

Divisions affected: *Ploughley*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –
16 NOVEMBER 2023**

UPPER HEYFORD: PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Upper Heyford as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Upper Heyford as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation and the proposals themselves has been provided by the County Council's 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 encourage walking and cycling within Upper Heyford by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 14 September and 06 October 2023. A notice was published in the Bicester Advertiser 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, Cherwell District Council, the local District Cllrs, Upper Heyford & Heyford Park parish councils, and the local County Councillor representing the Ploughley division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

7. Thames Valley Police were the only statutory consultee to respond, they reiterated their views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits which they consider as 'concerns' rather than an objection.

Other Responses:

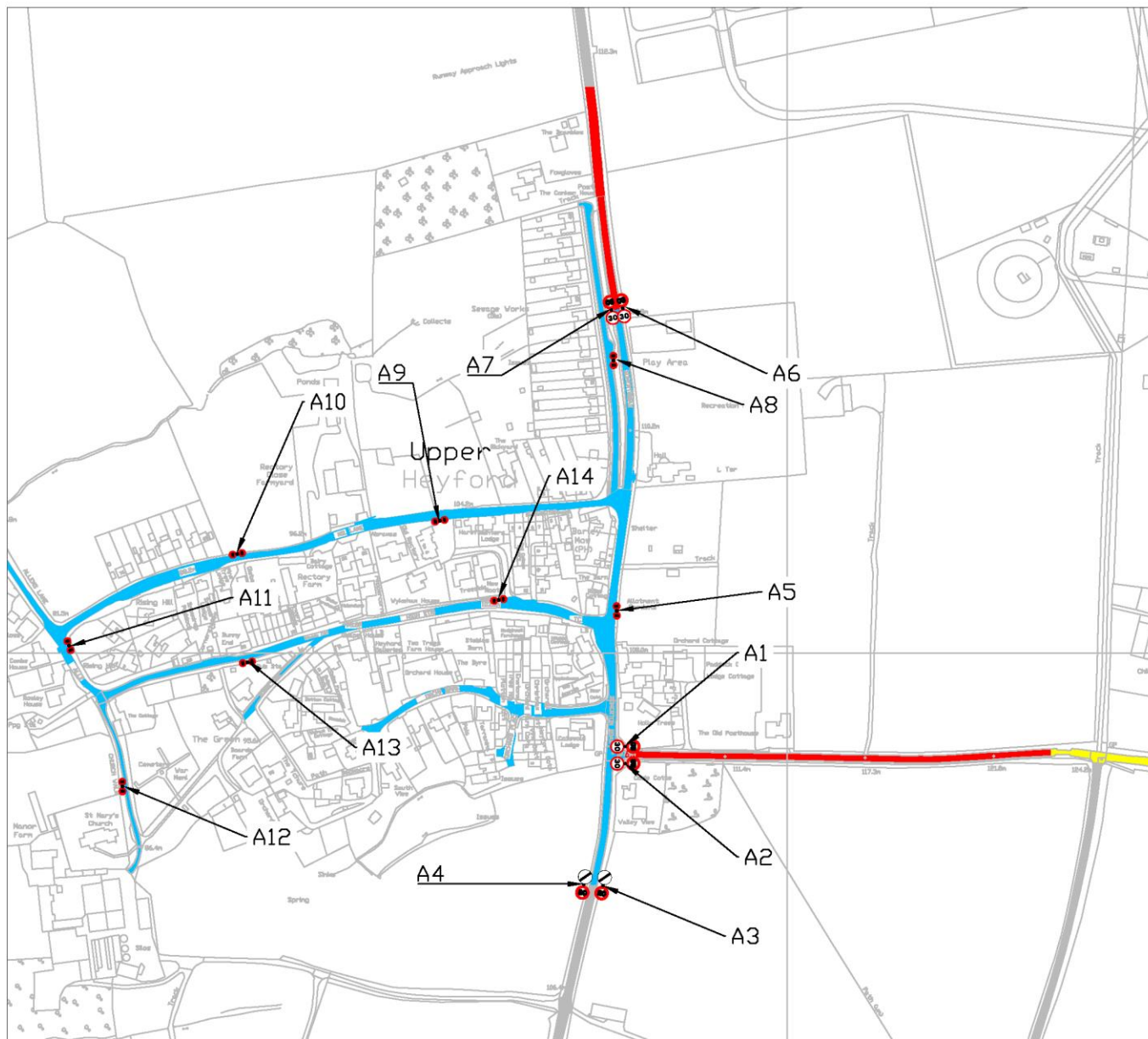
8. 55 online responses were received; all from local residents except for a local councillor and two members of the public, one of whom supported the proposals and one objected. One respondent was logged as having no opinion but was considered an objection and one who expressed concerns was deemed in support. The overall position was of 45 in support, one expression of concern that the more open roads where speeds were highest were omitted, and 9 objections.
9. The following table is a synopsis of the objections and concerns with the views of some respondents covering more than one category,

