

Divisions affected: *Sutton Courtenay & Marcham*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –
7 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**MARCHAM: SHEEPSTEAD ROAD – PROPOSED EXTENSION OF
30MPH SPEED LIMIT**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the extension of the 30mph speed limit on Sheepstead Road in Marcham as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on a proposed extension of the existing 30mph speed limit on Sheepstead Road by 115 metres to its junction with the Cow Lane & West Down Lane tracks as a result of adjacent residential development, as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation and the proposals themselves has been provided by the developer of the adjacent land.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

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

Sustainability Implications

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

Formal consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 28 June and 21 July 2023. A notice was published in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley

Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Vale of White Horse District Council, the local District Cllrs, Marcham Parish Council and the local County Councillor representing the Sutton Courtenay & Marcham division.

7. 26 responses were received during the course of the formal consultation, comprising of; 18 in support (69%), three objecting (11%), four raising concerns (15%), and one non-objection.
8. The full responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original submissions are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

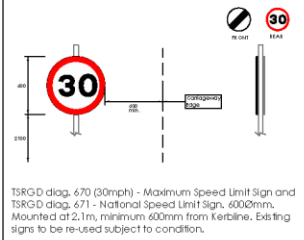
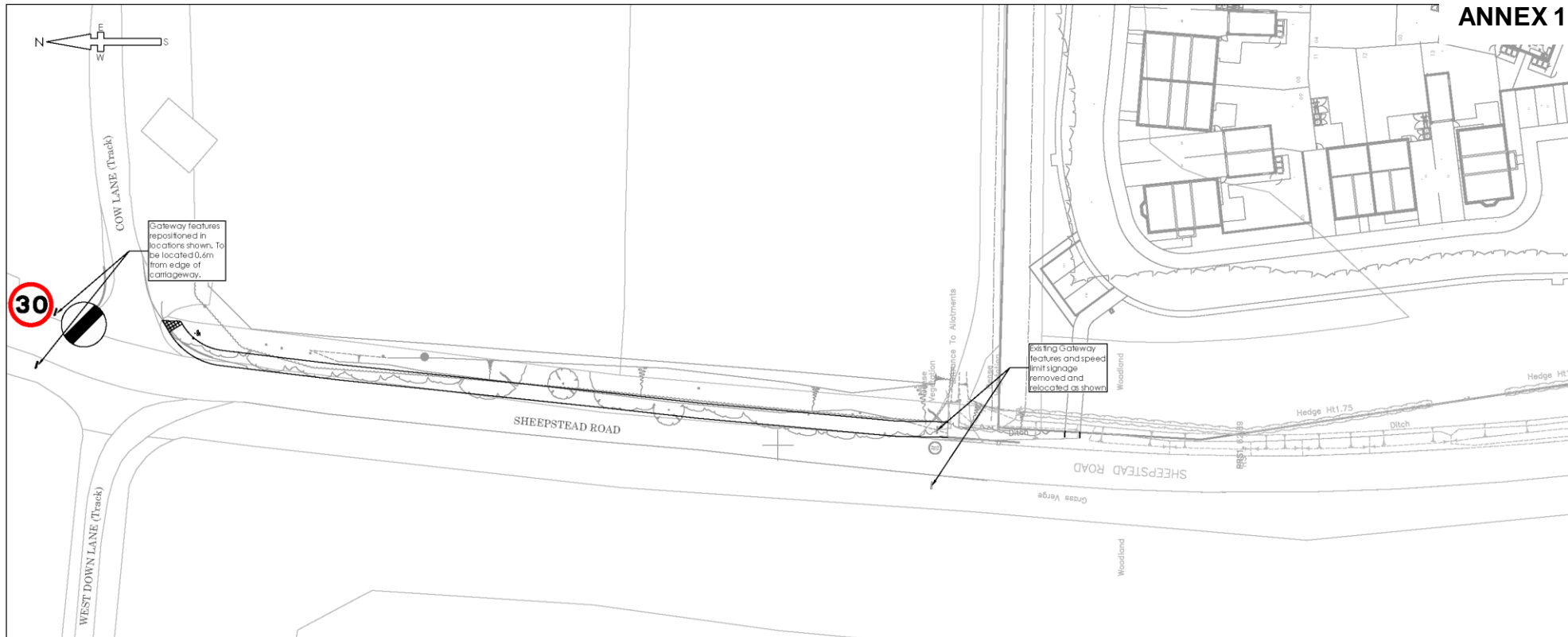
9. Thames Valley Police raised concerns about the wider 20mph proposals being consulted on at the same time, however offered no response in relation to these specific proposals.
10. Marcham Parish Council supported the proposals but also suggested that consideration should be given to changing the speed limit on Sheepstead Road from 60mph to 50mph, then from Cow Lane southwards could become 20mph and the 30mph section could be removed. While agreeing that this could have some advantages, overall officers consider the current proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit extension is appropriate and additionally can be implemented by the developer with no further cost to the County Council, which would not be the case in respect of this wider proposal.
11. A local councillor while overall supportive, expressed some concern about the exact siting of the northern terminal sign for the 30mph speed limit; this will be investigated, and some slight adjustment may be possible without the need for further consultation.
12. Three objections were received from members of the public, one citing no grounds, one citing that there was no need for the lower limit, and the final objection being on the grounds that the entire length of the proposed 30mph speed limit should be 20mph.
13. Noting the final comment, the proposal for the 30mph extension is judged to be appropriate taking account of the road environment and will complement the proposed 20mph speed limit. Additionally, the extension of this 30mph speed limit was requested by OCC Traffic department through the section 278 technical audit process.
14. The majority of the remaining responses from members of the public were supportive of the proposal, noting new development will increase pedestrian activity, and that by reducing the speed limit for this section of road for the full length of the footway will help create a safer environment for more vulnerable road-users.

