

Divisions affected: *Hendreds and Harwell*

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 13 OCTOBER 2022**

### **BLEWBURY – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the 20mph speed limit at Blewbury.

#### **Executive summary**

2. This report presents the responses to a consultation on a proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit at Blewbury, with the majority of the existing 30mph speed limits within the main residential area of the village being replaced. However, the existing 30mph speed limits on the A417, B4016, Bohams Road, and Woodway, as well as the existing 40mph speed limit on the B4016 Bessels Way will remain unchanged. The proposal is shown in **Annex 1**.

#### **Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by the County Councils 20mph speed limit project.

#### **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 cycling within the village and the safe movement of traffic.

#### **Consultation**

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 03 August and 02 September 2022. A notice was published in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Vale of White Horse District Council, the local District Cllrs, Blewbury parish council, and the local County Councillor representing the Hendreds & Harwell division.
7. 73 responses were received via the online consultation survey during the course of the formal consultation, and these are summarised in the table below.

Proposal	Object	Concerns	Support	No opinion/ objection	Total
Blewbury 20mph	7 (10%)	9 (12%)	57 (78%)	0	73

8. Those who responded online, were also asked whether if the 20mph speed limit proposals were implemented, would it likely influence a change to their mode of travel in the area, the results of which are shown below

Travel Change	Number
Yes – walk/wheel more	18 (25%)
Yes - cycle more	8 (11%)
No	42 (57%)
Other	5 (7%)

9. Additionally, six emails were received, with Thames Valley Police (TVP) raising concerns, Oxford Bus Company & Stagecoach confirming they had no comments in relation to the specific proposals, one member of the public supporting, and finally two members of the public raising concerns.
10. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.
11. A report from Blewbury parish council summarising their recent documentary evidence of speeding, recommendations in the Blewbury village plan, and making specific recommendations to satisfactorily address the speeding issue was submitted in tandem with their response, and this is shown in **Annex 3**.

### **Officer response to objections/concerns**

12. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection to the proposals but confirmed their stance that primarily 20 mph speed limits and zones should be self-enforcing. They welcomed the engineering measures that are included and suggested further measures should not be dismissed.

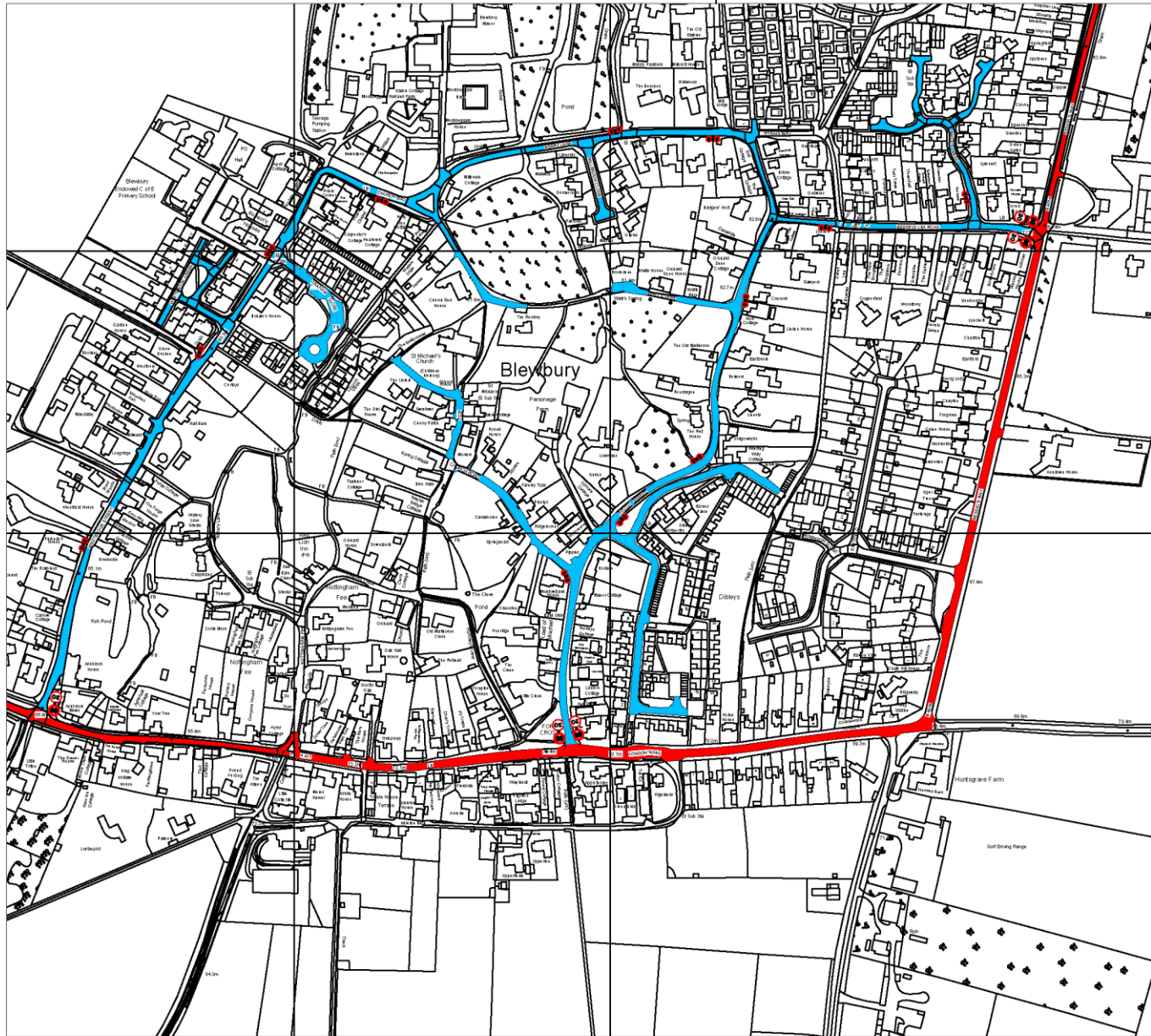
13. The objections received stated that the proposed changes were unnecessary - citing a lack of need, waste of money, proposals don't go far enough, and the condition of the existing highway surface being poor..
14. It should be noted that the county council is changing its approach and acceptance of 20mph restrictions, which will enable a much greater coverage across Oxfordshire.
15. The proposal is aimed to make streets safer, encourage residents to walk or cycle & reduce noise and pollution. The consultation proposal puts forward a scheme that encompasses the whole village but this extent may be reduced prior to implementation in accordance with your comments and in discussion with the Parish Council. Signing and other measures will as far as possible be sympathetically applied bearing in mind the aesthetic of the village.
16. Journey times should not be affected as the main arterial route has remained as a 30mph through the Blewbury. The priority for the county council and the Parish is being given to safety of residents.
17. The Parish Council have stated "For a great many years, car speeding along the A417, London Road, and B4016, Bessels Way, have been a blight upon the lives of many Blewbury residents, with a damaging impact upon the safety of residents, their animals, and their cars. Blewbury Parish Council has recent documentary evidence of speeding, recommendations in the Blewbury village plan to increase safety, and meeting minutes confirming our support for a suite of speed reduction measures. There is strong support for speed reduction measures so that we can all move around the village in greater safety".