View/Opinion	Number of responses
Not needed and will make no difference	7
Waste of money	4
Unenforceable	3
Limit will be ignored	2
Increase in accidents from overtaking	1

10. 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	6 (11%)
Yes - cycle more	2 (4%)
No	46 (83%)
Other	1 (2%)

11. The consultation responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.



Sheet A		Revision 1.0													
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Legend</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #00B0F0;"></td> <td>Proposed 20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFFF00;"></td> <td>Existing 20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #FF0000;"></td> <td>Existing 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #808080;"></td> <td>Existing NSL</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #CCCCCC;"></td> <td>Not Public Highway</td> </tr> </table>				Legend			Proposed 20		Existing 20		Existing 30		Existing NSL		Not Public Highway
Legend															
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© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10023343 2017															
Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved										
1.0	12.06.23	Final draft	C.W												
<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; font-size: x-small; margin-left: 10px;"> Owen Jenkins Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall 100 High Street Oxford OX1 1ND Tel 01845 310 1111 </div>															
Project title: Upper Heyford 20mph Scheme															
Drawing title: Upper Heyford 20mph Scheme Sheet A															
Drawing Status															
Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.W	Checked by: G.J	Approved by: G.J												
	Date drawn: 12.06.23	Date checked: 27.06.23	Date approved: 27.06.23												
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref															
Drawing No. 1.0				Revision 1.0											

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>Concerns – 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 (www.gov.uk)) 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"> • history of collisions • road geometry and engineering • road function • composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users) • existing traffic speeds • road environment

	<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>
(2) Member of public, (Kirtlington, Heyford Road)	<p>Object – This is waste of money if it is not enforced.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(3) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	<p>Object – 30 mph is quite slow enough.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(4) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	<p>Object – There is already 20 limit at Heyford Park. When car's travelling at 20 they are being overtook by electric bikes and scooters, which is a bigger accident waiting to happen. 30 around our village is fine</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(5) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Orchard Lane)	<p>Object – Will slow down traffic unnecessarily for a perceived, but not real threat.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(6) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Orchard Lane)</p>	<p>Object – Impossible to ‘police’ . Drivers ignore and exceed the 30mph limit as is. The main Somerton Road is a straight through - traffic calming rather than an easily ignored limit’ would be more effective. The 3 village roads are naturally narrow with parked cars etc meaning it’s very hard to do over 20mph. Basically I see it as a pointless unenforceable waste of money</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(7) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)</p>	<p>Object – It’s not necessary. And I like the village as it is and probably will not make a difference</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(8) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, The Green)</p>	<p>Object – 0. 20mph is too slow. It is a massive reduction from 30mph. Why not lobby government for a 25mph limit?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A 20 mph speed limit zone is unlikely to slow down a lot of cars; 2. The 20 mph limit itself is flawed – unregistered vehicles like electric bikes and cycles can go faster, and do. It is also flawed because large numbers of people are ignoring it – and thus not accepting it (a prerequisite for most law) 3. Just because there is funding from the local council for a 20 mph zone doesn’t mean we should have one – this appears to be what’s driving the proliferation of 20mph zones; 4. Can the funding be used for speed humps? 5. Can we compromise and leave the speed limit at 30 mph on the Somerton Rd (with speed humps away from houses) and have 20mph on the remaining roads in the village? Or start the 20mph on Somerton Road at Camp Road rather than at the start of Station Road where the current 30mph is. So the speed limit from Lower Heyford would go from 60mph to 30mph at the point Station Road turns into Somerton Road, and then 30mph to 20mph at the junction of Somerton Road and Camp Road. 6. Has the camera worked on Somerton Road? I think some cars still go much faster than 30 mph; 7. 20mph zones have a ripple affect on other speed limits, with more 50mph and 40mph signs dotting the Oxfordshire countryside; 8. I spoke to a Liberal Democrat councillor recently (manager of Screwfix in Bicester) and he justified the 20mph zones by saying safety would be improved. Obviously, it would, but by how much? Has this been measured? We appear to be going back to the start of motoring, with someone walking in front of a car with a red flag... <p>Travel change: No</p>

