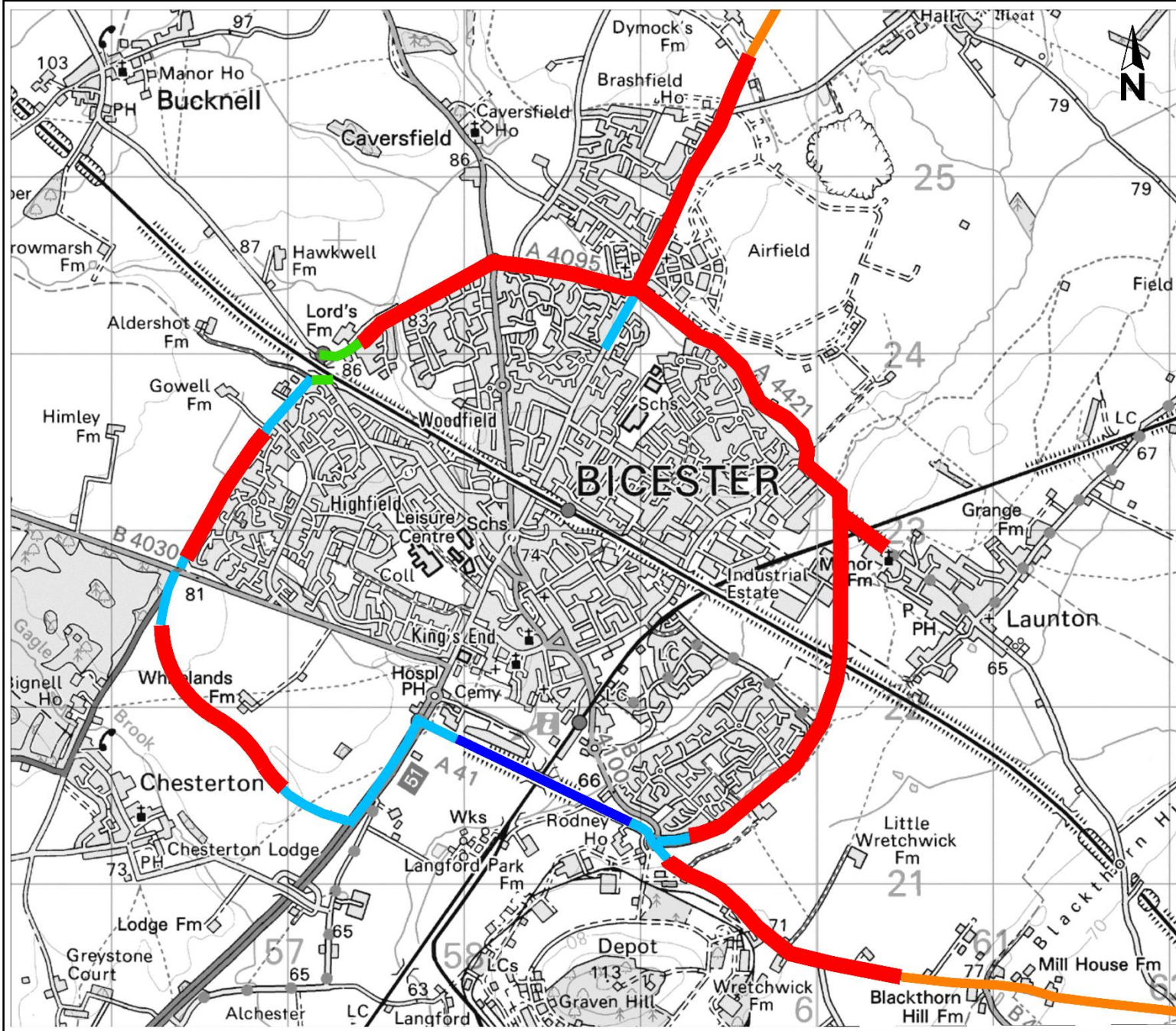
Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes Annexe 1: Consultation Plan
 Annexe 2: Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Tim Shickle 07920 591545

