

Divisions affected: *Otmoor*

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

20 JUNE 2024

CHARLTON-ON-OTMOOR: PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report by Corporate Director for Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Charlton-on-Otmoor as advertised.**

Executive Summary

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

Financial Implications

2. Funding for consultation and the proposals themselves has been provided by the County Council's 20mph Speed Limit Project.

Legal Implications

3. 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

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 Charlton-on-Otmoor by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 04 April and 26 April 2024. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Cherwell District Council, the local District Cllrs, Charlton-on-Otmoor Parish Council, and the local County Councillor representing the Otmoor division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

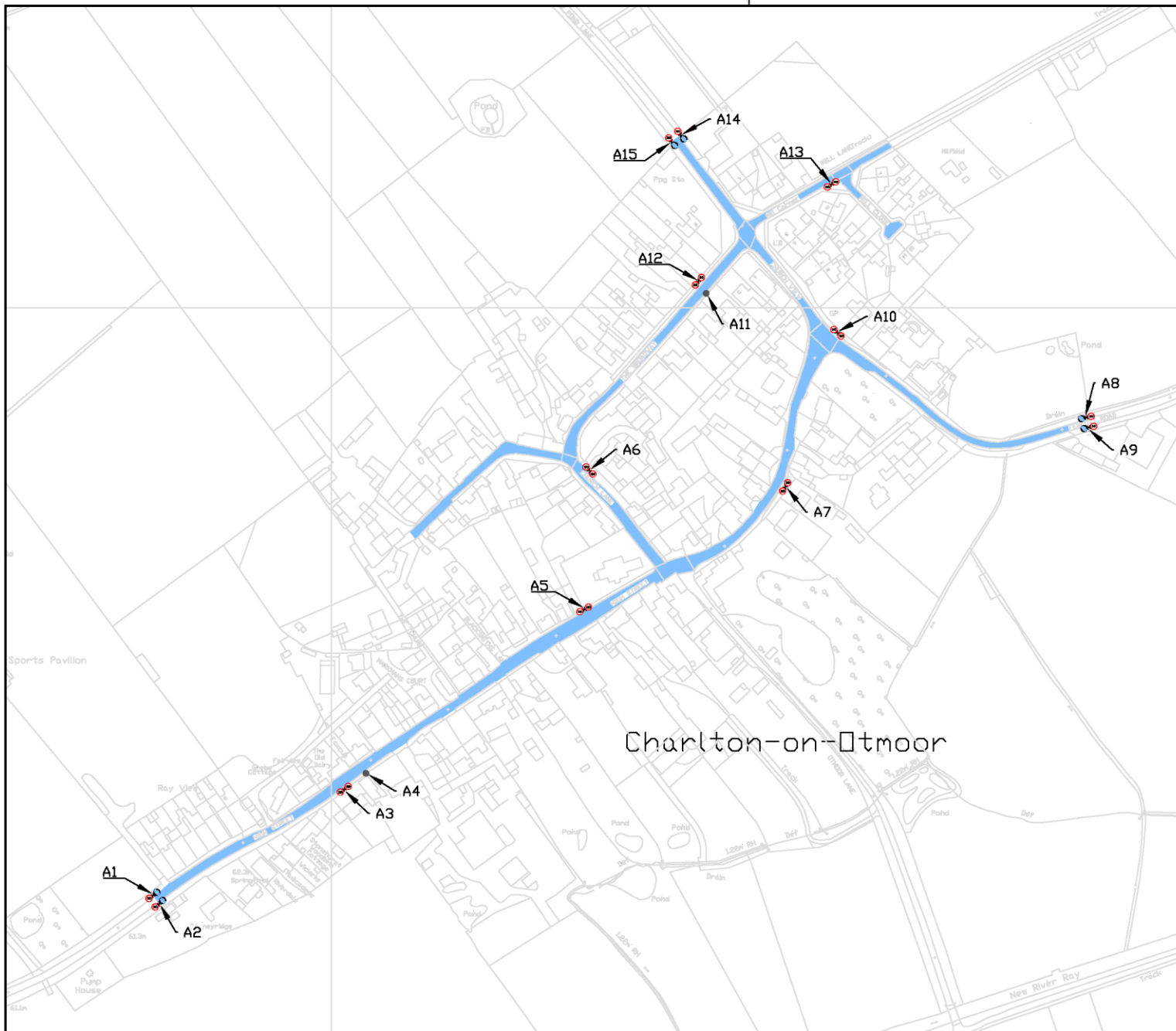
7. Thames Valley Police re-iterated their views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits, they consider their view as 'having concerns' rather than a formal objection. Oxford Bus Company offered no objection.
8. The Go-Ahead bus group's Head of Built Environment and Infrastructure's response made no objection to these proposals (noting that the current very limited bus service through the village is run by another operator) but reiterated their concern that the Council has proper regard to the cumulative impact of this policy on the attractiveness and sustainability of bus services, and its socio-economic effects especially in rural areas, where walking and cycling out of villages to reach far distant services is clearly a great deal less viable a choice than others – including driving.