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes Annex 1: Consultation plan
 Annex 2: Consultation responses


Contact Officers: Jacob Mowlem

September 2023



TSRGD diag. 670 (30mph) - Maximum Speed Limit Sign and
 TSRGD diag. 671 - National Speed Limit Sign, 600mm.
 Mounted at 2.1m, minimum 600mm from Kerbline. Existing
 signs to be re-used subject to condition.

- NOTES**
1. All dimensions and levels are in metres unless otherwise noted
 2. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with the relevant Architect's/Engineer's drawings, specifications and CDM documentation
 3. This drawings has been produced electronically and may have been photo reduced or enlarged when copied. Work to figured dimensions only (DO NOT SCALE). All dimensions to be checked on site. Any errors or omissions to be reported to the engineer immediately.
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PO1	NJ	TST	Initial Issue	30/08/22
REV	DRAWN	CHECK	REVISION COMMENTS	ISSUE DATE
DRAWING TITLE S278 Works Plan TRO Plan				SHEET NO. 12
PROJECT Kings Field Marcham Oxon				
CLIENT PYE		 Infrastruct CS Ltd		
SCALE @ A3 1:500 @ A3			DESIGN TST	
PROJECT NUMBER ICS-4532		DATE August 22		DRAFTED SNN
DRAWING NUMBER MARC-ICS-01-XX-DR-C-0612			APPROVED RJW	REVISION R4
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ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(26) Marcham Parish Council	<p>Support – Marcham Parish Council fully supports the proposal. It would, however ask for consideration to be given to the following:</p> <p>Consideration should be given to changing the speed limit on Sheepstead Road from 60mph to 50mph, then from Cow Lane southwards could become 20mph and the 30mph section could be removed.</p>
(2) Local group/organisation, (Unlimited Oxfordshire)	<p>Support – This is an excellent proposition. Along the A415 through the village there is no footway for a considerable length. Also, some drivers use the residential street Howard Cornish Road to bypass most of this difficult length of the A415. Therefore Unlimited Oxfordshire strongly supports these proposed speed limits.</p>
(3) Local Cllr, (Marcham, Harding Way)	<p>Concerns - With the building of a new houses at Davies Edge, including a footpath through to Sheepstead Road to the north of the existing junction between Sheepstead Rd and Harding Way, we should expect more pedestrians, etc, to use this section of the road. Vehicular access to the Cow Lane allotments is via Cow Lane and farm vehicles use the track also. I therefore support the overall aim of extending the 30mph zone to the north along Sheepstead Rd.</p> <p>I would, however, argue that the exact positioning of the start of the 30 mph zone (as one drives into the village from the north) is not quite right: the verges on the Sheepstead Road - Cow Lane junction are often overgrown, which limits visibility for drivers trying to pull out from Cow Lane onto Sheepstead Road. Extending the 30 mph zone further to the north would therefore make it more likely that vehicles travelling south are actually obeying the speed limit by the time they reach Cow Lane, thereby reducing the likelihood of a serious collision at this junction.</p>
(4) Local Cllr, (Abingdon, Thurston Close)	Support - Safer streets