March 2022

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Drawing No.	Revision 0				
Key					
█	Proposed 40mph speed limit in place of existing 50mph speed limit				
█	Proposed 50mph speed limit in place of existing national speed limit				
█	Existing 30mph Speed Limit (to remain)				
█	Existing 40mph Speed Limit (to remain)				
█	Existing 50mph Speed Limit (to remain)				
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Bill Cotton Corporate Director of Environment and Place Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0345 310 11 11 Fax: (01865) 241577					
Project title					
PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT					
Drawing title					
BICESTER					
Drawing Status					
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by		
N.T.S.	JaC				
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved		
	09/21				
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref					
Drawing No.					Revision 0

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
<p>(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)</p>	<p>Vendee Drive - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) – Object</p> <p>Thames Valley Police are not opposed to lowering speed limits providing they are appropriate to the road environment and likely to have casualty reduction benefits .All aspects of the proposed speed limit are taken into account i.e. collision history ,speed of existing traffic, road environment, enforcement, road character and driver perception etc.</p> <p>The current speed of traffic is a reliable indicator of how acceptable a new speed limit would be. The recognized way of ascertaining this level of self-compliance is the 85th percentile speed. If the 85th percentile speed is 7mph or more over the proposed limit it is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or continual enforcement.</p> <p>There is a proven link between road environment/character and drivers speed .Drivers must respect the need for a speed limit .If it is not accepted as realistic it will quickly be abused and be the source of constant demands for police action.</p> <p>The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria (Circular Roads 1/2013) 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 Speed Limit should not be used to attempt to solve the problem of isolated hazards ,for example a single junction or reduced forward visibility.</p> <p>Experience shows that changing to a lower speed limit on its own will not necessarily be successful in reducing the speed of traffic by very much if the prevailing mean speeds are much higher than the proposed lower speed limit. If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored then this could result in the majority of drivers criminalising themselves and could bring the system of speed limits into disrepute. 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. It is also important to set reasonable speed limits to ensure consistency across the country.</p>

	<p>Therefore 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>After careful consideration of the documents and speed data provided I object to the following proposals;</p> <p>Vendee Drive W A41 Southern by Pass .</p> <p>Means speeds provided are clearly too high and above the prosecution threshold.</p>
<p>() Chesterton Parish Council</p>	<p>Concerns – Chesterton Parish wishes to lodge the following comments on this proposed scheme:</p> <p>(1) The principles behind this scheme are admirable as long as enforcement is taken into consideration and applied consistently. It has to be said that the Parish Council feels strongly that the parallel road to Howes Lane (A4095) should not have been jettisoned with the likely result of increased traffic on an already overused road. The advent of 3,100 more homes on the Hawkswell Farm site will place yet more demands on the A4095 both in Howes Lane and through Chesterton.</p> <p>(2) The main considerations for Chesterton are as follows:</p> <p>a) The A 4095 from its junction with Vendee Drive has a 60mph limit (National Speed Limit) until the 30mph limit adjacent to the chicane before the Chesterton Hotel. We have consistently argued that this 60mph zone needs to be reduced to 40mph in the interests of public safety. Technically this section of the A4095 is not a formal part of the Bicester Ring Road but is used intensively as a “rat run” involving the A4095, The Hale, Akeman Street and the B430 to avoid Junction 9 on the M40. This can be verified by detailed surveys done by OCC Highways. This section also a considerable volume of both pedestrian and cycle usage. Please reduce this 60mph limit to 40mph as proposed for Vendee Drive (marked in green)</p> <p>b) Leaving Chesterton village via Church Road, also in green on the enclosed map, is another road used as a “cut through” with a 60mph limit (National Speed Limit). At best with two right angled bends it is dangerous and a reduction</p>

	<p>to 40mph would increase pedestrian and vehicle safety. There is no public footpath on this road. Again please reduce the existing 60mph limit to a 40mph limit.</p> <p>The Parish Council does not object to the proposals but would ask you to consider very carefully the representations made by Chesterton Parish Council to make necessary changes to speed limits as indicated above. The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to meet with Highways officials to discuss our very real concerns as part of these local speed improvements as proposed.</p>
<p>() Launton Parish Council</p>	<p>Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>The Parish Council considered the consultation at a meeting on 3 February.</p> <p>The Parish Council requests that if the speed limits are changed on the Launton Bicester Road that OCC does not remove the current village name signs.</p>
<p>() As part of a group/organisation, (Bicester Chamber)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes Lane/Lords Lane/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Concerns</p> <p>Bicester Chamber represents small and medium sized businesses located in Bicester and District. The group has been established since the 1950s and is well regarded in the area in campaigning on behalf of businesses, their owners and employees.</p> <p>We object to several of the proposals regarding the reduction in speed limits.</p> <p>Businesses in Bicester rely on a fast and efficient traffic network to deliver their goods and services. Reducing speed limits will increase time on the road for their business, their customers and their suppliers. This will, therefore, increase costs to business who will face increased traffic times that will need to be factored in when making deliveries or</p>

