

Divisions affected: *Thame and Chinnor*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 21 JULY 2022

SYDENHAM: B4445 THAME ROAD - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING BUILD OUTS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed traffic calming build-outs at the B4445 Thame Road Sydenham.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a consultation on proposals to provide a traffic calming build-outs at Wheatley Road at the B4445 Thame road at Sydenham in order to help improve road safety and help enforce the existing 30mph speed restriction.

Financial Implications

3. Funding, including that for consultation, has been received from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund bid from the South and Vale District Council.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

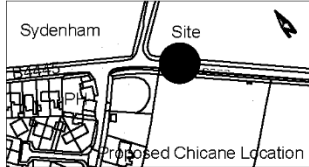
Sustainability Implications

5. The proposals would help facilitate walking and the safe movement of traffic.

Consultation

6. Consultation on the proposed traffic calming was carried out between 12 May and 10 June 2022, with an email being sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus

Drawing no. _____ Revision _____



SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS:

CONSTRUCTION

MAINTENANCE/CLEANING

DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION

© Crown Copyright and Database rights 1002343 2017

Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approv

Owen Jenkins
Director for
Infrastructure Delivery
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND
Tel: 0845 310 1111

Project title
Sydenham
B4445 Thame Road
Proposed Chicane

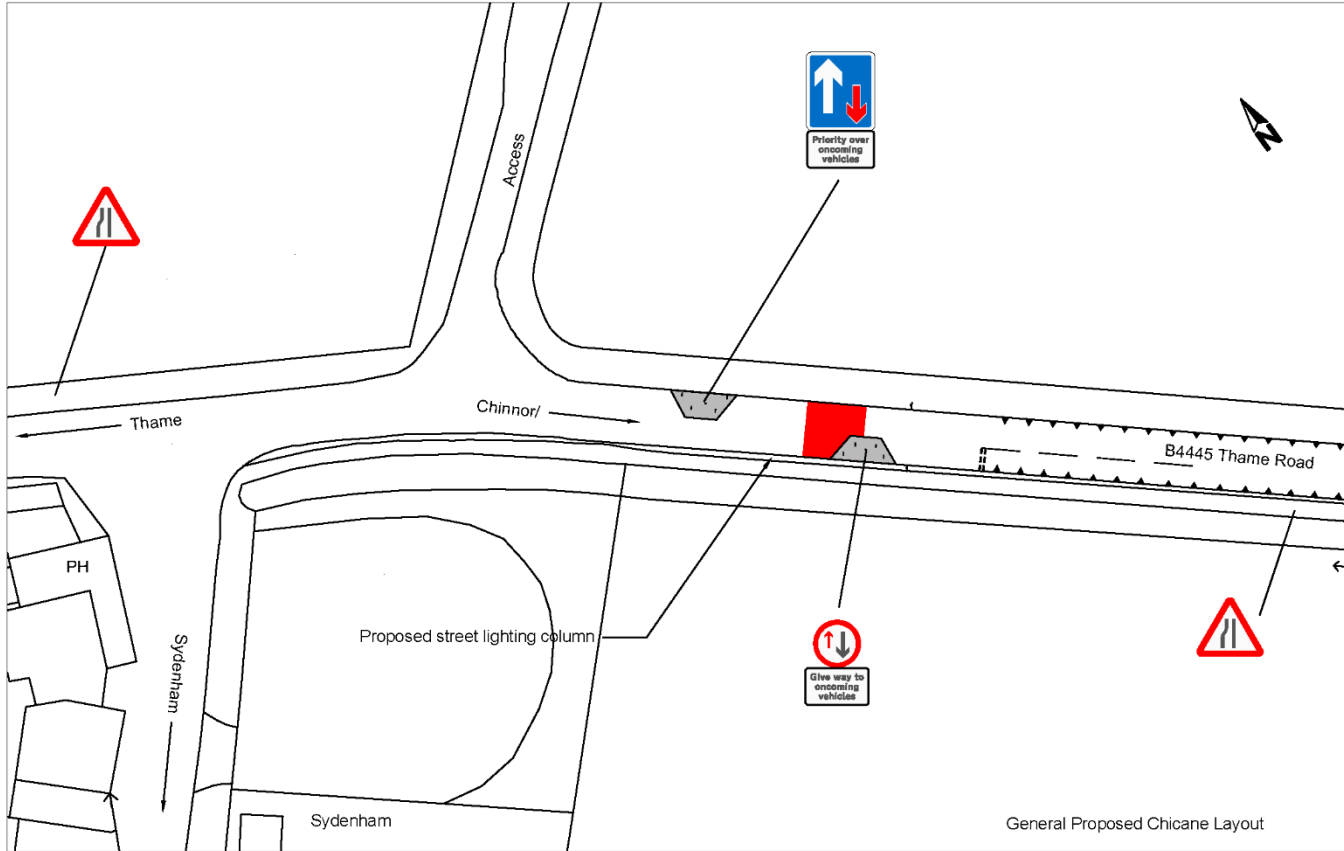
Drawing title
Consultation

Drawing Status
Consultation

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
	RGr		
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.	Revision