Other Responses:

9. Two further responses were received, both objecting to the proposals. With one local resident believing that the roads through the village naturally kept the speed of vehicles down, and also felt the lower limits would potentially increase pollution. A member of the public felt the proposals unnecessary, and more of an anti-motorist policy designed to limit people's movement.
10. The consultation responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

11. The main purpose of the scheme is to encourage greater use of active travel by reducing speeds; this is also expected to reduce accidents. The aim of reducing speed limits is to change driver's mindsets to make speeding socially unacceptable and make more environmentally friendly modes of travel such as walking and cycling more attractive, and also help reduce the Counties carbon



Drawing No. _____

Notes:

Proposed 20mph limit

© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10023943 2017

Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
 Bill Cotton
 Director of
 Communities Operations
 Oxfordshire County Council
 County Hall
 New Road
 Oxford
 OX1 1ND
 Tel: 0845 310 1111

Project title
 Charlton-on-Otmoor 20mph

Drawing title
 Sheet A

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by ER	Checked by GJB	Approved by GJB
	Date drawn 21/08/23	Date checked 23/08/23	Date approved 23/08/23

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.	Revision

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>Concerns –Thames Valley Police welcome the opportunity to engage on plans for road safety improvement 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 (www.gov.uk)) when responding to Highway Authorities in an effort to promote consistency and to reduce the burden of constant and unnecessary enforcement. The advice shown in Circular Roads 1/2013 states.</p> <p>The key factors that should be taken into account in any decisions on local speed limits are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • history of collisions • road geometry and engineering • road function • composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users) • existing traffic speeds

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> road environment <p>However I recognise Oxfordshire County Council now have their own Policy for Setting Speed Limits and I expect full compliance of that policy going forward in relation to both monitoring , future engineering and self-enforcement through Community Speed Watch .</p> <p>Our stance remains that primarily 20 mph speed limits and zones should be self-enforcing</p> <p>Speed limits should be considered as part of a package of measures to manage vehicle speeds and improve road safety. Changes to the highway (for example through narrowing, providing vertical traffic calming or re-aligning the road) may be required to encourage lower speeds in addition to any change in speed limit. Though these may be more expensive, they are more likely to be successful in the long term in achieving lower speeds without the need for increased police enforcement to penalise substantial numbers of motorists.</p>
(2) Head of Built Environment and Infrastructure, (Go-Ahead Group)	<p>No objection – We have looked at these proposals, which affect a small village which lies off our network. It is served by another operator, albeit very infrequently.</p> <p>We offer no objection to these proposals. However, as we have consistently maintained, we are concerned that the Council has proper regard to the cumulative impact of this policy on the attractiveness and sustainability of bus services, and its socio-economic effects especially in rural areas, where walking and cycling out of villages to reach far distant services is clearly a great deal less viable a choice than others – including driving.</p>
(3) Local resident, (Charlton-on-Otmoor, High Street)	<p>Object – The roads through the village naturally mean speed is kept down and i don't want the added pollution caused by cars being driven sub optimally</p>
(4) Member of public, (Islip, Middle Street)	<p>Object – Unnecessary. More nauseating anti-motorist policy. Designed to limit people’s movement.</p>