

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 28 MARCH 2019

CUMNOR HILL - PROPOSED EXTENSION OF 30MPH SPEED LIMIT

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve an extension of the 30mph speed limit on Cumnor Hill but to a point approximately 30m to the south west of the point 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.

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to extend the 30mph speed limit on Cumnor Hill south westwards (in place of the current 40mph speed limit) as a result of the development of adjacent land.

Background

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been put forward in conjunction with approved residential development on the north west side of Cumnor Hill.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 7 February and 8 March 2019. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, the Vale of the White Horse District Council, Cumnor Parish Council and the local County Councillor.
6. Two responses were received. One objection and one in support, albeit with some concerns/comments. The responses are recorded at Annex 2. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

7. Thames Valley Police objected to the proposal on the grounds that no measures - other than the proposed speed limit signs – were proposed to encourage compliance with the proposed speed limit reduction, noting also that a significant amount of development on Cumnor Hill had been approved without any change to the speed limit.
8. The local member while expressing support for the proposal, requested that it be extended by approximately 30 metres to the south west.
9. The response of the police is noted and, while accepting that the proposals do not include any supporting measures to encourage compliance with the speed limit change, it should also be noted that the existing level of road side development along Cumnor Hill would – applying national guidance on setting local speed limits – qualify for a 30mph limit on those grounds, and that the modest extension to the proposal as advertised (and as also shown at Annex 1) suggested by the local member would appear reasonable in this context.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

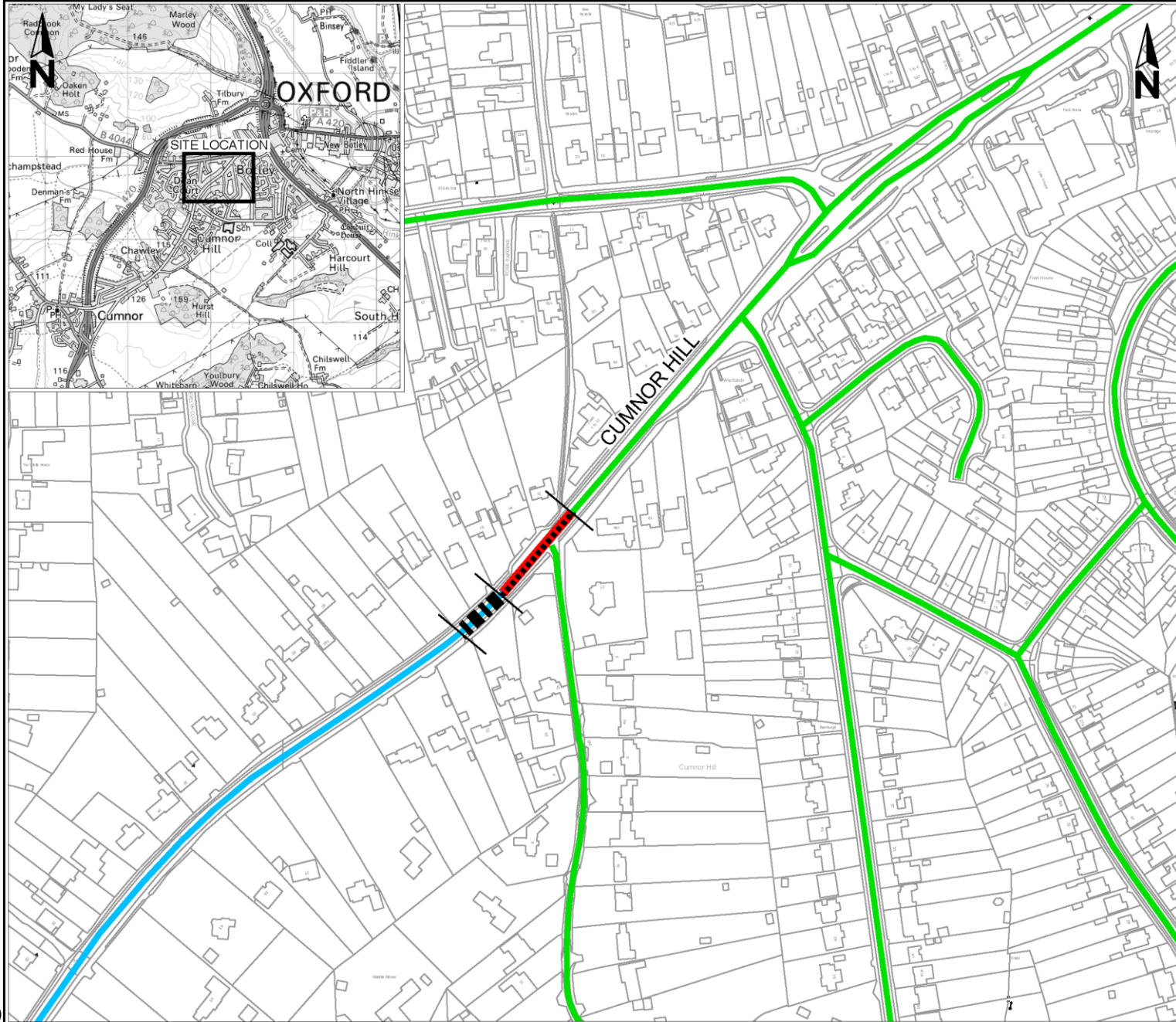
11. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by the developers.

OWEN JENKINS
Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plan of proposed speed limit
 Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

March 2019



Drawing No. Revision 0

- Key**
- Proposed 30mph Speed Limit in place of existing 40mph (approx. 55 metres)
 - Existing 30mph Speed Limit (to remain)
 - Existing 40mph Speed Limit (to remain)
 - Additional length of proposed 30mph speed limit

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

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Project title

PROPOSED 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT
EXTENSION

Drawing title

CUMNOR HILL

Drawing Status **ANNEX 1**

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	JaC	JaC	
	Date drawn 08/18	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 - Experience shows that changing to a lower speed limit on its own will not necessarily be successful in reducing the speed of traffic by very much if the prevailing mean speeds are much higher than the proposed lower speed limit. If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored, then this could result in the majority of drivers criminalising themselves and could bring the system of speed limits into disrepute. 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. It is also important to set reasonable speed limits to ensure consistency across the country.</p> <p>Therefore, 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> <p>Over a number of years Cumnor Hill has seen considerable development all of which have been accommodated within the existing 40 mph speed limit. Therefore, I cannot see any justification within the documents that this location is any different.</p>
(2) Local County Councillor, (North Hinksey Division)	<p>Support with qualifications - I was the District councillor that got the developers to include this in the 106 agreement, but the purpose of this change will not work if it only goes to between 16 and 18 Cumnor Hill. Although it is not very obvious from Google street view, the slight kink in the road is actually a blind corner. This application takes away the lay by that helped 16 Cumnor Hill egress from their drive safely and there are now new exits from 2 Cumnor Rise Road near where school children cross from the pedestrian path. Cumnor Hill is quite steep and long and at this point motorists that have slowed to 30 mph are frequently overtaken by cyclists. For all these reasons, the 30mph restriction should move as far as possible up this section preferably as far as 22/20 Cumnor hill so that all road users are given time to slow down. This will be even more important if the Eynsham Road Cumnor Hill junction has traffic lights added as part of the Botley Corridor project.</p>

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