C:\Users\ralph.green\OneDrive - Oxfordshire County Council\Schemes\141 Sydenham - B4445 Chicane\Drawings\Construction.dwg

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Sydenham Parish Council	Support – Sydenham Parish Council fully supports this scheme. The speeding problem has existed in this location for a long time – the VAS sign was installed in 2006. We have carried out regular Community Speedwatch checks with a SID in the layby, and the police camera van regularly attends. There have been accidents and near misses at the junction caused by people travelling too fast. The latest data obtained from the VAS sign shows 71% of vehicles are travelling at speeds of 35mph or over as they enter the 30mph zone, of which 22% were travelling at 45mph or over. The top recorded speed was 80mph.
(3) Member of public, (Oxford, Rymers Lane)	Object - This will increase pollution and reduce the flow of traffic; I can't see any need for this.
(4) Member of public, (Sydenham, Thame Road)	<p>Object – I live in one of the houses along the road from the Inn at Emmington junction. First of all, I want to say that I appreciate the efforts from Oxfordshire Highways and the parish councils at Chinnor and Sydenham to address the speeding problem on this stretch of road. I have lived here for nearly 22 years, for much of that time there has been a speeding problem and I feel I take my life in my hands every time I go in and out of my driveway.</p> <p>However, I'm not convinced the proposed chicane is the right answer to this problem. This is mainly because of what I've observed in relation to the recently constructed chicane on the approach road to the main part of Sydenham village. Fairly frequently when I am going towards the village and a vehicle is coming the other way, I have seen it noticeably speed up in order to get through the chicane so as to not to have to give way as I have the priority there. I would guess the vehicle at that point is probably doing around 45mph in a 30mph limit.</p> <p>My concern with the proposed chicane on the B4445 is that the same type of drivers who are doing this on the Sydenham village road at a slower speed, will also increase their speed coming from Chinnor when they see a vehicle coming the other way that will have the priority at the proposed chicane. If they are already doing the speed limit of</p>

	<p>60mph (or more, as we know they already do in excess of 60mph past our house), and they go even faster to get through the chicane so they don't have to slow down or give way, it will make the staggered junction there even more dangerous than it already is, and at best will not make any difference to the speeds outside my house and at worse make going in and out of my driveway more dangerous.</p> <p>At present, a police camera van comes periodically and parks outside my house in the small access road for the properties along that stretch of the B4445 (which is what it is, it isn't a lay-by although unfortunately many drivers treat it as such). The best solution for the speeding problem here would be for the camera van to come a couple of times a week at varying times of the day, so drivers using the road regularly see it frequently. That ultimately will make them slow down because only the prospect of points on their licence will do that; I'm afraid that I can't see the proposed chicane doing it and as proposed, I am not in favour of it.</p>
(5) Member of public, (Sydenham, Brookstones)	<p>Concerns - I do not think a chicane is the best speed calming measure. It won't necessarily slow traffic, could lead to more road accidents and will make it more hazardous entering/exiting both Sydenham and Emmington. By far the most effective traffic calming device would be permanent speed cameras</p>
(6) Email response, (unknown)	<p>Concerns – Whilst I welcome the proposed traffic calming feature for the B4445 Thame Road, I feel that once through the chicane, the traffic travelling north-west will immediately speed up directly outside the bungalows on Thame Road. In order for the road safety issues to improve, there would need to more than one traffic calming feature installed. This is particularly important outside the residential properties and the bus stops, where there is no footpath.</p>
(7) Member of public, (Sydenham, Sydenham Road)	<p>Support - The speed of traffic on the B4445 especially approaching the junction at the Inn at Emmington is very dangerous and there have been a number of accidents and near misses.</p>
(8) Member of public, (Sydenham, Park View)	<p>Support - There is a proven issue with speeding close to this junction (community speed watch data and data from the VAS sign) and near misses have occurred.</p>
(9) Member of public, (Sydenham, Sydenham Road)	<p>Support - I support the reduction of speeding motorists in the area</p>