travelling to provide services. We fear that this could result in a significant number of businesses relocating out of Bicester to other areas where the traffic can travel at a faster speed to improve their efficiency.

The definition of a Ring Road is 'a road or a series of connected roads encircling a town, city, or country. The most common purpose of a ring road is to assist in reducing traffic volumes in the urban centre, such as by offering an alternate route around the city for drivers who do not need to stop in the city core. Ring roads can also serve to connect suburbs to each other, allowing efficient travel between them' (Wikipedia). Creating a reduced speed limit Ring Road will actually encourage increased urban driving as the Ring Road becomes less useful, as it will not be as fast and efficient. Despite the Ring Road not being the most direct route for some 'in town' vehicular traffic, it is currently the most popular route because it is actually quicker, more convenient and safer to use.

One of our members has produced a survey of travel from home in North West Bicester to work off Launton Road in Bicester. The route using the Ring Road is 2.5miles and takes on average 6 minutes 16 seconds per journey, with the Ring Road at 50mph speed limit consisting of 1.6 miles of the journey. The most direct route is 2.0 miles and takes on average 6 minutes 45 seconds to travel. Despite the distance being 25% longer, it is quicker than taking the more direct route. Therefore, the quickest route is selected to use every day.

Should the speed limit be reduced to 40mph, it is likely to take approximately 1 extra minute to use the Ring Road route. It will therefore now take longer to travel between home and work compared to the more direct route, whilst also being a 25% greater distance. The business owner and their staff will instead start to use the more direct route to work if the speed limits on the Ring Road are reduced, because there is no benefit to continue using the Ring Road as it becomes more costly in terms of business time lost.

It is worth noting that the direct route is an urban route and the journey goes through housing estates, past 2 schools, 2 under 5's school nurseries, shops, a pub and requires the negotiation of several junctions. It therefore poses a higher risk in terms of safety for pedestrians, school children and other road users. The existing Ring Road does not involve such potential obstacles and risk. Taking traffic off the Ring Road to these more urban routes therefore is in conflict with your key policy desire to make the traffic network safer.

If traffic did move to the urban routes and away from the Ring Road it is important to realise that this additional traffic in the urban areas would now be raising pollution levels in urban areas rather than the open environment of the Ring Road. Even if much of the Ring Road traffic did remain, despite the slower speed, by it's very nature there would be increased pollution compared to the present day, because travelling at a lower speed will mean that the car is in the area for longer due to the reduced speed thereby polluting more. Internal combustion engines have always been designed to operate at their most efficient cycle at around 56-60 mph or 2200 to 2500 rpm. Below these levels causes

