

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 20 DECEMBER 2018

EAST HANNEY – PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is **RECOMMENDED** to approve proposals to introduce a 30mph speed limit in place of the existing 50mph limit on the Steventon Road at East Hanney as advertised.

Executive Summary

2. Speed limits are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout as a result of development, when requested by local councils as a result of road safety concerns, and as part of the on-going monitoring of reports on road accidents. Proposed changes are assessed applying the County Council's Procedure for Speed Limits due to be approved at this meeting (Item 8).

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a 30mph speed limit in place of the existing 50mph limit on the Steventon Road at East Hanney.

Background

4. The above proposals have been put forward as a result of a residential development on the north side of the Steventon Road. A plan showing the proposals is provided at Annex 1.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 27 September and 26 October 2018. A public notice was placed in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Vale of the White Horse District Council, East Hanney & West Hanney Parish Councils and the local County Councillor.
6. Twenty-one responses were received. Twenty expressions of support and one objection from Thames Valley Police.

7. 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

8. The police objection was on the grounds that notwithstanding the new residential development, the character of the road remains largely non-built-up and, therefore, compliance with the proposed 30mph limit will be poor unless supporting measures are also provided. It is confirmed that some form of traffic calming gateway is being investigated at the start of the proposed 30mph limit, although at present that work is still at an early stage and progress cannot be guaranteed. As can be seen on the plan, the proposed 30 mph limit is on a length of road of similar character to the length of the A338 south of the Steventon Road where a 30mph speed limit is already in place.
9. The twenty expressions of support for the proposal were from members of the public, all but two being residents of either East or West Hanney, and on grounds of road safety, including for pedestrians crossing the road here.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

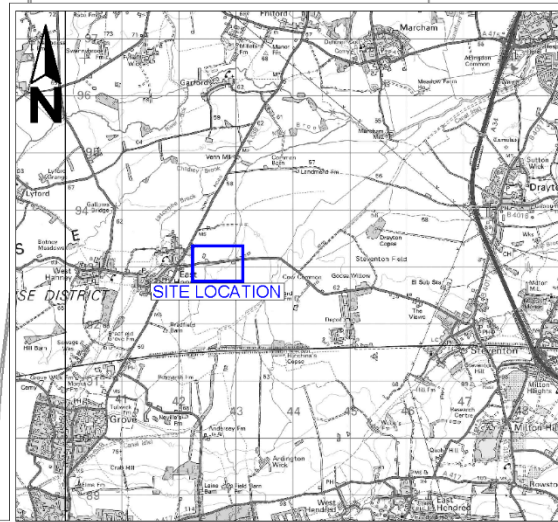
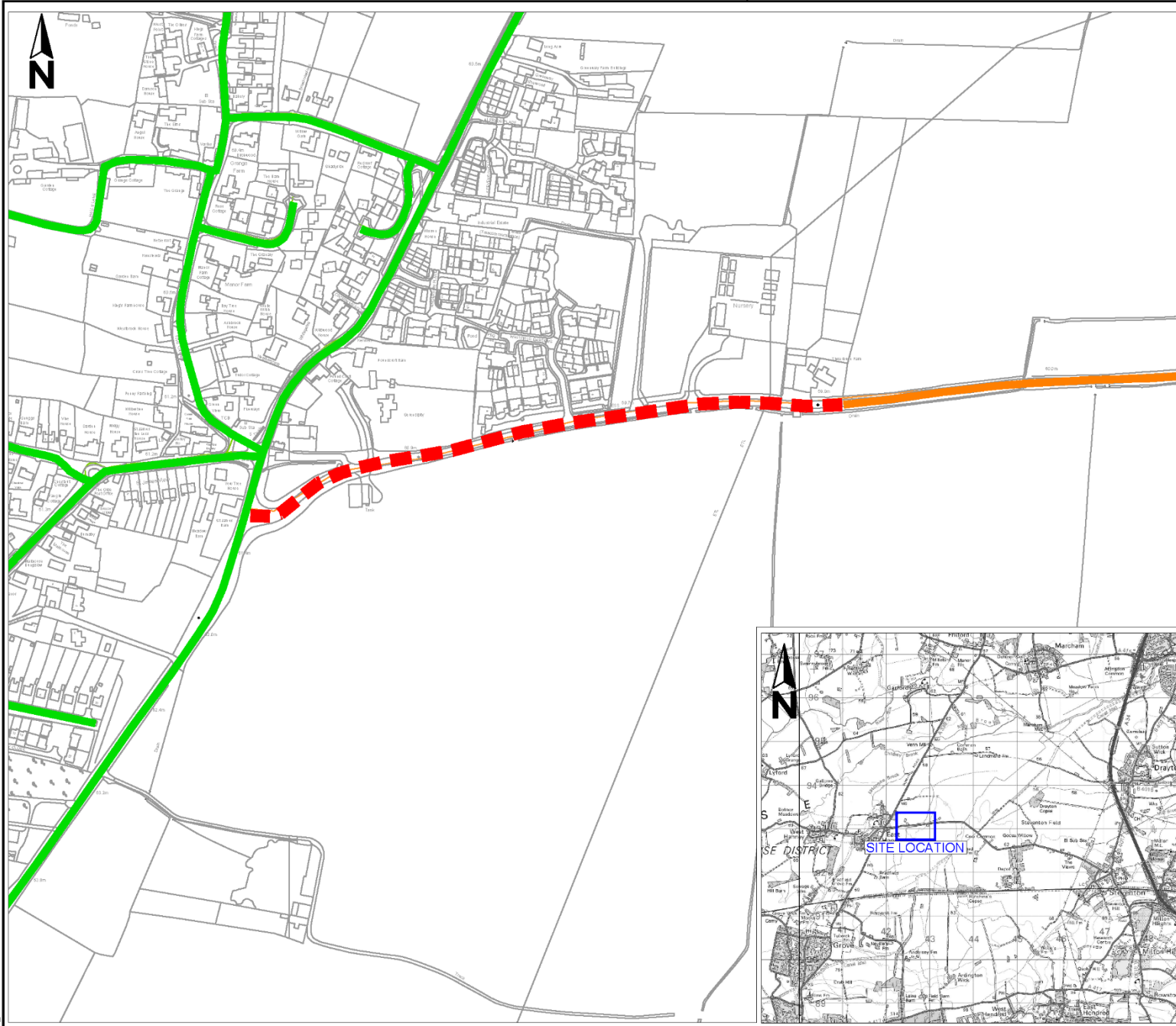
11. Funding for the proposed speed limits has been provided by the developer of land to the north of the Steventon Road.

OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed speed limit
 Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

December 2018



Drawing No.		Revision 0		
Key				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed 30mph Speed Limit in place of existing 50mph (approx 580 metres) — Existing 30mph Speed Limit (to remain) — Existing 50mph Speed Limit (to remain) 				
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked/Approved
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Oliver Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0345 310 11 11 Fax: (01865) 241577				
Project title				
PROPOSED 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT				
Drawing title				
EAST HANNEY STEVENTON ROAD				
Drawing Status				
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	JaC	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	Date drawn	09/18	Date checked	Date approved
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref				
Drawing No.		Revision 0		

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>Object - With all of new development taking place throughout Oxfordshire I am aware there have been many like proposals to extend speed limits to incorporate new road junctions.</p> <p>What seems inconsistent from a Highway Authority perspective with many of these is the chosen /desired lower limit, some 30 others 40</p> <p>With this current proposal and having visited the location on a number of occasions there is little change in the current environment apart from a new small junction. I accept the current speed limit signing of 50 is still in place, despite the sign being turned. However, during a recent visit there is little to encourage driving at a lower limit. Driving the road yesterday at 30 mph I was overtaken by 2 vehicles.</p> <p>I assume the Authority have already acquired speed data in support of a lower limit. Unless suitable engineering features are included as part of this speed limit change or speed data suggests that a lower limit is acceptable, I object to such a lowering.</p>
(2) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	Support - The road is dangerous and the speed limit needs to be reduced before a serious accident happens. This is the only road into the Hanneys that is not 30mph.
(3) Local Resident, (West Hanney)	Support - No comment
(4) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	Support - I use this road 2 to 3 times a day and have had many near misses as the traffic travels so fast. The new housing estate is difficult to pull out from as it is difficult to judge the speed of cars. It definitely needs to be a 30mph limit.
(5) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	Support - We live down a private drive off the Steventon Road just behind the restaurant. It's extremely difficult to get out of the drive to join the Steventon Road in rush-hour because the road bends away so visibility is impaired

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	<p>compounded by vehicles travelling at speed despite approaching the junction with the A338. We also get tail-gated for not building up speed as soon as we turn onto the Steventon Road. People tend to think you have simply left your indicator on by accident! We have only lived here for 3 months and have already been subjected to a road-rage incident when we pulled out and a driver behind had to slow down! We, and our neighbours, all have young children and pets - it's a worry that at the end of our drive, cars are screeching by at speed.</p>
(6) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	Support - No comment
(7) Local Resident, (Wantage)	Support - Definitely required to make the village a safer place for all new residents.
(8) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	<p>Support - Residents in the new developments along the Stevenson Road already face some difficulties in accessing the main area of the village which lies on the opposite side of the A338 because of the volume and speed of traffic using that road. There is no assisted pedestrian road crossing for the A338 in the village. The lack of a built pavement along the Stevenson Road at the East Hanney end adds to the difficulties of pedestrians and cyclists looking to access the main area of the village.</p> <p>In that context, reducing the speed of traffic approaching the A338 from the east can only be helpful.</p>
(9) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	Support - Excellent move to improve road safety. Consider a 20mph limit through the village in the narrow stretch past The Black Horse, over the bridge past the hall and school
(10) Local Resident, (West Hanney)	Support - Need to be safer for new houses...cyclist and horse riders so they can connect to the lovely by ways or bridal ways that are currently inaccessible because car users on this road make this road dangerous.
(11) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	Support - No comment
(12) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	Support - It's dangerous to live on a street that enters on to a 50mph road so this is very much needed. I am concerned however that as with any speed restriction, it will be ignored without proper enforcement so it may continue to be dangerous