<p>(10) Member of public, (Sydenham, Sydenham Road)</p>	<p>Support - Turning onto B4445 from Sydenham road can be very dangerous as many cars coming from Chinnor speed through that junction and the turn is almost blind as it is hard to see cars coming from Chinnor. Forcing them to slow down would be a very good idea.</p>
<p>(11) Member of public, (Sydenham, Park View)</p>	<p>Support - The speeding problem at that location is severe, and joining the B4445 from Sydenham at the nearby junction is hazardous. Traffic calming measures will be a great help.</p>
<p>(12) Member of public, (Sydenham, B4445)</p>	<p>Support - We live at 1 Thame Rd so does greatly affects us. The number of accidents (not recorded) as well as recorded, have gone down since the introduction of the radar speed signs. However we still have way too many accidents and people speeding past our house (often over 60 in the 30 section). So we have been hoping for the traffic calming to be installed for years. At the very least cars will no longer be able to drive by our homes at ridiculous speeds as they do now.</p>
<p>(13) Member of public, (Sydenham, The Green)</p>	<p>Support - This is LONG overdue and I welcome it.</p>
<p>(14) Member of public, (Emmington)</p>	<p>Support - To make traffic safer as they pass through the 30MPH area - it is a renowned speeding area</p>
<p>(15) Member of public, (Thame, High Street)</p>	<p>Support - This is a dangerous road which has seen many accidents including fatalities.</p>
<p>(16) Member of public, (Sydenham, Sydenham Road)</p>	<p>Support - Most drivers travel in excess of 30 miles an hour. The road is often used as an alternative when the M40 is slow.</p>
<p>(17) Member of public, (Sydenham, Brookstones)</p>	<p>Support - There have been a couple of totally pointless, ineffective and unnecessary pinch points installed in Sydenham over the last couple of years, which have made no difference to anything. This one however, makes complete sense and is totally necessary, as cars fly down the road from Chinnor at 60 mph and just dont slow down in time for the junction with Sydenham. Nice to see a sensible pinch point being recommended, instead of silly unneeded ones which simply look awful and dont do anything!</p>

(18) Member of public, (Sydenham, Sydenham Grove)	Support - I frequently use this junction to travel in both Chinnor or Thame directions. The visibility on this junction, in particular in Chinnor direction is obscured by the bend in the road, giving only short view of the road. Despite the speed limit being 30 mph on that section of the road, a large proportion of the cars do not obey it, coming onto the junction much faster creating risk for the cars coming out. The chicane will force the drivers on the main road to slow down, giving additional time and decreasing the risk of collision.
(19) Member of public, (Sydenham, Sydenham Road)	Support - Pulling out of Sydenham Road onto the B4445 can be fraught with danger due to the speed of some vehicles coming from the Chinnor direction
(20) Member of public, (Sydenham, Brookstones)	Support - Speeding has been a problem around this junction and entrance to Sydenham for decades and there have been a number of accident at the junction. Traffic needs to be slowed down and traffic calming seems the best wayh
(21) Member of public, (Kingston Blount, Stert Road)	Support - Increased traffic continues to drive too fast and too close. We are clearly suffering from :- 1. the effects drivers who have moved in from London and brought their London habits with them . 2 younger more aggressive drivers both male and female who are driving more powerful cars generally.
(22) Local or County Cllr, (Chinnor, Willow Road)	Support - Many vehicles travel along this piece of road at excessive and dangerous speeds, in spite of regular Police speeding units being deployed.
(23) Member of public, (Sydenham, Thame Road)	Support - We live on Thame Road in the 30mph zone but traffic very rarely travel at this speed - they continue at very high speeds in either direction, including past the residential area. The long stretches of straight road either side of us are dangerous with cars often overtaking when its very dangerous to do so. Our neighbour was recently in a head on collision between Sydenham Road junction and Chinnor due to dangerous driving on the part of the other driver.
(24) Member of public, (Sydenham , Sydenham Road)	Support - Fully support measures designed to reduce speeding on this road

<p>(25) Member of public, (Sydenham, Holliers Close)</p>	<p>Support - Personally I don't have a problem with the proposed chicane however, I would suggest a camera would be more effective and keep the traffic flowing albeit at a slower pace.</p> <p>As you will be aware, we have a chicane in the village of Sydenham and I don't think it has helped with the speeding situation. People use the village as a cut through to or from the A40 and the number of cars which would rather hit you than pull over / stop is unbelievable and they are doing well in excess of 30mph. We have two straight parts in the village – at either approach and the cars must be travelling in excess of 50mph and some when they enter the actual middle of the village simply don't want to slow down or give way. I have known the situation at the chicane where it is my right of way and yet the other driver comes through or parks so wide of the verge, bearing in mind it is a single track village anyway, it is almost impossible to inch past. I see this could happen on a much busier, wider road such as the B44445 too.</p>
<p>(26) Email response, (unknown)</p>	<p>Support - I write to strongly support this proposal. Turning out onto the B4445 from Sydenham has become increasingly dangerous when fast traffic approaches from Chinnor.</p> <p>During the growing season the relatively short sight line towards Chinnor does not allow sufficient warning of speeding vehicles.</p>
<p>(27) Member of public, (Sydenham, The Green)</p>	<p>Support - I welcome this proposal heartily - that road is a dangerous speeding hotspot and measures to remedy this are long overdue. I would add:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That there should also be a similar chicane up the road at the exit from Chinnor. Traffic leaving Chinnor starts accelerating long before it reaches the end of the 30mph zone and is typically doing 40-50mph as it passes the new houses built there. 2. From the Chinnor boundary it is a long straight downhill stretch of road to Sydenham with a 60mph limit. The nature of the road encourages drivers to hit or exceed the limit before they suddenly find themselves in a 30mph zone at Sydenham. The proposed chicane will be very beneficial in forcing drivers to slow down but it would be even better if the limit on the approach was reduced to 50mph. 3. I know that Sydenham Parish Council is working hard to bring in a 20mph scheme for the village as a whole. This is a very popular plan which I support and I sincerely hope that it will be approved and implemented urgently.