	<p>the engine to produce more NOx gases and unburnt hydrocarbons etc. This will become particularly apparent in Launton village reducing the speed limit to 20mph as the increased pollution caused will affect all residents including schoolchildren being subjected to this. From the point of view of the environment and climate control necessity, we would object to any reduction in speed limit.</p> <p>We note that your proposal is designed to ‘..create a uniform speed limit through out the route...’. There is already a uniform speed limit on the Ring Road, it is 50mph except where specific road conditions on this route do not permit.</p> <p>Drawing on the experience of members who have lived in Bicester for many years, we would like to point out that the majority of the towns Ring Road network is relatively new, with designated footpaths and cycle ways and, in the main, well insulated from residential areas. They have wide carriageways which were designed and built to accommodate traffic travelling at 50mph. So we fail to understand why there is a sudden reactional need to reduce the speed limit on these roads. There does not seem to be any increase of reported traffic accident rates on these roads. In fact, the pavements and cycle tracks are positioned well away from the road covered by wide grass verges, behind trees and even fences in many areas along the route, and in the case of Vendee Drive, ditches on either side of the road, thereby negating the purpose for reducing the speed limit on this route.</p> <p>This proposal for the reduction in speed limits appears to be directed by National guidance. We are of the opinion that a one size fits all model is not appropriate for each and every individual town or city and therefore should be assessed on their own individual merits, appropriate to the circumstances of the local area.</p> <p>With regard the A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road between the Oxford Road and B4100 London Road roundabouts, we have concerns that whilst reducing the speed limit in this area to 50mph does appear sensible, it then becomes inconsistent if the remaining road network becomes 40mph.</p> <p>In summary we cannot see any valid reason why the speed limit on Bicester Ring Road should be reduced from 50mph to 40mph, and we are of the opinion that a consistent approach to the speed limits on the Ring Road network should be adopted. You outline in your Statement of Reasons your desire for a uniform speed limit throughout the route, but your proposals for the A41 and the rest of the Ring Road is inconsistent and is therefore contradictory.</p> <p>We would be happy to engage with OCC to consider these proposals further before any decisions are reached.</p>
<p>() As a business, (Bicester, Buckingham road)</p>	<p>All Limits - Support</p>

	<p>I strongly feel that areas that need extra speed restrictions are the ring road from launton rd roundabout towards the electric substation should be reduced further to 30 mph as there are so many near misses with cars exiting the new estate on the left and the new units on the opposite side of the road, also it should be reduced to 30 mph on Howes lane from the traffic lights from Shakespeare drive to the ten ten bridge as there are many movements from the 5 access and drives onto the road and it's the only area where pedestrians as right alongside the highway in this zone area.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Avon Crescent)</p>	<p>All Limits - Support</p> <p>Makes roads safer and reduces noise and pollution Could encourage more to cycle too</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Barry Avenue)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>There is no factual reason to impose draconian reduced speed limits. Traffic moves perfectly well with existing limits in place. Reducing speed limits on out of town Ring and A roads only adds to an decrease in road capacity, whilst increasing congestion where there was none before. These proposed roads do not have a history of being dangerous or accident black spots. Justify why the thought process helps the local community? It doesn't. Like it or not Bicester is a commuter town and must allow for free flowing traffic to move away from the town centre efficiently and quickly.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Bassett Avenue)</p>	<p>All Limits - Support</p> <p>Safer for pedestrians/cyclists. Less confusing to drivers when the same speed limit applies all around the ring road. However, speed limits need enforcement.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Buckingham)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Support Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object</p>

	<p>A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Concerns</p> <p>On a main road designed to pull traffic away from town centre you want to reduce the appeal to use it??? Speed limits in villages are not stuck to so really why waste your money???</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Catterick)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>Traffic flow well in the ring road A4421 most of the time. Reducing the speed limit would lead to an increase journey time and there would be higher chance of an accident as the cars that are speeding and tailgating will act the same as they are.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Charlotte Avenue)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Support B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Support Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Support A41 - Support A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Concerns</p> <p>My concerns for the A41 Bicester to Aylesbury Road stem from the transition into the Rodney House roundabout and Hamburger Roundabout at either end where pedestrians and cyclists are crossing.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Churchill Road)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p>

	<p>It is a safe Road, and I cannot see any logical reason why we need to decrease the speed limit. plus when we have bigger issues at the minute to spend money on on. how much money is going to cost, where is the money going to come from, how is going to be policed, this is just an utter waste of money which could be spent on better things such as more street lights so it safe to walk at night. litter bins or maybe if you have so much money that you can waste on things like this. maybe you should decrease the rates just a thought.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Foundation Square)</p>	<p>All Limits - Support</p> <p>I support the reduction of the speed limit because it is much safer, better for the environment and improves quality of life. It also means less noise pollution.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Germander Way)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Support B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object</p> <p>I think the current 50mph limit on the A41 is practical for the quantity of traffic, however appreciate improvements in noise/safety for local residents should this be reduced.</p> <p>Living next to the A4095 I would support a reduction in speed limit due to the high existing noise levels, and dangerous situation for residents turning right out of Bure Park. Similarly, Bicester Rd, Launton is currently unpleasant to cycle along given high traffic speeds for such a narrow road.</p> <p>Vendee Dr is wide and well maintained with limited adjacent housing, and I think the 50mph limit works here.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Goldfinch Close)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>The speed limits are already too low and should be national speed limit.</p>