Bill Cotton  
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes  
Annex 1: Consultation Plan  
Annex 2: Consultation responses  
Annex 3: Speed Reduction Measures in Blewbury report

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October 2022



Drawing No: Blewbury Overview Revision 1.0

Legend	
Proposed 20	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Existing 20	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>
Existing 30	<span style="color: red;">■</span>
Existing 40	<span style="color: green;">■</span>
Existing 50	<span style="color: purple;">■</span>
Existing NSL	<span style="color: grey;">■</span>
Not Public Highway	<span style="color: black;">■</span>

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1.0	18.05.22	Final Draft	C.R		



Project title: Blewbury 20mph Scheme

Drawing title: Blewbury 20mph Scheme  
 Sheets A1 to B2

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.R	Checked by	Approved by

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No: 1.0  
 Drawing title: Blewbury 20mph  
 Revision 1.0

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - Thames Valley Police welcome the opportunity to engage on plans for road safety improvement and acknowledge that 20mph limits can be a useful tool in road safety. There are other reasons 20mph limits may be desirable for communities, such as environmental concerns, and creating a shared space environment to encourage greater diversity of road users.</p> <p>Compliance with 20mph limits is a challenging issue as there is a difference between the achievable results of the various available schemes. For example a sign-only scheme will only have a limited effect on the mean speeds, as opposed to other schemes that influence the road environment, which is recognised as being key to achieving compliance. If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored then this could result in the vulnerable road user being less safe. It can also cause a dis-proportionate number of drivers to criminalise themselves and could bring the system of speed limits into disrepute.</p> <p>Thames Valley Police have no policy to enforce based on arbitrary speed limits alone but will enforce based on threat of harm, risk and resourcing. 20mph limits are not excluded from this and will be enforced where appropriate. 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 and there are no additional resources available to support extra enforcement. Messages from partners that police will not enforce need to be discouraged. Such messaging can encourage non-compliance and should be avoided.</p> <p>The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria (Setting local speed limits - GOV.UK (<a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>)) 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.</p> <p>The key factors that should be taken into account in any decisions on local speed limits are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• history of collisions</li> <li>• road geometry and engineering</li> <li>• road function</li> <li>• composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users)</li> <li>• existing traffic speeds</li> <li>• road environment</li> </ul>

	<p>However I recognise Oxfordshire County Council now have their own Policy for Setting Speed Limits and I expect full compliance of that policy going forward in relation to both monitoring , future engineering and self-enforcement through Community Speed Watch .</p> <p>Our stance remains that primarily 20 mph speed limits and zones should be self-enforcing</p> <p>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>I have no further comments at this stage apart from I welcome that certain roads are to remain at 30 and 40 within this village.</p>
(2) Oxford Bus Company	<p><b>No objection</b> - We have no issues with this one as it is proposed and are pleased to see that the main bus route through Blewbury has been left as 30mph.</p>
(3) Stagecoach Bus Company	<p><b>No comments</b></p>
(4) Blewbury Parish Council	<p><b>Support</b> - Blewbury Parish Council is aware that there are speeding issues on the roads within Blewbury, in addition to the A417 and B4016.</p> <p>For a great many years, car speeding along the A417, London Road, and B4016, Bessels Way, have been a blight upon the lives of many Blewbury residents, with a damaging impact upon the safety of residents, their animals, and their cars. Blewbury Parish Council has recent documentary evidence of speeding, recommendations in the Blewbury village plan to increase safety, and meeting minutes confirming our support for a suite of speed reduction measures. There is strong support for speed reduction measures so that we can all move around the village in greater safety.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>

