

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 19 NOVEMBER 2020
DIDCOT: LARCH DRIVE & ADJACENT ROADS - PROPOSED 20MPH
SPEED LIMIT

Report by the Interim Director of Community Operations

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed 20mph speed limit in Larch Drive and adjacent roads as advertised.

Executive summary

2. Speed limits are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout or usage as a result of development and when requested by the local member or local councils due to concerns over road safety.

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a 20mph speed limit on Larch Drive and adjacent roads.

Background

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward following the instruction to officers by the Cabinet Member for Environment decisions at her meeting on 16 January 2020 (see Agenda item 7 : Proposed 20mph speed limit on Great Western Park (South) to explore funding for this scheme. That has now been obtained from the developers of Great Western Park.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 30 September and 30 October 2020. 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, Didcot Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and local County Councillor.
6. The consultation was carried out in conjunction with additional measures within the Brasenose Road & Slade Road area of Didcot, with the majority of responses specifically concerned with those proposals. The comments included in this report were those that either came from a key-stakeholder or

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which specifically objected to or raised concerns with the Larch Drive proposals.

7. Six responses were received. Four objections, one in support & one raising concerns. All comments are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.
8. Three of the objections were received online as part of the joint consultation with the Brasenose Road/Slade Road and whilst they specifically objected to the Larch Drive proposals the comments they supplied were in relation to the other scheme.

Response to objections and other comments

9. Thames Valley Police objected on the grounds that they do not consider that the zone, as proposed, would be self-enforcing in accordance with the Department for Transport advice on 20mph speed limits and zones, taking account also the lack of speed surveys to inform their comments on this proposal.
10. Noting the police response, a 20mph speed limit is considered appropriate and that it accords with Department for Transport guidelines for speed limits in residential areas, also taking account of the alignment and length of the roads included in the proposal.
11. As noted above, three objections were received from members of the public. However, it does appear that these were not from residents of the roads affected by the proposals and no grounds for the objections were given.

Sustainability Implications

12. The proposals would facilitate the use of walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

13. Funding for the proposed speed limit has been provided by the developers of Great Western Park (south)

Equalities and Inclusion Implications

14. No equalities or inclusion implications have been identified.

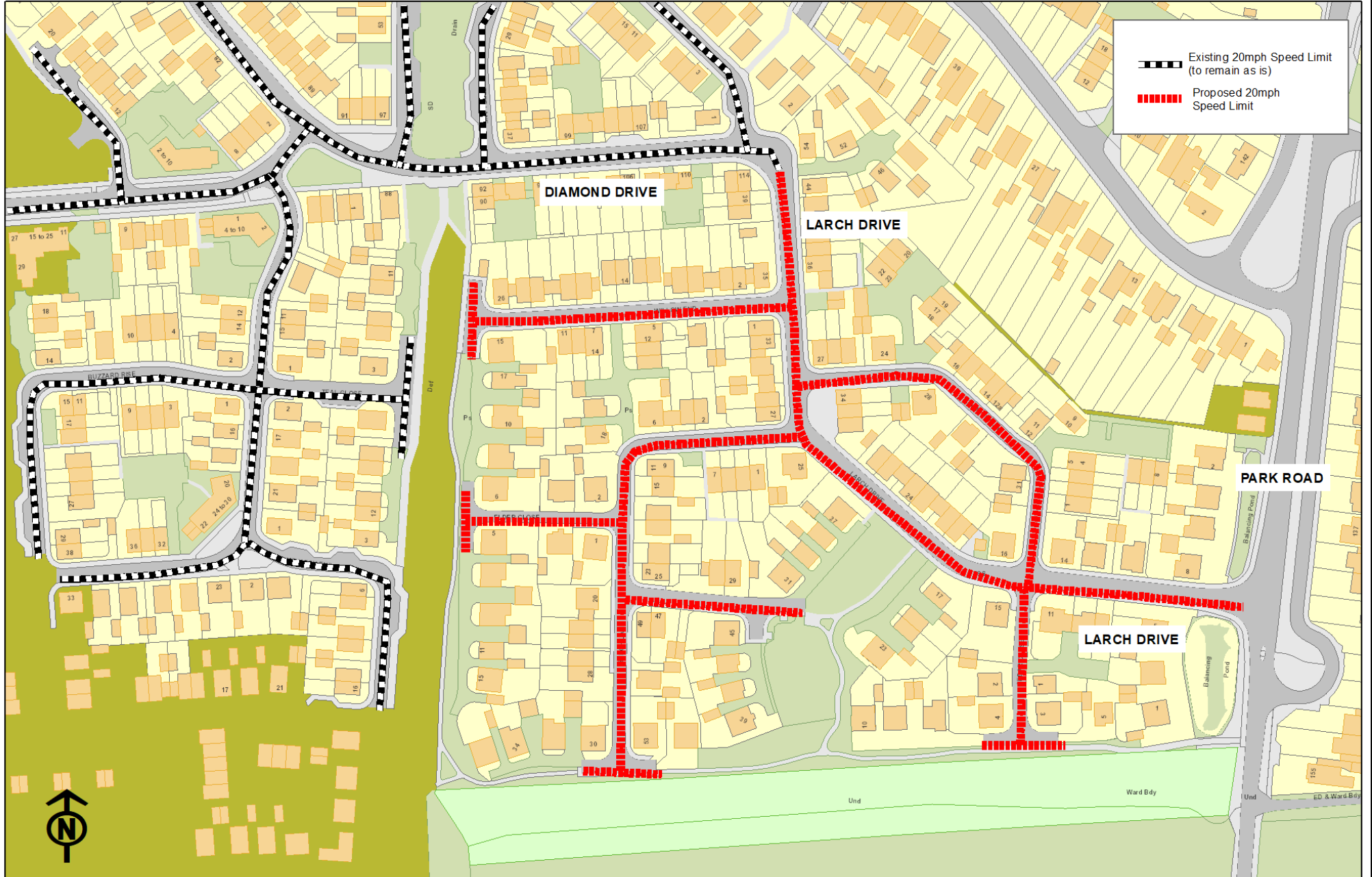
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Background papers: Plan of proposed 20mph speed limit
Consultation responses

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RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>Object - If I can us both areas of Great Western Park as a poor example of a 20 limit. Despite Traffic Calming in place this estate continues to generate complaints from residents of speeding motorists and I imagine the roads subject to this new proposal will be no different. Can I make it perfectly clear that our own policy concurs with DfT advice that 20 limits should be self- enforcing and will not be subject to any targeted enforcement.</p> <p>Where Traffic Calming is NOT included as part of the scheme, I would object to those roads being included.</p>
(2) Didcot Town Council	<p>Support - <i>[online response, comments more focussed on Brasenose Road/Slade Road area proposals]</i></p>
(3) Local Resident, (Didcot)	<p>Concerns - I am not familiar with Larch Drive but I have concerns regarding traffic calming for that area also but would welcome a 20mph speed limit and I'm sure the residents of Larch Drive would agree.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Didcot)	<p>Object – <i>[online response, comments more focussed on Brasenose Road/Slade Road area proposals]</i></p>
(5) Local Resident, (Didcot)	<p>Object - <i>[online response, comments more focussed on Brasenose Road/Slade Road area proposals]</i></p>
(6) Local Resident, (Didcot)	<p>Object - <i>[online response, comments more focussed on Brasenose Road/Slade Road area proposals]</i></p>