<p>(5) Local Cllr, (Frilford , Ford Lane)</p>	<p>Support - The road out of Marcham up to Cothill doesn't have a footpath but does have frequent pedestrians using the road. In addition, traffic approaching Marcham are arriving too fast . This would encourage safer roads into and leaving Marcham.</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Marcham, Duffield Place)</p>	<p>Object</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Marcham, Leas Lane)</p>	<p>Object - If pedestrians follow the 'Highway Code' guidance and drivers comply with the 30mph speed limit, then there isn't a problem which needs an oppressive solution.</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Marcham, Packhorse Lane)</p>	<p>Object - The extension needs to be 20mph and not 30mph. Drivers tend to enter the village from this road at excess speed....20mph earlier may force them to reduce their speed earlier.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Marcham, Packhorse Lane)</p>	<p>Concerns - I live on Packhorse and my wife suffers from asthma so im concerned if a 20mph limit increases emissions with cars being on the road longer.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Marcham, Pointer Place)</p>	<p>Concerns - I do not think it goes far enough, the National speed limit from the sheepshead crossroads should be reduced down to 40 and then from cow lane 20</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Marcham, Packhorse Lane)</p>	<p>Concerns - We live on Packhorse Lane and worry that this will slow traffic down and cause more emissions . I'm asthmatic so particularly worried.</p>
<p>(12) Member of public, (Abingdon, Bailie Close)</p>	<p>Support - I would like to see traffic in built up areas move more steadily, with fewer incentives to accelerate fast in/out of 20mph zones</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Abingdon, Bostock Road)</p>	<p>Support - This road is becoming more residential so it is appropriate to have the 30mph speed limit extended for safety.</p>

(14) Local Resident, (Abingdon, Darrell Way)	Support - Extending the 30mph section will phase in the 20mph limits within the village and make the residential roads safer.
(15) As part of a group/organisation, (Abingdon, Winsmore Lane)	Support - To make our streets safer
(16) Local Resident, (Marcham, Farthings)	Support - 30 is Ok
(17) Local Resident, (Marcham, Frilford Road)	Support - This is a sensible move to protect the new development
(18) Local Resident, (Marcham, Howard Cornish Road)	Support - Yes this would be a brilliant thing to do as that road is dangerous and approaching Marcham.
(19) Local Resident, (Marcham, Howard Cornish Road)	Support - The speed limit needs to reflect the expansion of the village.
(20) Local Resident, (Marcham, Monks Walk)	Support - Residential area needs traffic calming
(21) Local Resident, (Marcham, Packhorse Lane)	Support - we should protect residents who are in danger of speeding traffic
(22) Local Resident, (Marcham, Parkside)	Support - I have lived in the village for 22 years and only know of 2 or 3 crashes, the speed of the road does not affect anything it is purely drivers choice to speed so reducing the speed limit is a waste of time and money
(23) Local Resident, (Marcham, The Croft)	Support - I regularly have to walk dogs up sheepstead road where there is no pavement - up to reach Cow lane. Even at 30mph occasional cars have only seconds to change course to give me space but many cars are running more speedily.

<p>(24) Local Resident, (Marcham, Chancel Way)</p>	<p>Support - We live in Chancel Way and noone is below 30 on or junction. Getting more and more dangerous with the increase of residents with the new builds</p>
<p>(25) Local Resident, (Marcham, Frilford Road)</p>	<p>Support - Sheepstead road is too fast at the moment so support a reduction.</p>