<p>(5) Member of public, (Upton, Fieldside)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - In 30 years of walking, cycling and driving in Blewbury my experience is that the highways are perfectly safe, I believe proposal will have little or no impact other than to waste money better spent in very many other ways to improve highway safety.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(6) Member of public, (Blewbury, Church Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - The proposals don't go far enough. Speed limits are particularly needed on the A417 through Blewbury and along Bessels Way, yet, these two roads are excluded from the current proposals.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(7) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - Having encountered 20 mph in other villages, I believe they are not a help. The councils' concerns only appear to be for cyclists &amp; pedestrians, which are already catered for in the updated Highway Code. Motorists are never considered, which is peculiar, as they are the only ones contributing to the upkeep of the roads.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(8) Member of public, (Blewbury, South Street)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - Do not know which roads are covered</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(9) Member of public, (Blewbury, South Street)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - As a cyclist, the main issue is with the speed of traffic on the main A road through Blewbury and the B road to Didcot. Changing the speed limit within the village itself does not address this and uses resources that would be better spent addressing the main traffic problems. It is also hard to cross the main road as a pedestrian now. The traffic has increased substantially since Great Western Park was built and the new link road.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

<p>(10) Member of public, (Blewbury, South Street)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - a waste of money and a distraction from the main problem with the roads in the area - the appalling state of the surface of the roads, potholes etc. The council should be ashamed of this and appears to have lost all motivation to do anything to arrest their slow decline. Even when road maintenance is done - as recently to the A417 through Blewbury, it is half-baked with many potholes missed, and the rough bit through Upton was left undone. The recent repairs (again) to the B4016 Didcot-Blewbury road should be an embarrassment. Within days, the surface was breaking up, and when the hot weather arrived, the asphalt melted! When did you last resurface a road properly rather than just filling a few potholes and throwing some gravel on freshly laid tar? Forget about the new speed limit and put the money into road resurfacing.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(11) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - There is little or no capacity to exceed 20mph at the moment on the roads proposed for the new limit. The roads inside the village are too narrow and have natural chicanes of parked vehicles. It would be a waste of funds. More importantly it would send a signal that the Council are ignoring the real issue of the two main roads in the village which are not included in the proposal, which host habitual and frequent speeding offenders. These roads (A417 London Road and B4016, bessles way) need to be addressed urgently before someone is killed or serious injured.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(12) Member of public, (Blewbury, Didcot, Berry Lane)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> - Cant see that a change to the signed speed limit will make the slightest bit of difference to the actual speed that is driven round these tiny roads</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(13) Member of public, (Blewbury, Westbrook Street)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> - Reducing the speed limit within the village itself is probably pointless. Our speeding issues rest with the main roads - the A4127 and B4016 where speeding is causing nuisance and danger. We really had hoped to see the speed limit to be reduced where it actually matters.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>



(14) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bessels Lea)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - Decisions on investing public funds need to be driven by supporting data. As members of the Blewbury Community Speedwatch (CSW) team we think that there is little or no data to either support or object to a 20 mph for the inner village roads. Therefore we strongly advise that data should be obtained to prove that there is a problem, rather than simply making an arbitrary decision to prioritise this investment now above other known major speeding issues in Blewbury (A417 and B4016). Significant CSW data exists for these two roads, e.g. 25 -30 percent of all traffic on the B4016 is recorded at 37 -55 mph. The village therefore should address these public safety priorities ahead of the proposed 20 mph limit, which is currently not based on any technical data to prove the need.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(15) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bessels Way)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - The proposals are utterly ridiculous! The 30mph limits on Bessels Way and the London Road are not enforced and are routinely ignored by drivers. These are way more important to address than the limits inside the village. I'd support moving to 20mph inside the village, but it's totally missing the point. Bessels Way and London should be 20mph too - or at least have cameras installed.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(16) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - I am concerned that there is no provision for controlling speed on the main A417 going through the village. As a resident on this road, drivers regularly exceed the speed limit and it is dangerous from my children to cross. I have no objection to the proposed 20 mph zone however traffic in this part of the village is generally light and it is difficult to drive at greater than 20 mph currently.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(17) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bessel's Way)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - I am concerned that by focusing on reducing the speed on roads within the village, the constant speeding on Bessel's Way and London Road is not being addressed.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

<p>(18) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> - While I am supportive of the 20mph limit within the village in principle I am concerned that this will just further exacerbate higher speeds on Bessels Way and the London Road where the real issue is anyway. The focus should be on addressing speeds on these two roads, where the speed limit is regularly exceeded and by some margin with many incidents and near misses. The inner village roads are much narrower with parked cars naturally limiting the speed of passing vehicles.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(19) Member of public, (Blewbury, Grahame Close)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> - I support the idea of a 20 zone around the entire village itself in principle ... but the internal roads are quite narrow and windy and I don't feel there is a big issue with speeding (I seldom see cars at 30mph). Most traffic is residents who are mindful of speed in any case - so my question would be what's the point, especially if the move to a 20 zone requires things like traffic calming/ street lights/ cameras/ more signage etc that may spoil the environment.</p> <p>It is the two 'containing' roads of Bessles Way and London Road that *would* benefit from a reduced speed limit and some subtle traffic calming (such as the one-way/ give way road-narrowing priority system eg that exist in nearby Long Wittenham - but not speed bumps or street lights) but I understand these roads are out of scope for this review.</p> <p>So a 20 Zone starting on the approaches each way on the A417 by a) Savages b) the petrol garage and c) the Stables on the Didcot - East Hagbourne road YES, but just within the village itself? A pointless and ugly expense in my view.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(20) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bessels Way)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> - Nothing wrong per se with 20 inside the village but few go much faster than that anyway. Given the data published by the Speedwatch team which shows few issues inside the village and terrible levels of speeding on the 2 roads specifically excluded from the proposal, coupled with high level of pedestrians crossing at Winterbrook farm and also crossing to the playpark at Tickers Folly Field, how does the council satisfy itself that this proposal is where the road safety priorities lie in Blewbury? That might sound like a loaded question but all you have to do is stand for 20 minutes at either of these locations to see for your self the dangers that no calming measures present. I urge you to prioritise the main roads and worry about 20mph inside the village later.</p>