<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Hawksmead)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p> <p>It doesn't need to be slowed down</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Hawksmead)</p>	<p>A4421 Buckingham Road - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p> <p>Their are no residents on the ring road, it's a wide road and has plenty of usage, the time added to travel is frustrating as it's not needed, a speed camera to keep people at 50 mph would help.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Hazel Grove)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>40mph speed limits on the ring road will make it slower than going through town and thus increase the traffic through the town centre.</p>

<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Jay Close)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>I see no benefit to reducing speeds around the ring roads and main trunk roads. I'm not aware of the current limits resulting in accidents or congestion. If anything I believe it will increase accidents through frustrated drivers overtaking those who do comply and drive unnecessarily slowly.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Kestrel way)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>Unless significant data has been established to justify the changes, in particular to the ring road, it seems like a pointless exercise. It's a lovely large wide open road that people joining/approaching junctions can see clearly for and it keeps the traffic flowing around bicester instead of snarled up through town - which would probably benefit from being considered more so in this proposal.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Kingfisher Way)</p>	<p>All Limits - Support</p> <p>40 mph is consistent.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Lapwing close)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Concerns A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Concerns Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p>

	<p>In short: Speed limits are not the problem, the introduction of traffic lights on the two major roundabouts on the A41 are the cause of several serious problems such as reduced traffic flow, reduced air quality due to an increase in vehicles sitting and waiting at red lights, and finally increased incidents on the roads leading up to the light controlled roundabouts. With the expectation of increased traffic, an increase in the ability for said traffic to pass through is required - Not the opposite.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Linden road)</p>	<p>A4421 Buckingham Road - Support Vendee Drive - Support A4421 (ring road) - Concerns</p> <p>When I travel back to Bicester from Buckingham it's already slightly quicker for me to travel through the town centre to get home than use the ring road, a lower speed limit on the ring road will make that route even less likely to be used, not only by me, but by everyone else. A lower speed limit could increase the traffic flow issues between Bicester north station all the way to Bicester village.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Lysander Close)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Support B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Support Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Support A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>I support slower limit on all roads apart from the A4421. This road isn't as close to a built up area as the others as is also very wide. However to prevent it still being used as a racetrack with cars in excess of 60mph perhaps a speed deterrent could be installed.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Mallards Way)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Concerns A4421 Buckingham Road - Support B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Object</p>

	<p>Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Concerns A41 - Support A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>The approaches to the two roundabouts of the dangerous Rodney House and the new ridiculous offset Graven Hill/Wretchwick Green roundabouts needs traffic to be running at a reasonably slow speed of 40 mph. The speed of 50 mph over Boundary Way up to the 40 limit approaching the Rodney House roundabout is fine as it is.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Maple road)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>Bicester is already congested and I don't think slowing it further will help</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Maple Road)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p> <p>Vendee Drive, Skimmingdish Lane, Charbridge Lane, A41 - these roads are all wide, modern, well-sighted and safe, and the existing speed limits are perfectly safe and adequate. Howes Lane will join this set once its new link route opens. Those who have accidents are either disregarding the speed limit, or driving inattentively. If the speed limits were lowered, both these issues would become worse rather than better. Adherence would plummet (research shows people need to feel a limit is set at a sensible level to respect it. If the council wishes to reduce accidents and pollution, all that is needed is better policing of the existing limits (although keeping the roads in good condition would also reduce accidents and pollution).</p> <p>The most important factor, however, is the nudge effect on town centre traffic. Bicester needs through traffic to use the orbital routes, to improve congestion (and consequentially, air quality) in the vicinity of the Buckingham Rd - especially in its central area between the mini-roundabouts at Middleton Stoney Rd and Banbury Rd. The important factor here is</p>

