

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 8 FEBRUARY 2018
BICESTER/ AMBROSDEN - PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT IN
VICINITY OF THE A41 RODNEY HOUSE / GRAVEN HILL
ROUNDAABOUT

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Introduction

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a 40mph speed limit on the A41 in the vicinity of its roundabout junction with the A4421 and B4100 at Ambrosden and Bicester as part of the signalisation of this junction.

Background

2. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward in conjunction with the signalisation of the above roundabout as part of the development of adjacent land for housing and as a result of a technical assessment of the desirable speed limit to help ensure that the junction operates with good levels of safety taking account of the site constraints.

Consultation

3. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 22 December 2017 and 26 January 2018. A public notice was placed in the Bicester Advertiser and emails sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, Cherwell District Council, Bicester Town Council, Ambrosden Parish Council and the local County Councillor.
4. Two responses were received. No objection from Thames Valley Police and an objection from the local county councillor on the grounds that the proposed 40mph speed limit would not add to the safety of the junction and also based on experience of the operation of the other signalled junctions on the A41 in the Bicester area where a 40mph speed limit applies. These responses are summarised at Annex 2. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objection and other comments

5. The response of Thames Valley Police is noted.

6. While the objection of the local member is noted, it should be stressed that the need for a lower limit has been identified as part of a technical safety assessment of the specific junction layout.
7. The limited extent of the proposal will ensure that additional journey times for traffic as a consequence of the lower limit will be minimal.
8. The comment that a 40mph speed limit is not required on the A41 immediately south of Bicester is also noted. It is though considered that the frequent junctions to accommodate traffic movements in this area of rapid commercial and residential development do point to the limit being required for safety reasons, with the additional benefit of lower levels of noise for the occupants of nearby houses and other premises.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

10. Funding for the proposed speed limit has been provided by the developers of land adjacent to the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

11. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposals to introduce a 40mph speed limit on the A41 in the vicinity of its roundabout junction with the A4421 and B4100 at Ambrosden and Bicester as part of the signalisation of this junction as advertised.**

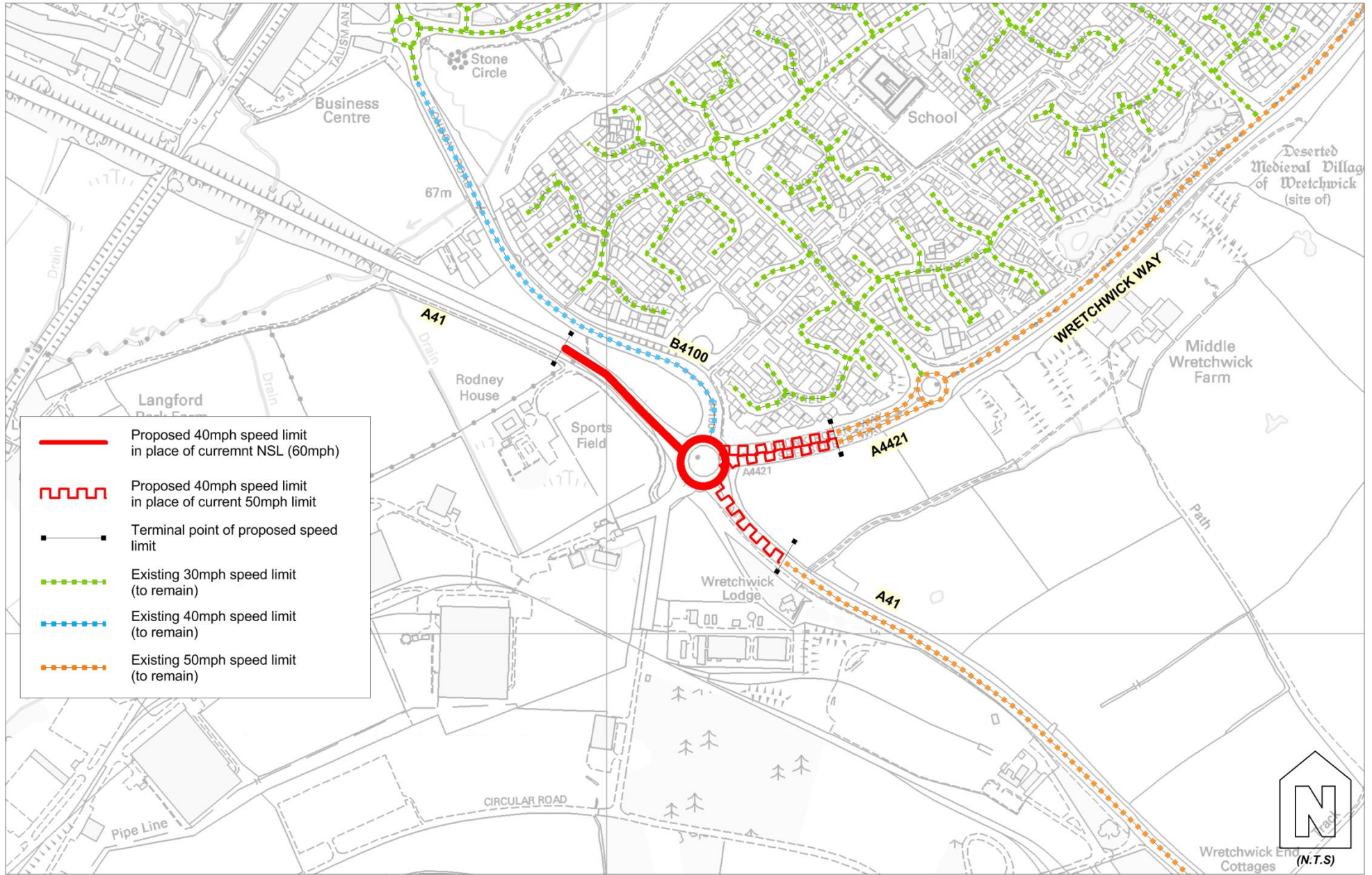
OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed 40mph speed limit
 Consultation responses

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February 2018

PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT: A41 RODNEY HOUSE RBT OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT



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Date drawn: 20/12/2017
 Drawn by: CJM

Map centre:
 easting. 459100, northing. 221250

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection.
(2) Local County Councillor (Otmoor Division)	Object - As County and District Councillor for this area I do not believe that a reduction in the speed limit is necessary along these stretches of road. Given my experience of the A41 between the Esso Roundabout and the Vendee Drive Roundabout where a similar speed limit has been introduced a similar limit here is not necessary and would not make the stretch of road any safer than it currently is.