	Travel change: <b>No</b>
(21) Member of public, (Blewbury, Besselslea Road)	<p><b>Concerns</b> –Well it seems like a good excuse to clutter a village with signage which is not needed. Most of the roads have obstacles which make 20mph hard to reach, however I think that there are a few Westbrook St, South St ,Berry Lane and Besselslea Road which could do with a gentle reminder, with th emphasis on "gentle". None of this goes any way to make Besselsway or London Road any safer.</p> <p>Bus routes mean that elderly residents have to cross these. The recreation ground needs crossing London Road. Exiting from the village towards Didcot or towards Upton means fitting in with racing traffic.</p> <p>These two roads have pavements. Someone needs to ensure that there are safe crossings AND THAT THE SPEED LIMIT IS ENFORCED.</p> <p>Please use your money more wisely.</p>
(22) Member of public, (Blewbury)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – As a resident of Blewbury I welcome the proposal to reduce the speed limit through the village to 20mph. In the heart of the village you cannot safely exceed this speed anyway. I am concerned that the problems on the London Road A417 and the road to East Hagbourne are not also being addressed though: drivers USUALLY exceed 30mph and there are no crossing places for the kids to get to the play park (which is next to Bohams Rd). Ideally we would have a zebra crossing roughly opposite Savages garden centre, and another one by Bessels Way to cross over to the Blewburton hill fort. We also need speed cameras to slow the traffic down (A417 and on the road to East Hagbourne).</p>
(23) As part of a group/organisation, (Oxfordshire Cycling Network)	<p><b>Support</b> - We support 20mph speed limits on the minor roads through Blewbury for their road safety benefits for pedestrians and cyclists. They will create a safer environment in which more people will be inclined to walk, wheel or cycle.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>

<p>(24) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - The roads A417 and Bessel Way are dangerous. Cars speed along both these roads and both crossing the road and coming out if junctions is dangerous at the moment</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(25) Member of public, (Blewbury, Woodway Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Blewbury has narrow, winding roads, frequently with no footway. 20 mph is a much safer option then 30 mph.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(26) Member of public, (Blewbury, South Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I live in Blewbury and am very concerned about the speed of traffic throughout the village - it has increased significantly over the last few years. Not all roads have footpaths for example parts of South Street, so I feel it is very important that traffic moves at an appropriate speed to allow pedestrians to walk safely - a 20mph limit would ensure this.</p> <p>I would also add, the speed limit on the A417 London Road that runs right through the centre of the village is not adhered to by the majority of motorists, particularly during busy periods in the morning and early evening - some cars exceed 50mph along this stretch which makes it very unsafe to try to cross the road. I have seen elderly residents, parents with pushchairs and dog walkers waiting for long periods of time, trying to get across the road safely. I think ALL roads in Blewbury should be at a safe speed limit of 20mph and that this should be monitored and enforced by the council.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(27) Member of public, (Aston Tirrold, Aston Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Concern about safety</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(28) Member of public, (Blewbury, Eastfields)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - In the village and surrounding main roads there are so many walkers and horse riders along with cyclists where the current speed Limit is exceeded by far and should be reduced making it safer for all</p>

	Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b>
(29) Member of public, (Blewbury, Dibleys)	<p><b>Support</b> - The straight Road out of Blewbury is a temptation to go fast. There are often horses on this road, some years ago there was an awful accident involving a horse and rider, with a car overtaking. It could easily happen more often.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(30) Member of public, (Blewbury, London road)	<p><b>Support</b> - The traffic goes too fast through the village and it is very dangerous for children crossing to get to the playground or Across the village. It should be properly slowed down and there should also be at least one crossing. Current 30mph is out of date and not sufficient.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(31) Member of public, (Blewbury, Millbrook Close)	<p><b>Support</b> - I live close to Berry Lane and there are frequently cars driving at a greater speed than 30mph which is completely inappropriate for the width of the road, the visibility and the number of people walking with children and dogs.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(32) Member of public, (Blewbury, Chailey Gardens)	<p><b>Support</b> - The speed of some motorists in the village is totally inappropriate and indeed, dangerous, given that farm traffic and horses are regular users of the village roads</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(33) Member of public, (Blewbury, Westbrook Street)	<p><b>Support</b> - I support reducing the speed limit to 20 mph. It will be safer at the bends and junctions, parked cars, narrow roads. Children play, cycle use scooters and there are several blind bends and areas where there are no footpaths. Footpaths can be bumpy and slope making walking on them tricky for the infirm and for wheelchairs. The roads get used for walking because of this. Electric cars are quiet and harder to notice in the village and slower driving would</p>