	<p>drivers' decision-making, and how it can be influenced. It is not just the *objective* journey times which affect this, but how effective the ring road *feels*, as a faster way from one side of Bicester to the other.</p> <p>Vast public investment has been mustered to achieve the necessary improvements to the ring road (Howes Lane project to avoid Ten Ten rail bridge). Why then, would we stamp on the throat of the ring road, rather than let it do its job, the job we invested so much in allowing it to do?</p> <p>It is nonsense proposals like this which cause people to feel disaffected by, and disconnected from, their local council. I believe these proposals are neither in the interests of our town, nor supported by our community, and I hope that OCC will have the good sense to reconsider them.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Merlin Way)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>Lower speeds should be supported by clear evidence it makes the road safer- my perception is that these roads have very low level or infrequent incidents and I doubt the ksi figures are high.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Pippin)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>No comments</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Pippin Close)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>A ring road should offer sufficiently quicker journey times than driving through the town itself to encourage road users to choose to drive the longer distance around the ring road. The proposed reductions will increase the time taken for any journeys on the ring road by approximately 20%.</p> <p>I would also state that the statement of reasons provides limited justification for reducing the speed limit around the</p>

	entire circumference of Bicester with only a vague reference to an additional development adjacent to Buckingham road. Why does one development justify a speed limit decrease of 20% on 8 miles of road around the entire town?
() As an individual, (Bicester, Purslane Drive)	All Limits - Object The current speed limits are fine around Bicester and people would not follow reduced speeds
() As an individual, (Bicester, Ravencroft)	A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Support B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Support Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Concerns Ring road around Langford is used as a race track at 50mph. It will continue to be a race track at 40mph. Use speed cameras to restrict speed. 50mph will then be safe.
() As an individual, (Bicester, Ray Road)	All Limits - Object I think this is unnecessary and will slow down traffic flow for no real gain.
() As an individual, (Bicester, Sallow close)	A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object

	<p>By reducing the speed limit will encourage drivers to use the town centre roads as there will not be any benefit to driving along the ring road. Traffic flows ok as far as I can see, otherwise it will become a car park... Need to keep traffic out of the town centre! I drive the ring road every day and don't see anyone speeding, people drive 40-50 mph. Reducing it will encourage people to drive faster & overtake.</p>
() As an individual, (Bicester, Shearwater)	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>Speed limits are fine on the ring road, speed limit to Aylesbury I agree with reducing as many accidents down this road</p>
() As an individual, (Bicester, Siskin)	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>The roads work smoothly as they are. Please don't change the speed limits</p>
() As an individual, (Bicester, Spruce Drive)	<p>All Limits - Support</p> <p>Because I think it's an excellent idea! Will reduce accidents, pollution and noise pollution.</p>
() As an individual, (Bicester, Spruce Drive)	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Support B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Support</p>

	<p>Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Support A41 - Support A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Concerns</p> <p>If this is the only short stretch of the of the ringroad that is 50mph then it should be 40mph too. Otherwise people will be using it to overtake on an already dangerous stretch.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Swallow Close)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>All of the existing speed limits are perfectly fine. The roads are all perfectly capable of operating at the current speeds. The changing of speeds will do little more that frustrate residents and cause further delays. Money would be better spent improving the road conditions.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Wetherby Road)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Concerns B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Concerns A4421 (ring road) - Concerns A41 - Concerns A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Concerns</p> <p>Bicester roads are bad enough with traffic. Reducing speed will only get people blocking other roads and then Bicester will be grid locked at certain times</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Whitelands Way)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>Unless a ring road can provide quick and easy access around Bicester without snarling up the town centre - then it becomes increasingly useless at getting people where they need to go. I would prefer 20 mph throughout town to deter rat running</p>

<p>() As an individual, (Bicester, Willow Drive)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>Lower speed limits keep popping up all over the country, making journeys even longer than usual. This won't make roads any safer, someone hit with a car going at 30, 40 or 50mph is still most likely going to end up with serious injuries and pedestrian safety is down to the individual as it is taught in depth in every primary school/nursery. There are certain roads where even an increased speed limit would be more reasonable.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Catterick Road)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>The current limits still cause build ups of traffic, if you reduce these the build ups will increase because cars will not be moving quick enough to get out of the areas. I think this plan is a really bad idea.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Corncrake Way)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p> <p>The ring road and a41 are main roads with no pedestrian routes or well maintained dual footpath and cycle way away from the road with little or no accidents having ever happened. There is no need to lower the speed limit and it would prove to just be a money making exercise for Thames valley police</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Fallowfields)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>The ring road is there for traffic to bypass a town quickly and efficiently why dont you spend the money improving these roads (pot holes etc) its fine as it is</p>