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(13) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	<p>Support - I currently live in Whitfield Gardens off Steventon road and trying to cross the road, especially mornings and afternoons, is most days hazardous. There is very little visibility as it stands coming out of the development and i constantly have to take chances with a child in the car.</p> <p>Further work is as urgently needed on the A338 to finally invest and put in place traffic devices to reduce the speed of vehicles e.g. speed bumps to allow a safe crossing of children to take their school bus morning and afternoon. There is again little visibility to cross the road because of the bend. Clearly none of the OCC officers live in the village with children/teenagers having to cross on their own. Enough houses have been built on that side of the village and contributing to council tax to surely find a safe passage for all residents in order to access the village amenities.</p>
(14) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	<p>Support - Currently accessibility onto Steventon road from Whitfield Gardens is compromised. A lower speed limit should reduce the amount of time it takes drivers to react to other cars coming in or out of the estate "safely". The amount of activity alongside the road and the high speed at which cars generally approach the entrance to the Estate - at all times of day - require immediate traffic calming measures.</p>
(15) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	<p>Support - We strongly support to impose the speed limit. It is very unsafe at the moment, as the vehicles go past this stretch very fast. Particularly, as the Lagan Builders have not completed the entrance of the Whitfield Gardens, by providing the proper visibility on either side while coming out of the development, this is a potential risk for major accidents.</p>
(16) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	<p>Support - I live in the new estate that has been built off Steventon Road. I feel it is a dangerous road layout as you cannot see traffic from the left (i.e. coming from Steventon) due to the bend and vegetation that is in the way. Pulling out in the morning feels very dangerous as traffic moves quickly and reducing the speed limit will greatly improve the safety without much inconvenience to motorists.</p>
(17) Local Resident, (East Hanney)	<p>Support - Difficult to safely pull out of Whitfield gardens, especially turning right, due to visibility. 30mph speed limit would make this much safer.</p>

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<p>(18) Local Resident, (East Hanney)</p>	<p>Support - Our house is right at the top of Steventon Road, adjacent to La Fontana restaurant. Particularly in the early mornings and evenings we can hear traffic speeding away from the A338 junction towards Steventon AND towards the A338 junction, often braking hard at the last minute. We would strongly support the 30 mph Speed limit in the interest of the safety of residents AND all motorists and road users.</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Wantage)</p>	<p>Support - The speed of cars along this stretch of road is dangerous. When turning into Whitfield gardens cars will often not reduce speed but carelessly overtake to avoid collision, as it is not always evident to other drivers that there is a turning here. In addition visibility is not always clear when turning out of Whitfield Gardens and it is only a matter of time before there is an accident. Many cars continue to speed once they reach the village, and I feel that if the speed limit were to be reduced before they reach the A338, it may help to reduce speeding there too. There are many young families now living near this road and there are currently plans for a second development which would bring another 40 homes. I would urge the council to approve the speed limit reduction for the safety of all families both living here already, and yet to move in.</p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (East Hanney)</p>	<p>Support - A 30mph zone past Whitfield Gardens is absolutely vital. At present traffic races off the A338 and accelerates rapidly away from the junction as the gentle curves in the road are so inviting. But those same curves (along with many trees/hedges) make sight-lines short for those joining the road from La Fontana, Poundcroft, Whitfield Gardens, Tinkerbush or the individual houses along that stretch, such that there are regular near-misses. Motorbikes are a particular problem as they accelerate unbelievably quickly. In an ideal world there would be further traffic calming, such as a speed camera or at least a speed-detecting electronic "slow down" sign, but a 30mph zone would at least hopefully alleviate the very worst of the problem.</p>
<p>(21) Local Resident, (East Hanney)</p>	<p>Support - I have recently moved into one of the houses in the new development off the part of the Steventon Road affected by this proposed order. I not only SUPPORT the proposal, but am grateful that OCC is taking action to rectify what is becoming a dangerous turn out from Whitfield Gardens on to the Steventon Road. The visibility towards Steventon, especially in the summer when there are leaves on the trees/bushes is particularly poor and the slight bend in the road often hides vehicles that are heading towards Hanney at some considerable speed. This adjustment to the speed limit will hopefully make the road much safer and cannot come soon enough.</p>