

Divisions affected: *Wroxton & Hook Norton*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 20 JULY 2023

WARDINGTON: 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 Wardington and its hamlet of Williamscot as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits in Wardington and its hamlet of Williamscot 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 Wardington and Williamscot by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 01 June and 23 June 2023. A notice was published in the Banbury Guardian 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, Wardington parish council, and the local County Councillor representing the Wroxton & Hook Norton division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

7. Two responses were received from statutory consultees. Thames Valley Police re-iterated their views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits, they consider their response as 'having concerns' rather than an objection. Cherwell District Council (CDC) suggest consideration be given to reducing the extent of the proposals on the A361.

Other Responses:

8. Three online responses & an email submission were received. Objections were received from a Witney resident and a local resident who both considered the proposals were unnecessary and waste of money. A local resident and a local councillor both expressed support for the proposals on safety grounds.
9. The responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

10. The main purpose of the scheme is to encourage greater use of active travel by reducing speeds; this is also expected to reduce accidents. The aim of reducing speed limits is to change driver's mindsets to make speeding socially unacceptable and make more environmentally friendly modes of travel such as walking and cycling more attractive, and also help reduce the Counties carbon footprint. This forms part of a countywide programme of works that seeks to deliver 'a safer place with a safer pace'.
11. The authority considers objections along the lines of it being unjustified, anti-car, a waste of money, not enforceable or pointless to not warrant amendments to a proposal. As such the authority has not addressed the comments made of this nature in this report.
12. While there is arguably some potential to reduce the extent of the 20mph speed limits on the A361 Daventry Road, the reduced distance at each end is not extensive and the current proposal for a direct 30mph to 20mph swap simplifies the signing and road marking process. It is therefore considered that CDC's view does not merit a change to the proposals.

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes

Annex 1: Consultation plan
Annex 2: Consultation responses

Contact Officers:

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July 2023



Wardington 20mph Revision 1.0

Legend	
Proposed 20	Blue
Existing 20	Yellow
Not within Highway Boundary	Pink
Existing 30	Red
Existing 40	Green
Existing 50	Magenta
Existing NSL	Grey
Not Public Highway	White

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1.0	25.04.23	First draft	C.W		

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Project title: Wardington 20mph Scheme

Drawing title:
 Wardington 20mph Scheme Overview

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.W	Checked by: GJB	Approved by: GJB
	Date drawn: 25.04.23	Date checked: 09/05/23	Date approved: 09/05/23

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) West Oxfordshire District Council	<p>Support – Planning officers are regularly users of the roads in Wardington, both as a destination and means of travel to destinations in all direction to and from the village. The proposal seems a sensible idea given the number of roads in the village that are narrower and/or have bends and/or have parked cars. That said, the preponderance of parked cars tends to regulate the speeds used. In addition, there are some roads where there may appear to be less justification, principally due the nature of some of the roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daventry Road, A361 <p>We wonder whether further consideration may be given to the above alterations.</p>
(3) Local Cllr, (Wardington, Thorpe Road)	<p>Support – Cars and delivery vehicles drive much too fast around the village which has many sharp corners. We have children playing in the village as well as many animals. I am strongly in favour of this proposal</p>
(4) Member of public, (Witney, Oxford Hill)	<p>Object – Unnecessary waste of money. Residents will ignore and will know it is a political decision not a road safety decision. Recommend this is dropped. Village does not need 20s everywhere and is a disgrace this community is being picked on.</p>
(5) Local resident, (Wardington)	<p>Object – People don't adhere to the current limits so I can't see changing will have any effect. Time, resources and money would be better spent on better signage, solar speed monitors and changing the priority at the top of Top</p>

	Dawkins, which the Parish Council have been unsuccessful in persuading Highways to alter this dangerous T junction in the past.
(6) Local resident, (Wardington, Thorpe Road)	Support – People drive through the village way too quickly, making it less safe for residents including pets and children.