

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 16 JULY 2020**

### **ALVESCOT – B4020 MAIN ROAD: PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING GIVE WAY LAYOUTS**

**Report by Interim Director of Community Operations**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of traffic calming give way layouts on the B4020 at Alvescot.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Provision of traffic calming measures is reviewed when there are changes to the road layout as a result of development, when requested by local councils as a result of road safety concerns and as part of the on-going monitoring of reports on road accidents. Specific proposals are assessed applying national regulations and guidance on the use of traffic calming measures.

#### **Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to provide traffic calming give way layouts on the B4020 at Alvescot.

#### **Background**

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been put forward by Alvescot Parish Council who have undertaken to fund the project subject to approval being given to proceed with the scheme.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 06 May and 05 June 2020. A notice was placed in the Witney Gazette newspaper and public notices placed in the vicinity of the proposed build-outs. An email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, West Oxfordshire District Council, Alvescot & Blackthorn Parish Councils and local County Councillor.
6. Initially letters were sent directly to approximately 100 properties in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the proposals. However, following discussions with the Parish Council an additional letter was sent to a further 150 properties covering the remainder of the village.

7. Following concerns raised to and by the Parish Council, the consultation period was also extended by a further 3 weeks, ending on the 28 June. This ensured that those local residents who received late/delayed notification of the proposals were given enough time to submit their comments.
8. Thirty-two responses were received. 7 objections (22%), 18 expressions of support (56%), 1 neither objecting nor supporting and 6 (19%) raising some concerns. The responses are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

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

9. Thames Valley Police did not object but noted that design of the feature needed to take account of the sight lines, potentially requiring the trimming back of vegetation and the speed of approaching traffic to ensure it operated safely noting that the build-outs are at the outer edges of the village.
10. County Councillor Ted Fenton, the local member, expressed some reservation about the effectiveness of this type of traffic calming based on experience of similar features elsewhere.
11. Objections were received from seven members of the public on the grounds of the need for, effectiveness and safety of the proposed traffic calming measures, together with concerns being expressed over noise. It was noted that existing parking in the village had a similar effect to the proposed build-outs.
12. Concerns were also raised by six members of the public focussing on concerns over speed and safety on the length of the road outside the 30mph speed limit.
13. Expressions of support were received from eighteen members of the public, although some did raise some queries about aspects of the design in respect of the siting of the buildouts and their appearance in an area of high visual amenity.
14. Noting the above it should be stressed that the design of the scheme has taken account of standard traffic engineering practice and has been agreed by Alvescot Parish Council who will fund the scheme should it be approved.

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

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

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

16. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by Alvescot Parish Council.

## **Equalities Implications**

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

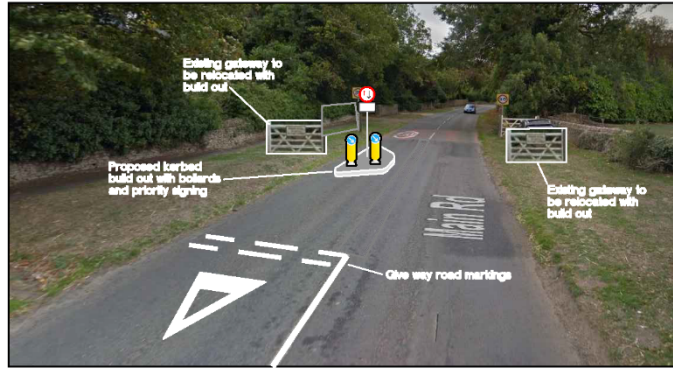
JASON RUSSELL  
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers:      Plan of proposed give way layout  
   Consultation responses

