

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020**  
**BLOXHAM – PROPOSED EXTENSION OF 30MPH SPEED LIMIT AT**  
**A361 BANBURY ROAD & BLOXHAM GROVE ROAD**

**Report by Interim Director of Community Operations**

**Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the 30mph speed limits on the A361 Banbury Road and Bloxham Grove Road as advertised.

**Executive summary**

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

**Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to extend the village 30mph speed limit on the A361 Banbury Road and Bloxham Grove Road at Bloxham.

**Background**

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward with the approved development of a new school accessed from Bloxham Grove Road.

**Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 25 June and 24 July 2020. A public notice was placed in the Banbury Guardian newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bloxham Parish Council, Cherwell District Council and local County Councillor.
6. Six responses were received. 3 in support for both proposals, 2 objections and 2 non-objections. These are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

## **Response to objections and other comments**

7. Thames Valley Police did not object to the proposed speed limits but did note a concern in respect of both road safety and congestion with access construction and parking in Bloxham Grove Road. That will be forwarded to the relevant teams within the County Council for their consideration.
8. Bloxham Parish Council expressed the view that the speed limit on the A361 not be reduced from 50mph to 30mph but from 50mph to 40mph, until the limit reduces to 30mph anyway as the A361 enters Bloxham. The 30mph speed limit to Warriner School along Bloxham Grove Road was supported but they requested further traffic calming measures all the way along Bloxham Grove Road and additionally suggested consideration also be given to making the entrance to Bloxham Grove Road 'no entry & access only', especially given the increase in traffic which will arise from the new SEN School.
9. The comments of the parish council on the A361 speed limit changes – which also include the proposed changes on the A361 within Banbury which were consulted on at the same time – are noted, but it is considered that the speed limits are consistent with Department for Transport guidance on setting speed limits. Their request for measures on Bloxham Grove Road will also be forwarded to the relevant teams within the County Council for their consideration.
10. Cherwell District Council did not object to the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit on the A361 and Bloxham Grove Road but noted that a number of additional highway works were required to be undertaken for the new school which did not form part of the current consultation, but it is assumed that these changes will be consulted upon separately.
11. An objection was received from a member of the public, not a resident of Oxfordshire, to both the proposed speed limit reductions; this objection appeared to be generic and did not reference any local considerations.
12. Expressions of support were received from Tudor Hall School, and a member of the public.

## **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

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

## **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

14. Funding for the proposed speed limit has been provided from the school development funding by Oxfordshire County Council.

## **Equalities Implications**

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15. No equalities implications have been identified in respect of the proposals.

JASON RUSSELL  
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers:      Consultation plan  
   Consultation responses

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September 2020



RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>No objection</b> – The new development will move the village urban character south and the revised plan for the 30mph limit appears appropriate.</p> <p>My concern will be with access construction and the school adjacent to Bloxham Grove Road and road safety with parking and congestion potentials. Are any planning consent mitigation measures in place?</p>
(2) Bloxham Parish Council	<p>A361 Bloxham Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Object</b> Bloxham Grove Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Support</b></p> <p>The speed limit on the A361 not be reduced from 50mph to 30mph but from 50mph to 40mph, until the limit reduces to 30mph anyway as the A361 enters Bloxham.</p> <p>The 30mph speed limit to Warriner School along Bloxham Grove Road be supported, but further traffic calming measures are required all the way along Bloxham Grove Road. Consideration could also be given to making the entrance to Bloxham Grove Road 'no entry &amp; access only', especially given the increase in traffic which will arise from the new SEN School.</p>
(3) Planning Department, (Cherwell District Council)	<p><b>No objection</b> – In relation to the works to extend the speed limit on the A361 and Bloxham Grove Road the Planning Department note that these are required in connection with the proposed new school. It is noted that a number of additional highway works are required to be undertaken for the new school which do not form part of the current consultation, but it is assumed that these changes will be consulted upon separately.</p>
(4) Local School (Banbury)	<p>A361 Bloxham Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Support</b> Bloxham Grove Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Tudor Hall School notes and supports the plan to close a section of the existing A361 carriageway when the new</p>

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	<p>roundabout to the Wykham Farm Site is opened. The School notes that a section of the existing grass verge, which has been maintained by the School for over twenty years, will become a carriageway. The School will wish to be consulted about detailed plans to re-instate the remaining part of the verge and will put in an application for a school sign on the remaining verge.</p>
<p>(5) Online Response (Banbury)</p>	<p>A361 Bloxham Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Support</b>          Bloxham Grove Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Lack of clarity about the way traffic disruption will be handled during a building programme which is fundamentally unnecessary and economically non-viable in the new emerging economic circumstances</p>
<p>(6) Individual (Manchester)</p>	<p>A361 Bloxham Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Object</b>          Bloxham Grove Road 30mph Speed Limit - <b>Object</b></p> <p>Councils need to stop reducing speed limits every time an accident happens. I am a driving instructor and I'm all for road safety, but reducing limits isn't the answer</p>