

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 7 JUNE 2018

SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD – PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Introduction

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a 30mph speed limit in place of the existing 40mph limit on the A361 at the east end of the A361 at Shipton under Wychwood.

Background

2. The above proposals have been put forward by Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council in response to concerns over road safety and the wider adverse impact of traffic on residents and visitors to the village. A plan showing the proposals is provided at Annex 1.

Consultation

3. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 4 April and 4 May 2018. A public notice was placed in the Witney & West Oxfordshire Gazette newspaper and sent to statutory consultees including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, West Oxfordshire District Council, Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council and the local County Councillor.
4. Six responses were received. Thames Valley Police objected on the grounds that current speeds appeared to be excessive for a 30mph speed limit and also noting the absence of any reported injury accidents here in recent years. Four expressions of support were received. From Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council and three local residents. West Oxfordshire District Council have not objected. These responses are summarised at Annex 2. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

5. The Thames Valley Police objection is noted. Three speed surveys have been carried out in recent years. One near the rail bridge showed average speeds to be around 41mph but surveys to the south west (i.e. further into the village) near the garage and river bridge showed average speeds to be 33 and 34mph respectively.

6. Department for Transport guidance on setting local speed limits would suggest this is a somewhat marginal site for a 30mph limit, with the level of road side development being close to, but not quite, meeting the threshold where a 30mph limit would be commended.
7. Noting the strong support from the parish council and the three responses in support from residents it is on balance recommended to approve this proposal, taking account of the fact that although there will likely be appreciable non-compliance with a 30mph in the vicinity of the rail bridge at the north end of the village, over a majority of the length of new limit, the speed of traffic should be comparable with that seen in many other village 30mph limits. However, it must be stressed (as noted in the police response) that police resources are under severe pressure and it is highly unlikely that enforcement can be carried out at a sufficient level to address the anticipated concerns over non-compliance with a 30mph limit here should this be approved.

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 proposed speed limit has been provided by Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council.

RECOMMENDATION

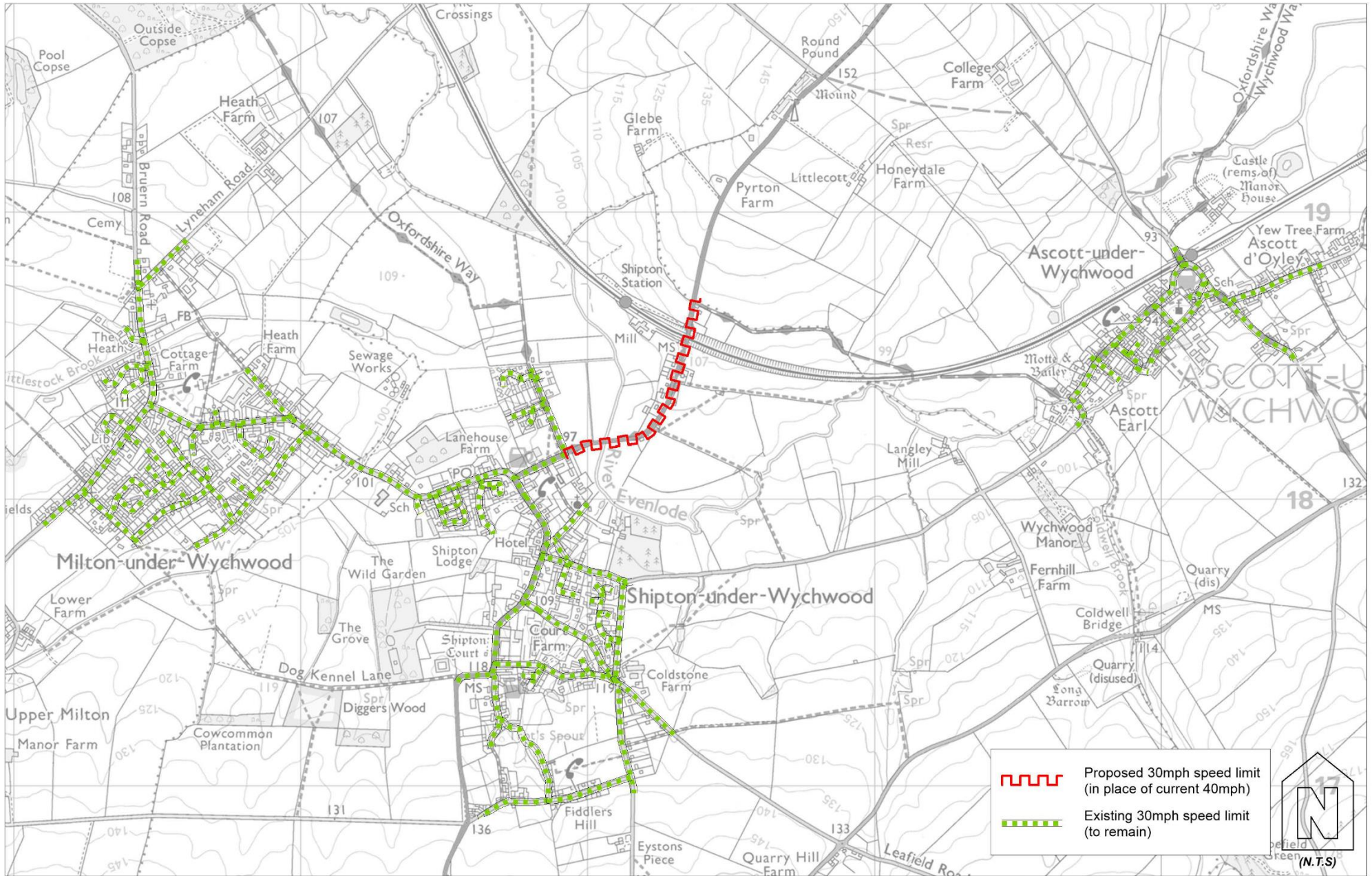
10. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the introduction of a 30mph speed limit in place of the existing 40mph limit on the A361 at the east end of the A361 at Shipton under Wychwood as advertised.**

OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed speed limit
 Consultation responses

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May 2018



RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
<p>(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)</p>	<p>Object - Aspects of any proposed speed limit that are taken into account are collision history, speed of existing traffic, road environment, enforcement, road character and driver perception etc. These are applied to the location towards our response which is evidence based.</p> <p>The current speed of traffic is a reliable indicator of how acceptable a new speed limit would be. The recognised way of ascertaining this level of self-compliance is the mean speed. If the mean speed is 4 mph or more over the proposed limit it is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or effective enforcement which is unlikely in this case.</p> <p>The speed survey information sent by Oxon CC indicates that speeds at sometimes on Station Road are at and above 40mph and we know from research that reductions will be minimal with imposition of a 30 limit, and therefore remain too high.</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. Residents will be disappointed in the return and likely expect enforcement as the solution which would never significantly lead to credible speed reductions at most times.</p> <p>The police stance firmly reflects DfT advice that 30 mph limits should be reasonably complied with in driver passive compliance without the need for supervision.</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 access or reduced forward visibility. Whilst there are residential frontages in the current 40 limit the road character is not being changed in these proposals and will therefore remain as is from the driver perspective.</p> <p>Having looked at recorded 5-year collision history for all roads subject to these proposals there are no recorded collisions.</p>

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(2) Shipton-under Wychwood Parish Council	Support - would like to see the speed limit reduced due to safety reasons as cited previously.
(3) West Oxfordshire District Council	No objection - The Local Planning Authority have no objections to the proposed new speed limit as advertised in the interests of highways safety.
(4) Local Resident, (Sinnels Field, Shipton u Wychwood)	Support - Road safety is an issue on this road due to excess speed of traffic particularly on entering the village. The danger is aggravated by the southerly gradient, the blind access roads from the station and the mill and the narrowness of the railway bridge. Young families live in the properties adjacent to Station Rd coupled with the access road to the care home just past Johnsons garage.
(5) Local Resident, (Station Road, Shipton u Wychwood)	Support - I believe station road would benefit from extending 30 mph speed limit to finish past the last house in the village. I live half way up station road with my four young children and often see cars over taking at speed as they go past my house, I would also highly recommend solid white lines to prevent this from happening, and make the A361 safer for all residents of station road.
(6) Local Resident, (Station Road, Shipton u Wychwood)	Support - There are points on this stretch of road where HGV's cannot pass without difficulty making it dangerous for pedestrians. There are a lot of children & mothers with children who have to walk this route at least twice a day to school. this speed limit should be imposed & fully policed asap before we have serious accident.

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