<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Kestrel way)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>I see no current issues with the current speed limits except for the a41 where I constantly see vehicles and particularly motorcycles speed way over 70 mph, motorcycles especially at weekends use the area as a racing circuit , better signage and speed checks are a better deterrent</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Kingfisher Way)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>Objections are for roads that are wide and have good visibility. Use of ring roads is usually quicker than going through town, but some of these changes, particularly to A4421, will make this less of an obvious choice. I also think there will be increased risk from impatient drivers on such roads. I would support a 50 to 40 reduction on Howes Lane only due to the type of road and how short the length of 50 limit is.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Lancaster)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p>

	<p>It already takes a longer time to get across Bicester than it should. You need to fix the infrastructure before reducing speed limits. It will not be worth using the ring road if it's not quicker and traffic will just go through an already busy Bicester village area. Not happy about this.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Lysander Close)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Support B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Support Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Support A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>A4421 ring road is fine at 50mph. Wide and well lit.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , N/A)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>Keep the 50mph road, it's less time, more happiness, the road is so long 40mph will cause more traffic jams. Bicester to Aylesbury 60mph is fine</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Overstrand Close)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>There is no issue with current speed of ring road. A ring road should have a higher speed and be able to travel around with ease. By reducing more people will travel through town and reduce milage by doing so as traveling on ring road brings nothing to the party</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Restharrow Mead)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Object</p>

	<p>A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>The roads feels perfectly safe, most people keep to the limit. Money could be spent on potholes and maintaining rather than consultations and road signs. Apparently we are all broke yet you find ways to waste money. It won't stop the late night racers.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Spitfire close)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p> <p>It is a ring road to avoid the main traffic through the town. There is no need for it to be slower as there is no need to cross these roads.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , Vulcan View)</p>	<p>All Limits - Support</p> <p>With the new highway code it makes sense to reduce the speed limits and will hopefully be less accidents</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Bicester , West Street)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>The reason for a ring roads to allow the speedy circumvention of the town without drivers having to go through the town, by reducing the speed limits this incentive is reduced.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Arncott, Norris Road)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p>

	<p>The reduction in speed limits will not improve road safety, as these roads see few accidents (and where there are accidents, they are usually low-speed at junctions or traffic light controlled roundabouts). The reduction in speed limits will have a negative effect on public health, as exhaust pollution intensity increases in any specific spot as vehicle speed reduces. Furthermore the majority of these roads are wide, with adequate visibility. There does not seem to be any genuine reason to reduce the speed limits on these roads.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Arncott, Woodpiece)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>I had a large comment in here and your page lost it. I'm not typing it all again. Upgrade the surface to low noise if it's noise reduction. If it's safety then where is the evidence that these roads will be safer once the speed is reduced? All this will do is hit the motorists who just need to get somewhere. Those that ignore the speed limits will not change their ways. This is just a way for a local authority to say "look we're doing something" by actually doing nothing useful. One day we'll all go back to horse and cart and those with cars will have a man with a red flag walking in front. It's just like the 20s plenty which is a joke when you're getting overtaken by cyclists.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Arncott, Mill lane)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>None of these roads are accident hotspots and traffic poses no danger to anyone on these roads. The majority of cars are most efficient (and emit less co2) when moving at 50-55 mph so reducing the speed limit would needlessly increase emissions. There simply is no point to reducing these limits</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Banbury, The byeway)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Concerns</p> <p>Many of these are too slow. It's bad enough on roads around Bicester with slow limits as the speeders still speed, the lower the limit the more idiots will speed creating da ferrous situations</p>