(9) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Orchard Lane)	<p>Object – I think 20 is too slow. When driving condition are such that 20 would be more suitable, sensible drivers would adjust their speed accordingly. Bad/ fast drivers tend to ignore the speed limits anyway. Although I suspect most people would be favour of a 20mph limit in principle, the reality is, from my experience following people through 20 zones they almost always ignore it.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(10) Local resident, (Upper heyford, Orchard Lane)	<p>Concerns – I am supportive, but unless it's policed it gets abused and as a resident can't rely on it. Examples are in Heyford park where it us constantly abused, and people do not get penalised. We pay taxes, we need our share of police speed camera support.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(11) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, College Square)	<p>Concerns – I cannot put my full support if the whole of the village is not going to be 20mph this comment ~Sections of existing 30mph speed limit will remain on Somerton Road & Camp Road leading northwards and eastwards out of the village, with Officers having taken the current road environment & traffic usage into account.~ concerns me as this is we're the majority of the speeding occurs</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(12) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)	<p>Support – I've lived in somerton road all my life and I can't understand how the speed limit can be kept at 30 mph north to south the last 10 or so years it's became a race track it's only a matter of time before someone is killed or seriously injured I hope this is taken into account</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>

<p>(13) Local or County Cllr, (Upper Heyford, Allens Lane)</p>	<p>Support – Reducing speed limits will ultimately slow down speeds</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(14) Local resident, (Upper heyford, Camp Road)</p>	<p>Support – Safety</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(15) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Volume of traffic through the village has increased tremendously over past few years bringing with it some very fast drivers!</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(16) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Cars and tractors speeding through the village even more marked now that other neighbouring villages have reduced to 20. Safety considerations should be paramount.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(17) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Significant increase in the amount of traffic since the airbase has been developed for housing, and subsequent increase in speeding.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(18) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – People travelling along the top of the village (Somerton Road) are consistently breaking the 30mph speed limit and with the presence of the park, playing fields, village hall and pub located in this road there is a necessity to ensure that vehicles are travelling at a much safer speed for pedestrians. Furthermore, several visitors to the canal walk down from Heyford Park and cross Somerton Road for access.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

(19) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)	<p>Support – I have real worries about the number of cars that speed along the main road in UH, when there are houses on one side, no proper footpath and a playground and playing field on the other side. Unless we reduce the speed limit I worry that a child will be injured or worse</p> <p>Travel change: Other I would like to cycle more - but there are too many dangerous potholes on all the roads near us - it is not just about reducing speed limits. Cycling is so dangerous at the moment</p>
(20) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)	<p>Support – Need traffic to slow down on the narrow village roads</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(21) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)	<p>Support – Children crossing road to go to playground</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(22) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	<p>Support – The driving speeds through the village are frequently in excess of the limits, sometimes ridiculously so, including - surprisingly - down the High Street and Mill Lane. The traffic within the village has increased in both volume and speed quite considerably since the growth of Heyford Park.</p> <p>As the main Somerton Road is effectively straight, and visibility is - seemingly to drivers - good, there's little discouragement to drive appropriately for a village environment, one mostly without footpaths (except in its centre). I should mention that I was on the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Traffic and Transport Working Group, looking T&T throughout the surrounding area. Upper Heyford were awarded a lead/demonstration traffic calming/mitigation project grant, which was eventually cancelled through insufficient additional funding.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(23) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Support – The village is a straight run between Somerton and Lower Heyford. Our SID has recorded speed of up to 75mph in the middle of the day travelling from Somerton direction. Our PC would be happy to share the speed data that has been recorded. We are one of the last villages in the area that is not a 20Mph zone.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(24) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Support – When walking my dog and crossing the road I feel cars pass quickly</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(25) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Support – It is essential for safety reasons</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(26) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Support – I have witnessed far too many motorists breaking the current limit of 30mph on camp rd. many heading towards the Heyford base. Not only do I support the reduction to 20mph but also to add further measures to slow the through traffic down.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(27) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Support – Vehicles entering the village from Somerton travel too fast making it dangerous to access the playground and village hall.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(28) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Support – All local villages have a 20 mph limit so we should have the same limit</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(29) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Orchard Lane)</p>	<p>Support – People speed dangerously through the village</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(30) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Orchard Lane)</p>	<p>Support – There are many children using the village playgrounds and visibility coming out of the side roads is compromised</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(31) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Orchard Lane)</p>	<p>Support – 20mph exists in many surrounding villages and towns. despite the 30mph limit in upper heyford drivers regularly exceed 40mph as evidenced by the speedwatch carried out some time ago without any action from the county council or police. A 20mph limit should reduce speeding to at least the existing limit</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(32) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, School Lane)</p>	<p>Support – The Somerton Road has many potential hazards for drivers, including the playing field, village hall, allotments, pub, three road junctions into the village and of course Camp Road. The 20MPH limit therefore seems appropriate and is in line with other nearby villages.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(33) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)</p>	<p>Support – I am concerned that the 30mph limit will remain on the Somerton road Northwards out of the village. Cars regularly pass my driveway well in excess of 30mph, making it highly unsafe when our family exits the driveway by car, bike or on foot; not to mention extremely noisy. I sincerely hope that this will be reconsidered and the 20mph speed limit extended to cover the full length of the village.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(34) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)</p>	<p>Support – People drive very fast through the village on Somerton road. Traffic calming measures like Somerton has (one lane gates) would also be good at entrance to the village from the north and before camp road on the south</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(35) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Drivers are going too fast in and around our village so infact we need traffic calmers too inorder to slow down drivers..</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(36) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Safety</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(37) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Narrow road with vehicles constantly driving too fast</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(38) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – Because drivers race along Somerton Road. One day there will be an accident!</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(39) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	<p>Support – We live right by the high street and many cars drive faster than 30mph. A mixture of villagers and visitors</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(40) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)</p>	

