

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 3 APRIL 2017**  
**PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGE - B4017 ABINGDON ROAD,  
DRAYTON**

**Report by Strategic Director, Communities**

**Introduction**

1. This report presents responses received in the course of a statutory consultation on an amended proposal for a revision to the speed limit on the B4017 between Abingdon and Drayton.

**Background**

2. An extension of the 30mph speed limit on B4017 Abingdon Road was proposed by developers as part of works to create a new access for a residential development at the location shown at Annex 1. The consultation on this proposal was carried out in September and October 2016, and the responses reported to the Cabinet Member Decisions meeting on 12 January, where, following representations from the Parish Council, it was agreed to consult on a revised proposal to replace the existing 50mph speed limit between Abingdon and Drayton with a 40mph speed limit, with no changes being made to the 30mph speed limits, as shown at Annex 2.

**Consultation**

3. The formal consultation on the revised proposal was carried out between 1 February and 3 March 2017. A public notice was placed in the Abingdon Herald newspapers and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Drayton Parish Council and the local County Councillor.
4. Thames Valley Police registered an objection on the grounds that while the average speeds as measured by a speed survey carried out in February 2017 were – at 42.5mph – likely to be acceptable, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed – 48.8mph – was almost 2mph higher than the 7mph threshold above the speed limit used by the police when assessing the likely demands for enforcement.
5. Abingdon Town Council expressed support for the proposal; no response was received from Drayton Parish Council.

**Review of responses**

## CMDE5

6. The objection of Thames Valley Police is noted and it is accepted that there is no proposed change to the character of the road on the length where a 40mph speed limit is proposed that might help further support compliance. However, as noted in the police response, the existing average speed is already fairly close to being acceptable from their perspective, and it seems very likely – based on research on the effect of speed limits used in the Department for Transport guidance on setting speed limits - that if the proposal was to be approved, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds would reduce to below the above 7mph threshold applied by the police.
7. The support for the proposal by Abingdon Town Council is noted

### **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

8. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

### **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

9. Funding for the speed limit extension has been provided by the developer of the residential land adjacent to the B4017 Abingdon Road.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

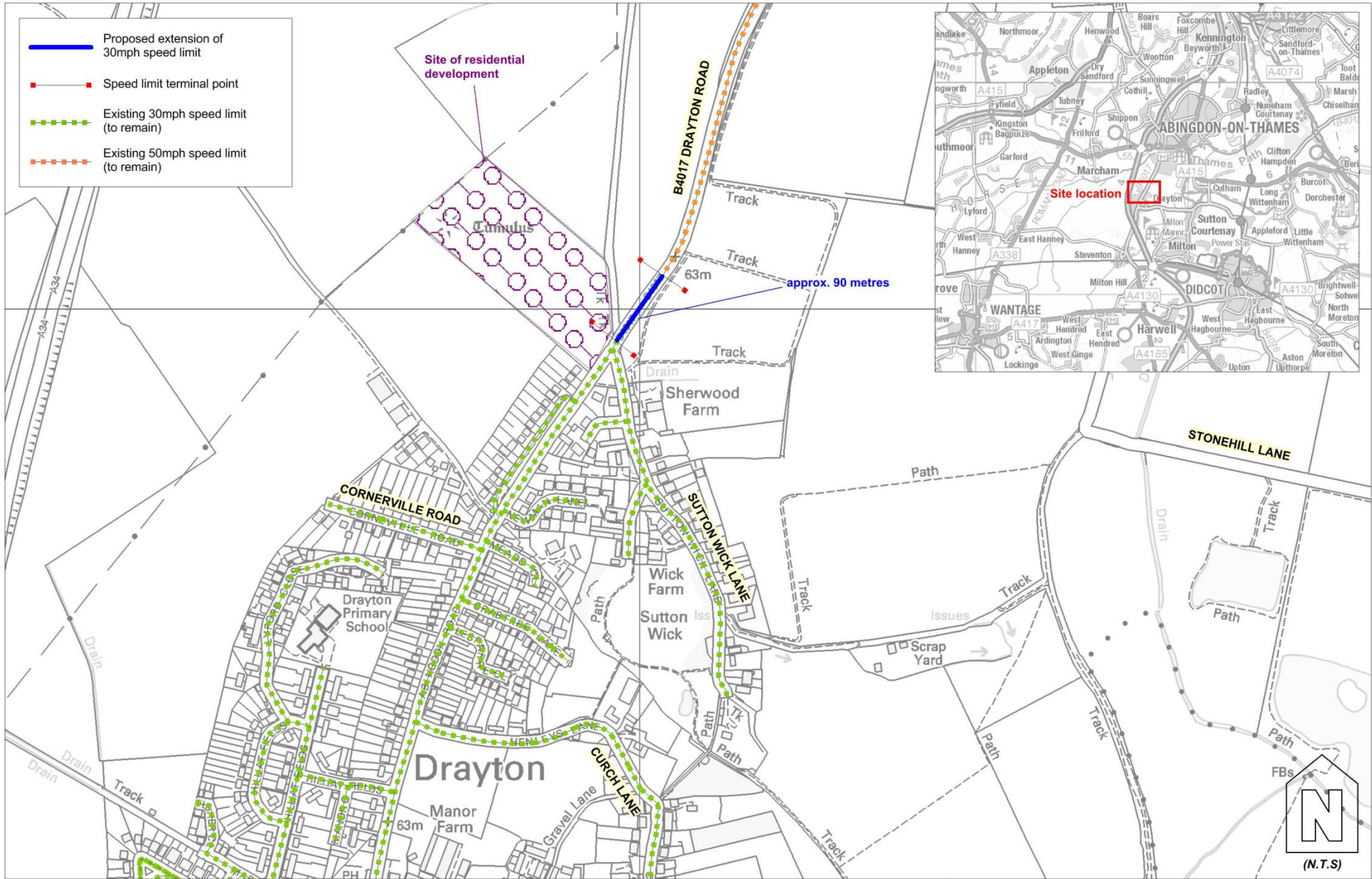
**The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposals as advertised**