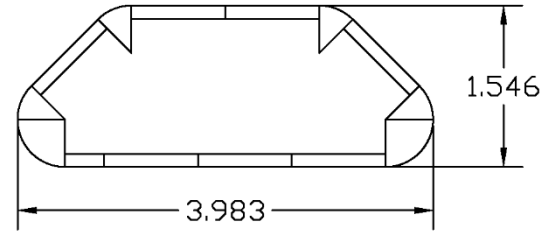
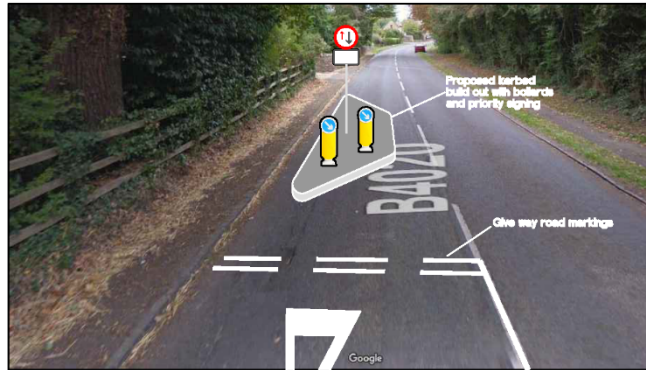
Contact Officers:            Hugh Potter 07766 998704  
   James Wright 07789 926984

July 2020

### Eastbound entry

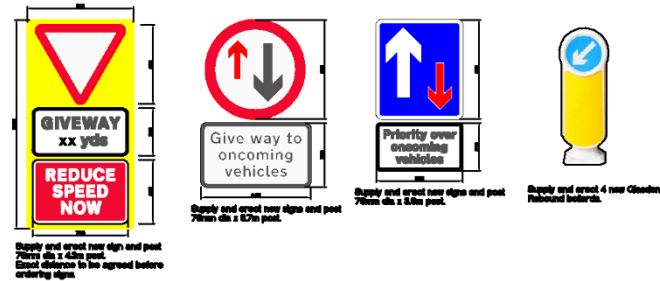
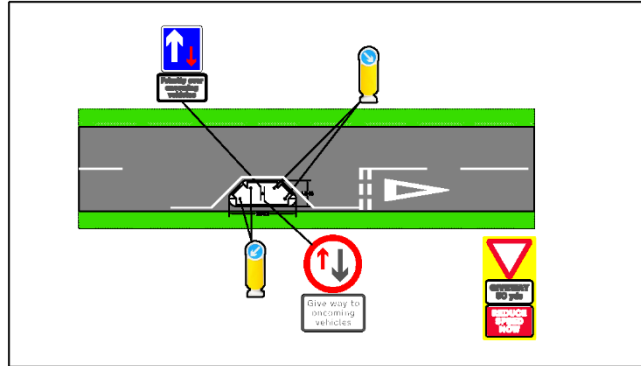


### Westbound entry



Approx build out dimensions

### Schematic plan



Drawing No.		Revision 0		
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked/Approved
<p><b>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>                  Owen Jenkins                  Director for Infrastructure Delivery                  Communities                  Oxfordshire County Council                  County Hall                  Dorset                  DG 1ND                  Tel: 0345 303 11 11                  Fax: 01865 241577</p>				
Project title				
PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING				
Drawing title				
ALVESCOT				
Drawing Status				
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by	
N.T.S.	JEW			
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved	
	11/19			
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref				
Drawing No.				Revision 0

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>No objection</b> – I have visited the location and am familiar with the road its character and speed limit.</p> <p>The measures proposed are intended to mitigate approach speeds in and out of the village where character and alignment challenge compliance by some drivers. Physical measures will mitigate this but must be considered in terms of site design and visibility. The locations are generally at or close to the lower speed limit terminals appropriately, but I did note on both ends that sight lines are compromised to some degree by tree and vegetation growth in the verges.</p> <p>The road is not straight and forward site lines to the measures are crucial and must be designed and maintained with current and future limits essential to road safety. Conflict between approaching fast or inappropriate traffic and speeds of the moving traffic or with the physical measures themselves must be a factor in the design.</p>
(2) Local County Cllr, (Witney West & Bampton Division)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – Personally, and from feedback I have had from people in Bampton where I live and which has these ‘chicanes’, I feel that these traffic calming measures can have an effect opposite to that desired. If motorists have to slow down or stop as they enter the village it necessarily means that they are accelerating as they enter it and may continue to do so as they drive through. Village centre reminders (VAS etc.) seem to be much more likely to reduce the speed of conscientious drivers who have allowed their speed to creep up; the reckless will always be so without actual enforcement measures.</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Object</b> – As a resident in the village my main concern though is that the measures are pointless if you only have them at either end of the village. I regularly walk my dogs through the village and cars may well slow down temporarily at the proposed traffic calming sites but the road is so long that by the time they reach the primary school they are often travelling again at 40-50mph and in some cases even faster. Placing the measures at either end will do nothing to slow traffic down where it is most needed - in the centre of the village.</p> <p>Given the high costs of building these surely the money could be better spent in installing speed bumps throughout the length of the most highly inhabited areas of the village or the erection of 2 speed cameras if you are genuinely</p>