	<p>give more chance of seeing them. I live in Westbrook Street. It has lots of parked cars and narrow areas. The school creates lots of traffic and FAST DRIVING at the same time as children are walking to school and crossing the road. There is a blind bend just by the school.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(34) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I have a daughter who rides her bike and walks with her friends around the village and think the 20mph would make it safer for her and other children.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>
<p>(35) Member of public, (Blewbury, Westbrook Street )</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Slowing vehicles on the roads makes it a safer place for everyone</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(36) Member of public, (Blewbury, Whites Orchard)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - 20mph is sensible with the village. Reducing the main road speed to 20 would be impractical so I support maintaining the current 30/40 mph limits</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(37) Member of public, (Blewbury, Berry Lane)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - With parked cars on roads within the village it is dangerous for pedestrians as car on the move moving at 30mph are going too fast. 20 mph will be a lot safer for all</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(38) Member of public, (Blewbury, Berry Lane)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Appropriate speed for village roads</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

<p>(39) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I fully support the proposal to introduce a 20 mph speed limit to most of the roads in the village of Blewbury. In many of the roads there is no footpath and many of the bends create visibility hazards. Stretches of the roads are very narrow and make it difficult to see oncoming traffic. A reduced speed limit would give drivers more time to spot oncoming traffic and pedestrians take evasive measures.</p> <p>However, I consider the proposal to exclude other roads in the Village (particularly London Road (A 417) and Bessels Way) from the changes misguided. London Road is a particular concern. I have witnessed several near misses on this road with pedestrians emerging from houses on the South side of the road, where there is no footpath, the road narrows and visibility is impaired, only just pulling back as cars come through the village at speed, I fear that it will not be long before someone is seriously injured or killed unless action is taken to prevent this. I understand that there have been fatalities on this road previously. It is a particular concern that many of the properties on the South side of London Road are occupied by elderly people and young children who are at particular risk when they attempt to access the rest of the village by crossing the London Road.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(40) Member of public, (Blewbury, Grahame Close )</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I have lived in Blewbury for nearly 50 years and have always thought this would be a brilliant, safe idea</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(41) Member of public, (Blewbury, South Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Fully support move to 20mph and ideally would extend it to A417 and B4016</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(42) Member of public, (Blewbury, South Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - People drive far too fast and dangerously along village roads so any lowering of the speed limit would be welcome</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>

<p>(43) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Safety Issues</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>
<p>(44) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - A 20mph limit on the small roads within the village is long overdue. I agree the existing 30mph/40mph limits should remain on the A417 and B4016, however.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(45) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - The roads in the village are very narrow and there are no footpaths in many areas. Many people walk around the village or cycle. It would be much safer to have a lower speed limit on the village roads.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(46) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - There are many narrow roads in the village and some do not have pavements. Many people walk round the village or cycle. It is often the case that you cannot be seen around a bend in the road and many cars currently drive faster than the allowed 30mph. It would be much safer to have this speed limit reduced to 20mph. we also have a pre-school and a primary school in the village so those children are vulnerable.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(47) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - The traffic on the London Road is dangerous and something has to be done to reduce the speeding that takes place all day every day. My only concern is how this will be policed. If a 30mph set of signs doesn't work today, what difference is it going to make to put 20mph on those signs instead. We need speed bumps and or other ways of reducing the speeding. The village has been asking for speed bumps for sometime now, so this is the perfect opportunity for them to be put in. That will reduce the speeds going through the village. It has worked in other villages so time to act now as you reduce the speed with your initiative.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>



<p>(48) Member of public, (Blewbury, Berry Lane)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - We have village roads and lanes with no footpaths. 20 mph throughout Blewbury would be safer for pedestrians and for residents whose front doors or drives open onto these roads and lanes .</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(49) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bessels Way)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I support reducing the speed limit throughout the village, and would prefer to see speed limit enforcement on the dangerous Bessels Way and London Road where cars travel at speeds far exceeding the 30 limit</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(50) Member of public, (Blewbury, Church Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Blewbury has some very narrow roads and many walkers, dog-walkers, children walking to school and 20mph is fast enough and safer than 30 or higher</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(51) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Safety. Also, the 417 should be included in the scheme, and enforced with a Speed Camera. It is dangerous along its whole route through Blewbury, especially at the constriction just past the turning to the Red Lion.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Other</b> I would walk and cycle more safely.</p>
<p>(52) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Permitted speed needs to be lowered on account of increased pedestrian traffic along narrow roads.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(53) Member of public, (Blewbury, Church Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Don't really think it will make much difference but it's worth a try.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

<p>(54) Member of public, (Blewbury, Grahame Close)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Roads are narrow and or obscured with often no footpath.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(55) Member of public, (Blewbury, Church End)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Small roads, blind bends, children playing, people with mobility difficulties using roadway due to lack of pavements in places</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>
<p>(56) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bessels Way)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - It makes complete sense.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(57) Member of public, (Blewbury, Westbrook Street )</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I live in Blewbury and often cross the London road with young children. 20 mph would be much safer. The people who speed along the road may Even reduce their speed to something less dangerous</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(58) Member of public, (Blewbury, Westbrook Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Safety of the residents</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(59) Member of public, (Blewbury, Grahame Close)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - The roads around Blewbury are winding and narrow, often with young children and other pedestrians. I already drive at under 20mph here anyway and to exceed that speed would often be dangerous.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>