	<p>Support – The proposed 20mph limit appears to stop west of the village hall on Somerstown Road and yet housing continues to the current 30 limit. The Kirtlington 20 limit covers the entire built up area of the village so shouldn't all the houses facing Somerton Road be covered by the 20 limit?</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(41) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)	<p>Support – Speeds along Somerton Road especially are excessive, despite the speed measuring sensor that does slow people down. 20mph - if enforced - would help to reduce this</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(42) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)	<p>Support – We are a small village with narrow roads in the village itself and a children's playground adjacent to a through road (Somerton Road). All the safety evidence shows risk of accident harm is substantially reduced at 20mph rather than 30mph</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(43) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, High Street)	<p>Support – Vehicles and motorcycles constantly driving too fast on village roads</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(44) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	<p>Support – Speeding is so bad in our village 20mph is a must</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(45) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	<p>Support – As a resident of Mill Lane all too often people speed down our little road as well as along the main road at the top. It's not very safe to cross the road to the park or towards the bus stop and camp road at times. Most drivers drive over 30. They need to drive more slowly before someone gets knocked over.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

(46) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	Support – Noise Travel change: No
(47) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	Support – I notice a lot of villages are now 20mph and this is great news as the lower limit will help towards safeguarding children, residents and slow the speeders down. However, I would like to see these new restrictions policed better. There are still lunatic drivers breaking limits and getting aggressive with those that oblige by the new limits. Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more
(48) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)	Support – I have young children and some of The junctions cars (and tractors) really speed Through The village Travel change: Yes - cycle more
(49) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, New College Square)	Support – I support the proposal because the children have to cross a main road to get to the village playground and as such the traffic speeds should be restricted Travel change: No
(50) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)	Support – Desire to reduce excessive speeding in the village Travel change: No

<p>(51) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)</p>	<p>Support – I live right on the main road through upper heyford and the allotments are opposite. The speed at which all vehicles go through is extremely fast. Particularly farm vehicles. I think with a 20 limit this will bring that speed down to a safer level and also reduce the noise pollution from the engines as cars and tractors roar through</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
<p>(52) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)</p>	<p>Support – I live on Somerton Road and listen to cars speeding through the village day and night. Very much support a lower speed limit.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(53) Member of public, (Upper Heyford, Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support – Because it makes sense to have a 20mph it's a small village with cars parked on sides of roads and no footpath for a big park of the village</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(54) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Somerton Road)</p>	<p>Support – I live on Somerton Road, Upper Heyford - and through traffic from Somerton to Lower Heyford (and vice versa) often exceeds the 30mph limit (including farm traffic) I support a lower speed limit - however I am sceptical because the current 30mph limit is simply not enforced, and I fear that just lowering limit alone will not help unless it is enforced with some random visible traffic police presence</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(55) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Mill Lane)</p>	<p>Support – I walk my dog around the village multiple times a day, take my daughter to the school bus stop on the main road and take both kids to the playground so regularly have to cross the main road and the speed at which people drive through our Village is frightening as a parent. The thought of what could happen does not bear thinking about. The proposal to reduce the speed to 20mph will at least encourage drivers to slow to a more acceptable speed and reduce the risk of a fatality occurring in our lovely village.</p>

	<p>I find it very difficult to understand why almost every other village around us is already at 20mph which are supported by other aids to reduce speed and our village remains at 30mph with nothing to encourage/ remind drivers of the need to drive safely through our village.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(56) Local resident, (Upper Heyford, Orchard Lane)</p>	<p>No opinion – I have lived in Upper Heyford for 18 years with the speed limit at 30 mph. We have safe areas for children away from the traffic on the main Somerton Rd. I do not see a 20mph speed limit as a priority as there are many more pressing issues to address</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>