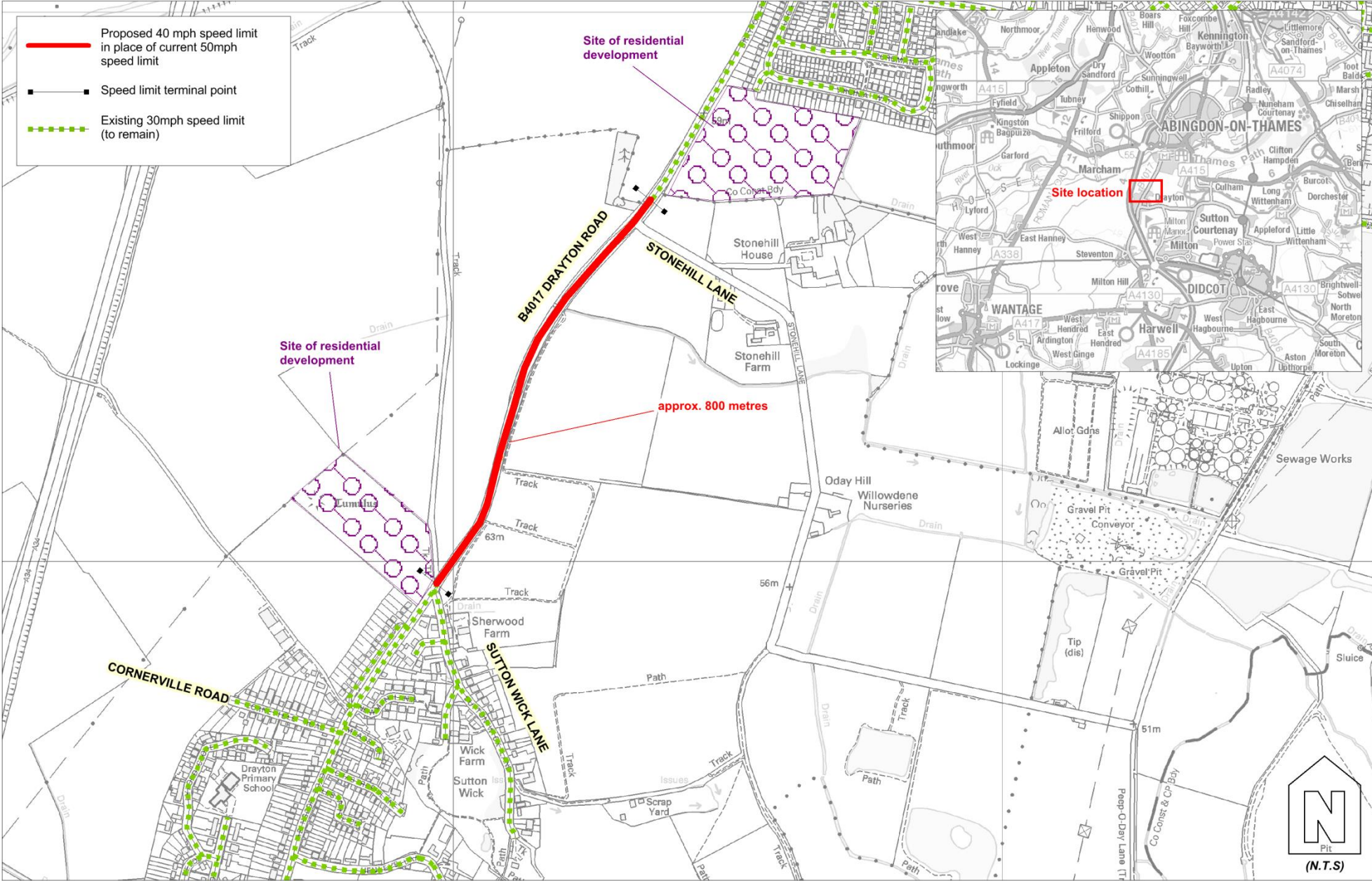
OWEN JENKINS  
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers:            Plan of proposed restrictions  
   Consultation responses

Contact Officers:                David Tole 07920 084148

March 2017





Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright  
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
 Oxfordshire County Council. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2017. 100023343



Date drawn: 20/01/2017  
 Drawn by: CJM

Map centre:  
 easting. 448060, northing. 194830

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Thames Valley Police	<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.</p> <p>The recent speed survey shows the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed to be 48.8 mph and the mean speed to be 42.5mph. While the latter appears acceptable, the view of the police is that where the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 7mph or more over the proposed limit, the limit is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or continual enforcement, placing further burden on the limited police resources for enforcement.</p> <p>It is the police view that the current speed limit is appropriate to this environment and therefore object to this proposal.</p>
(2) Abingdon Town Council	Expressed support for the proposal