<p>(60) Member of public, (Blewbury, Church Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - A 20 mph limit makes sense in a village with small roads and large population of residents who walk - with children, dogs etc. It would increase safety and I can't think of any negative effects.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(61) Member of public, (Blewbury, Whites Orchard)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Many of the village roads are narrow without footpaths making it dangerous for pedestrians, especially children going to school, horse riders, elderly and cyclists. There are numerous blind spots in the village and some vehicles travel too fast.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(62) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I am concerned about traffic speeds in the village</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(63) Member of public, (Blewbury, Millbrook Close)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - A lot of people walk through this attractive village. The roads are generally quite narrow and bending, and in some places there are a considerable number of cars and other vehicles parked. There are no pavements along the majority of these roads and, even where there are, many of them are very narrow and not level. This means that people with push chairs or mobility scooters have to use the roads as they cannot use the pavements safely.</p> <p>Being situated where it is, there are also horse riders using these roads every day.</p> <p>Many people already observe 20 mph in the village itself and it would be reassuring for this to be adopted as a normal requirement.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Other</b> I already walk whenever possible and limit the use of my car.</p>
<p>(64) Member of public, (Blewbury, near Didcot, Grahame Close)</p>	

	<p><b>Support</b> - Too many cars drive too quickly along the main road and there are both houses and amenities on the main road, such as Savages, the tennis, cricket, bowls clubs, children's play park, horse stables and walks to the ridgeway. 20mph would be a lot safer for all people, including children, elderly, disabled and vulnerable.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
(65) Member of public, (Blewbury, Grahame close)	<p><b>Support</b> - I support this for safer roads for all road users. And for increased pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
(66) Member of public, (Blewbury , Bridus mead)	<p><b>Support</b> - I walk my children to Blewbury School daily and drivers speed proposes concerns for my childrens safety.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(67) Member of public, (Blewbury, Eastfields)	<p><b>Support</b> - Small roads, children, beautiful village, unsafe corners, horses</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
(68) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bridus Mead )	<p><b>Support</b> - however If you aren't doing a417 and b4016 may as well not bother. Save our council tax for something else.</p> <p>It's already impossible at times to cross these two roads with the current 30 limit in place.</p> <p>Elsewhere you already struggle to get near 30 anyway because of the narrow / twistyness of the roads slowing you down. It self governs by design.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Other</b></p> <p>It will change very little within the village as the two main dangerous roads to use will not be affected.</p>

<p>(69) Member of public, (Blewbury, Grahame Close)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I would welcome slower car speeds through the village</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(70) Member of public, (Blewbury, Off Westbrook Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I support a 20 mile hour limit in Blewbury village . People already exceed the 30 mile an hour limit. Especially dangerous near the school</p> <p>Travel change: <b>No</b></p>
<p>(71) Member of public, (Blewbury, Church Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Safer for pedestrians and families</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>
<p>(72) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bessels Way)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I live on Bessels Way, the speed the cars are going is crazy and a small child could get killed. I feel it also needs backing up with a speed camera</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>
<p>(73) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Traffic travels at inappropriate speeds both on the roads within the scope of this change and on other roads in the village eg A417. It's imperative that a speed restriction is put in place, in common with other villages with primary schools.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>
<p>(74) Member of public, (Blewbury, South Street)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I walk around Blewbury every day and am often very frightened by the speed that some people drive around the village. Driving at, or in excess of, 30mph is particularly dangerous with all of the blind bends in Blewbury. 30mph is far too fast - especially with all of the dog walkers, horse riders and cyclists in the village.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b></p>

(75) Member of public, (Blewbury, London Road)	<p><b>Support</b> - Many roads in Blewbury do not have footpaths. They are used by children walking to school, visit friends etc. Also many elderly people, people on horseback, cyclists and general users. As a driver myself it would never feel reasonable to drive at more than 20 mph anyway.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Other</b> It is very rare for me to do anything but walk or cycle already</p>
(76) Member of public, (Blewbury, Chailey Gardens)	<p><b>Support</b> - I fully support the proposed 20mph speed limit within Blewbury Village as I live in the village and walk my dog around the centre of the village, where there are not always pathways to keep to. I also hack on my horse and horses can be easily spooked by speeding traffic which is not able to give enough space to comfortably pass the horse. The village has some old, narrow roads with blind corners and 20mph would make those roads much safer.</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Other</b> I don't drive around the centre of the village, I always walk.</p>
(77) As part of a group/organisation, (Blewbury Community Speed-watch)	<p><b>Support</b> - I support the introduction of a 20mph limit within the village, however I don't know what data is being used to introduce this? I set up the Community Speedwatch Group in Blewbury and we have been operating for over 1 year now, and our data supports traffic calming measures on the B4016 near Winterbrook Farm and Bessels Lea junctions, traffic in excess of 50mph. The volume of traffic on the A417 near the Cemetery at one end, and the busstops by the Blueberry pub should both have pedestrian crossings which were proposed in 2003!</p> <p>Travel change: <b>Yes - cycle more</b></p>
(78) Member of public, (Blewbury, Bridus Mead)	<p><b>Support</b> - Most residents do not usually go above 20mph but there are those who do, particularly parents around school times, builders and delivery drivers . The roads need to be kept safe for walkers, cyclists, mobility scooters, horses, etc. The internal roads in Blewbury are winding, many don't have footpaths and a large number of homes have their driveways open directly onto the roads.</p>