	<p>interested in reducing speed and proposing a safer road system, particularly for young children.</p> <p>Is there an official channel where I can object to the building proposals as I really feel it hasn't been thought through carefully enough and will do absolutely nothing to reduce speed where it is most essential.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Object</b> - Totally unnecessary waste of public funds. As a homeowner in Alvescot I fail to see why this traffic calming is needed. I have no knowledge of any speed related accidents or any surveys concerning speeding through the village. If the parish council has money to spare I suggest finding a more important matter which needs funding ie dog fouling on the verges and footpaths.</p>
(5) Online Response, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Object</b> - I am concerned that vehicles will be breaking and accelerating in the close vicinity of my house - increasing noise and pollutants - my garden is adjacent to the road.</p> <p>I am NOT convinced that the site on the Eastbound entry will achieve any reduction in the speed of traffic through the village as it is too far out from the centre of village, and having passed the 'build-out' it is still possible to increase speed again.</p> <p>In December 2019 the minutes indicated that this was going to cost approx £15-16K and an additional consultation fee, but I am sceptical as to whether this will be money well spent or will prove to be 'a white elephant'.</p> <p>The entrance to our business is very close to the 'build-out' and I am concerned about large and articulated lorries and farm machinery accessing and departing from the premises safely, given possible manoeuvrability issues.</p> <p>For these reasons I strongly object to this proposal for traffic calming build outs in this location both as an individual and as a business.</p>
(6) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Object</b> - I think it will be a waste of our money as some time ago I approached our Parish Council re the parking of local vehicles on the main road especially near the public house their reply was this helps as a chicane to slow up through traffic. This is still a problem in my opinion and I feel the money could be better spent on repairing potholes in the village and more control on parking especially on the junction of Lower end and the main road.</p>
(7) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Object</b> - Introducing these measures seems rather pointless, the amount of cars that park on the street through the village already slow down traffic so much. A priority would be to fix the road surface, it is already full of potholes that can cause so much damage to cars and other vehicles.</p>

(8) Resident, (Carterton)	<p><b>Object</b> - I believe it will not have the desired effect of slowing traffic through the village as once passed like in Bampton vehicles speed up anyway so I a total waste of money. It will also cause accident hazard as vehicles park all down the side of the road just inside the village so once the measure is passed you will meet oncoming traffic as most likely you will still be on the wrong side of the road going around parked cars.</p> <p>As a large vehicle driver this will either lead to accidents or driver frustration and road rage potentially noise from horns and not to mention the extra noise of waiting traffic also if the traffic is backed up from the Carterton end of Alvescot entering the village you may cause accidents from cars coming around a blind corner at speed and encountering stationary traffic.</p>
(9) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Object</b> - If a case can be made that is not just based on perception and/or feelings then I may be supportive otherwise I object to spending up to £15,000 on something that has no material benefit but does have well documented disadvantages.</p> <p>I have reasons to believe that parking issues in the village that I and others have raised are linked to this proposal.</p>
(10) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – There are 3 cottages on the road into Alvescot, the road here is extremely dangerous, it has a 60mile speed limit. We take our lives in our hands when trying to pull out of our drive as there is an incline which the cars speed along. motor bikes are the worst. As this is a business we obviously have customers using our drive, and they always complain about the road and the speed.</p> <p>Being as our address is Alvescot could we not have either the traffic calming further along, or at least a 20/30 speed limit. All we have is a slow written on the road which no one takes a blind bit of notice.</p>
(11) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Concerns</b> - Whilst we have no objection to your proposed traffic calming measures as stated above, we make the following points:-</p>