<p>() As an individual, (Caversfield , Montgomery Road)</p>	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Support A4421 Buckingham Road - Concerns B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Support Vendee Drive - Support Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Support A41 - Support A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Support</p> <p>I strongly think the A4421 Buckingham Road should be a 30MPH until after the Stratton Audley turn. It is next to a path where children walk to school, it is used by people walking their dogs with just a stretch of grass between them and the road, no barrier or fence for protection. The traffic speeds in and out of Bicester on this road which includes lorries and HGV's for HS2. I feel very nervous walking on this road and feel a 30 would be a far more appropriate speed restriction.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Graven Hill, Foundation Square)</p>	<p>All Limits - Support</p> <p>Road safety, environment, noise, traffic flow.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Graven Hill, Read Place)</p>	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>I don't feel there are any issues caused by the current speed limit. The ring road is there to encourage people not to go through town & make their Jennie quicker. If the limit is decreased this much, people may as well take the shorter route thereby increasing traffic in town where the infrastructure is already under too much pressure. The whole thing seems pointless to me. There are much more important things that need to be addressed first.</p>
<p>() As an individual, (Kingsmere, Bicton close)</p>	<p>Vendee Drive - Concerns A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p>

	<p>Vendee drive: currently the speed is not an issue at all as both end are limited at 40 and the different intersection easy to handle.</p> <p>Regarding the road to Aylesbury: this does not make any sense as straight line until the roundabout facing graven hill with no junction, no houses, no pedestrians.</p>
() As an individual, (Langford, Heron Drive)	<p>All Limits - Concerns</p> <p>40mph is way too low, what's the point if there is no crashes or anything, big waste of money, use that money on fixing the roads all around Bicester and not slowing down roads with no issues</p>
() As an individual, (Langford, Jay Close)	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>With the crossing works slowing the route through town, the ring road is now even more important. No safety issues</p>
() As an individual, (Langford, Kestrel way)	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>Bicester ring road is longer than driving through and as such should be quicker. It is all on the outskirts of built up Bicester.</p>
() As an individual, (Langford, Merlin Way)	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>Its supposed to be a ring road to divert the traffic, i can see pollution going up in town and surrounding housing areas as it will be just as quick to travel through rather than use the ring road at the proposed reduced speed, along with all the traffic lights that keep appearing on roundabouts. These proposed roads are designed to be 50mph, visibility is good and seperate to housing estates, i also like the 50mph speed limits as my and most vehicles are very efficient at this speed. I think Bicester should start taking more of a leaf out of MK book in all honesty.</p>
() As an individual, (Launton , Clock court)	<p>All Limits - Support</p>

	With volume of traffic increasing, speed reduction will make the area safer
() As an individual, (Launton , West end)	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>Utterly ludicrous! Why? No accidents, traffic flows well and no issues with pedestrians or cyclists. What are you wasting public fund debating this for. Why are you consistently cocking up the roads round Bicester?. You can't even build a properly functioning roundabout!!!</p>
() As an individual, (Oxford, Rymers Lane)	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>I can't see any logic in the argument in the 'Statement of Reasons' that a speed limit should be reduced on 80% of the Bicester ring road, not because of the nature of the road or residential developments upon it, but simply because the other 20% is different. There is absolutely no logic to this.</p>
() As an individual, (Stratton Audley, Launton Road)	<p>A4095 (Howes/Lords/Southwold Lane) - Object A4421 Buckingham Road - Object B4030 Middleton Stoney Drive - Object Vendee Drive - Object Bicester Road (Launton) - Support A4421 (ring road) - Object A41 - Object A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road (50mph) - Object</p> <p>I do not see what problem this will solve. If anything, this road should be upgraded. Travel times along this road are already longer than they should be.</p>
() As an individual, (Wendlebury, Rectory Close)	<p>All Limits - Object</p> <p>In my opinion, Bicester is expanding faster than the road infrastructure can cope. Rather than reduce the speeds on the ring road, the safer thing to do would be to improve the speed and capacity of the ring road (dual carriageway etc)</p>

	<p>as this will encourage people to use the ring road rather than cut through town etc. I think slowing the ring road down will dilute the advantage of going around Biceater than through it. An example at the moment; I take my daughter to nursery in Bure Park in the mornings. I drive from Wendlebury. The first week I took the Vendee drive, Howes Lane, A4095 part of ring road then into Bure Park via Banbury Road. After that week, I had been stuck behind slow traffic as much that now I use Kings End, Queens Ave, Banbury Road because despite the traffic lights its quicker. So I'm driving through town instead of around it which defies the point.</p>
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