	Travel change: <b>Yes – walk/wheel more</b>
(79) Member of public, (Blewbury)	<p><b>Support</b> - I feel we have a few "hotspots" in Blewbury;</p> <p>The narrowing on London Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o this is too close now for many cars / vans and there are often comings together resulting in almost continuous broken wing mirrors on the road - it will not be long before there is a more serious accident there.</li><li>o the pavement just after this (travelling eastwards, towards The Blewbury) is narrow and often overgrown resulting in large vans and lorries coming perilously close to pedestrians.</li></ul> <p>Westbrook Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o during "the school run" cars are driving too fast down Westbrook Street making it dangerous for resident road users to get in and out of their driveways.</li><li>o the parking at the Ashridge House is poor and cars are parking too close to the junction with the London Road - again this makes it dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike!</li></ul> <p>I fully support the 20mph speed limit.</p>

# Speed Reduction Measures in Blewbury

## Summary

For a great many years, car speeding along the A417, London Road, and B4016, Bessels Way, Blewbury has been a blight upon the lives of many Blewbury residents, with a damaging impact upon the safety of residents, their animals, and their cars. This paper summarises recent documentary evidence of speeding, notes the recommendations in the Blewbury village plan, and makes specific recommendations to satisfactorily address the speeding issue, so that we can all move around the village in greater safety.

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## What is the issue?

### Introduction and background

The Blewbury Village Plan, published in 2016, identified that speeding and the lack of safe crossing points was an issue (<https://blewbury.co.uk/parish/neighbourhood-plan/>).

Below are extracts from the plan:

*“London Road (A417) is the only road in the village with pavements running along both sides. In places the pavement narrows significantly, and there is a gap on the south side opposite Nottingham Fee. **There are no pedestrian crossings at all on this very busy main road, which must be crossed by people living to the south of it or going to the recreation ground. This is often mentioned by residents as a serious problem.** Bessel’s Way (B4016) has a pavement for most of its length, but it ends at White’s Orchard. Beyond this there is a 40-mph speed limit and pedestrians are not encouraged to continue.”*

*“Speeding: **There is a long-term problem of speeding along London Road and Bessels Way. Various traffic calming measures and proposals have been discussed over the years.** The Parish Council are reviewing this area and are working with the Oxfordshire Highways Department to explore what can be done to improve the safety of pedestrians and road users. The speed limit is currently 30 mph on all roads in Blewbury. A number of residents are working to reduce speed on village roads apart from the A417 and B4016 to 20 mph.”*

*‘London Road and Bessels Way are becoming increasingly dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists because of the volume and speed of traffic. Calming measures on both of these roads should be considered, as should reduction of the speed limit to 20 mph within the village. **Continued research into available traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings along London Road is needed,** notwithstanding the village’s wish not to have street lighting. Street furniture and signage should be kept to a minimum and be practical, of modest scale and in keeping with local surroundings.’*

### Residents’ stories about the dangers of London Road and Bessels Way

Over the last 20 years or so, residents have been observing and collecting (anecdotal in the earlier years) data chronicling the speed of traffic along these two main entries and exit roads to the village.

For example, between 2003 and 2007, Robert Long and Mike Marshall collected ad hoc data, and later noisy rumble-strips were tried out, but were not considered to be a suitable solution and were removed.

*“Within 6 months of moving here and parking on London Road, my brand-new car was smashed three times!”*

*“My dog was hit on London Road and the driver didn’t stop”*

*“As a child I was hit when crossing the road, after getting back from school”*

*“The postman had to jump into a doorway on London Road, as a car mounted the pavement to speed on its way”*

### Current speeding data and traffic hotspots

Research into the speeding along these roads has been actively conducted by a large group of concerned Blewbury residents since 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021; the Blewbury Community SpeedWatch team.

In the last 8 months, there have been 1000 offences, 160 exceeding the speed limit by between 56% and 110%.

The fastest car travelling at 65mph, and 3 motorbikes travelling at 78mph, narrowly missing a child on a push along scooter in the road, these were seen during school pick-up time.

An average of one speeding vehicle every two minutes was recorded. A roughly equal frequency was observed in the opposite direction thus approximating to one speeding vehicle each minute with speeds ranging between 37 and 58 mph.

There are two clear 'hot spots': Sebastapol Barn crossing to the play area at Tickers Folly Field (TFF) and the tennis courts, and the Winter brook Farm crossing to Blewburton, both have high pedestrian crossing activity. Horse riders, their horses and cyclists are also at risk.

Blewbury community speed watch average around 2-hour sessions per week and see 30% of the traffic exceeding the speed limit, so assuming the traffic behaviour is the same, or worse, when not present, there is clearly a growing issue.

Monthly reports are provided to the BPC, since the start of the campaign.

### Proposed solutions

#### Core solution considerations

All the proposed considerations need to be mindful of:

- *'The village's wish not to have street lighting. Street furniture and signage should be kept to a minimum and be practical, of modest scale and in keeping with local surroundings.'* (Extract from the village plan)
- Previous failed solutions: i.e., rumble strips
- For Bessels Way specifically, some traffic calming devices are unsuitable due to the frequency of use by large farm vehicles from Winter brook Farm, and also horses from the stables.

#### Proposed traffic calming solutions

The recommendation from Oxfordshire County Council (the local Highways Authority) is to implement a suite of traffic calming solutions, which are outlined below.

##### Speed Monitoring

The voluntary Blewbury Community Speed Watch team should continue with their 2-hour sessions per week of monitoring motorists' speeds. The visibility of the volunteers in their high-vis jackets will deter some people from speeding. Those who do still speed are reported to Thames Valley Police and letters are issued to repeat offenders. Monthly reports are provided to Blewbury Parish Council.

The SpeedWatch team may wish to ask Thames Valley Police whether they could designate London Road and Bessel's Way as a "Community Concern Site". This would result in police speed camera vans also monitoring motorists' speeds.

### Speed Roundels



Speed roundels are road markings which give motorists a clear indication of the road speed limits and help slow traffic speed.

Oxfordshire County Council can install roundels on London Road and Bessels Way at no cost to Blewbury Parish Council.

### Village Gates



Village gates help remind motorists that they are entering a village and can slow traffic speeds.

Oxfordshire County Council can install 'Glasdon' plastic gates (which look like painted wood). They cost about £1000 per gate installed with a village name plate sign attached.

Oxfordshire County Council currently have funding for this if Blewbury PC wish to proceed with this.

### Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)



SIDs are temporary road signs which flash the speed limit, or a "smiley" face as motorists approach.

SIDs cost around £2.5-3.5k each and would need to be bought by Blewbury Parish Council (BPC). Two SIDs would need to be bought; one for London Road and one for Bessel's Way.

New poles would need to be erected along the roads for the SIDs to be mounted. BPC would need to identify locations for 4-6 poles to enable the SIDs to be moved periodically. SIDs must be moved for 3 reasons:

- 1) They are not traffic signs so cannot be in a permanent location
- 2) Motorists will learn to ignore them if they are left in the same location.
- 3) SIDs need to be taken down periodically to recharge their batteries.

BPC would need to suggest locations for the poles to OxonCC, and consult affected residents (i.e., those whose house the poles would be outside). Oxfordshire County Council would install the poles. See Appendix I for more details on costs.

#### Pedestrian Crossing on London Road

The volume of traffic is very high at London Road by Tickers Folly (11k cars per day) but only 2% speed. Funding and installation of crossings is undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council. Funding has been ring-fenced for a crossing and should be delivered by April 2023.

The carriageway near Savages may not be wide enough to install a central refuge so a formal crossing with lighting may be required. Oxfordshire County Council will design and install the crossing.

#### Pedestrian Crossing on Bessel's Way

25% - 30% of cars speed in each direction so a crossing is required at the farm entrance / Bessels Lea. OxonCC has not yet allocated funding for this crossing but this could be requested by Blewbury Parish Council for 2023/24.

#### Central line removal

Removing the white line in the centre of the road encourages motorists to drive more slowly. This can be done by Oxfordshire County Council at no financial cost to Blewbury Parish Council when surface dressing of either road takes place.

#### 20 mph limit within the Village



Blewbury is on the list of villages which will be designated as 20mph speed limit by Oxfordshire County Council in September 2022.

Residents of roads such as Westbrook Street, Bessels Lea Road and South Street may wish to put "20s Plenty" stickers on their wheelie bins or in their windows ([https://www.20splenty.org/stickers\\_and\\_campaign\\_materials](https://www.20splenty.org/stickers_and_campaign_materials)).

#### 20 mph on London Road and Bessel's Way

These roads will have a safety audit by Oxfordshire County Council in Summer 2022, and the results of this will be used to decide whether a 20mph limit is appropriate.

### Chicanes and Buildouts

Chicanes and buildouts narrow the road and can be used to create a priority movement for vehicles. They reduce traffic speed by reducing the road width or creating a deflection. If one or more of these were constructed in Blewbury, they should be designed in alignment with the rural character and be planted with native wildflowers.



Oxfordshire County Council would need to design and install these, and each one would cost Blewbury Parish Council £15-20k. There is not currently the staff capacity at Oxfordshire County Council to deliver chicanes or buildouts.

### Funding

The measures which would require funding from Blewbury Parish Council are SIDs (£5-7k for two) and chicanes (£15-20k per chicane). Funding for either or both of these measures will need to be found from BPC funds, S106/CIL money and/or fundraising.

If fundraising is required, then this could be raised by a parking supplement for non Blewbury resident cars via club membership. (Whilst much of the traffic is through traffic, some is generated by outside residents joining village amenities at the cricket, football, tennis, and croquet pitches.)

### Decision points for Blewbury Parish Council

- Does BPC agree there is a speeding issue in Blewbury?
- Which of the proposed speeding measures does BPC support?
  - o Speed monitoring
  - o Speed roundels
  - o Village Gates
  - o Speed indicator devices (SIDs)
  - o Pedestrian crossing London Road
  - o Pedestrian crossing Bessels Way
  - o Central line removal
  - o 20 mph limit in village
  - o 20 mph limit on London Road and Bessels Way
  - o Chicanes or buildouts

## Appendix I – Details of SIDs

Dickon Green ([dgehpc@gmail.com](mailto:dgehpc@gmail.com)) at East Hanney Parish Council who operates their SID would be happy to advise BPC on the usage of SIDs.

SIDs must be British Standards compliant so that they are covered by the Parish Council's £10m public liability insurance.

The common units used by other Parish Council's in Oxfordshire are either Elan City or Westcotec.

Alan Mackie at Elan City ([alan.mackie@elancity.co.uk](mailto:alan.mackie@elancity.co.uk)) will be able to provide the Parish Council with an up to date quote, but a previous quote was £2,300 for one solar radar that moves between 2 posts, both posts equipped with radar bracket & solar panel.

The Westcotec unit (such as the one used by East Hendred and Harwell PC's) is around £3,300, a formal quote for these units can be obtained from Will at [sales@westcotec.co.uk](mailto:sales@westcotec.co.uk).