	<p>We live about ¼ mile outside of the village on the B4020 heading towards Carterton. We have great difficulty coming out of our property (as do our neighbours) because of the speed at which the traffic passes our house. The problem is magnified because looking left from our house we have limited visibility over the brow of the hill and to the right the bend in the road.</p> <p>Sometime ago you kindly painted a “Slow” sign on the road but unfortunately it is totally inadequate as absolutely no one takes any notice. It is only a matter of time before someone runs into us as we are pulling out.</p> <p>We therefore propose that you extend some traffic calming measures to take into account the outlying properties, we are after all part of the village. The speed at which most traffic passes our house makes it impossible to walk into the village as there is no footpath for the first 200 metres leaving our property.</p>
<p>(12) Resident, (Black Bourton)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> - I think it is a good idea to have calming measures but I hate the amount of signage that accompanies it and the start of the road when the civil companies are finished?</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Alvescot)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> - While we support the proposed measures, we would encourage you to look at extending the scope of the proposals to include traffic calming or management at or before the junction of the B4477 and the B4020.</p> <p>We have lived at Rose Barn on Station Road on the North side of Alvescot for over ten years and in that time the vast majority of local road traffic incidents have taken place at the above junctions rather than in Alvescot itself. I am sure that you, the Highways Agency or the Police have the detailed list of collisions and injuries at or near that junction over the years but that will not include the regular “near misses” which are usually evidenced by blaring car horns and / or the sound of tyres under emergency braking.</p> <p>We would ask that you look at the current speed limit for that stretch of road between that junction and the Northern edge of the village of Alvescot and the management of this traffic as well as within the village itself. Given the busy junction with the B4477 toward / from Filkins (Point A below) where there are regular incidents arising from confusion over right of way, a secondary less busy junction in very close proximity (Point B below) and the sweeping bend between the two points that impairs the visibility of drivers approaching from either end, we feel that the current speed limit is unsafe and inappropriate and would ask you to look at this as part of your project.</p>



(14) Resident, (Black Bourton)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – Whilst I have no particular objection to the planned traffic calming measures for Alvescot village, I am concerned that this might encourage drivers to speed up once out at the southern end of the village along Alvescot Road south of the railway bridge. I live at Glebe Farm, which is situated just outside the 40mph limit on the bend towards Clanfield. We have considerable problems with speeding traffic along that road, coming from either direction. We often leave our property with a long vehicle sometimes tractor &amp; trailer, sometime truck and livestock box. There have been several occasions of near misses with traffic travelling North from Clanfield. I feel it is absolutely essential while you are making adjustments to traffic management in Alvescot, that you consider the importance of extending the current speed limit of 40mph to a point south of Bus tops by the Electricity substation.</p>
(15) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - It will be fantastic to have a traffic calming system as the speed of the traffic can be horrendous at times especially in the morning at school drop off time.</p>
(16) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - I am concerned that the calming measure is not dangerously located too near the bridge.</p>
(17) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - Hugely necessary to slow down rat-runners.</p> <p>Within the Alvescot Conservation Area so one hopes that a more sympathetic design than those encountered elsewhere in the County might be considered.</p>
(18) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comments.</i></p>
(19) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - Speed of traffic through the village has long been a danger.</p>
(20) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - Living on the edge of Alvescot, my wife and I see some totally blatant violations of the speed restrictions for the village every day. Besides the normal speeders that may not be concentrating and ignore the signs, there are quite a number of very regular very high powered cars that must imagine they are at "Le Mans"! It is hard to judge their speed but it will easily be twice the limit and can be night or day.</p>

	<p>Anything crossing the road at that time ( we have very few street lamps in village )          Would stand no chance of avoiding injury in the event of a collision and it is very surprising that it is only animals that have been affected at the moment.</p> <p>Any measures that bring driver awareness and common sense back to the road through the village will be most warmly welcomed.</p> <p>We would however seriously the oppose siting of the "build out" at the Northern end of the village in it's current proposed position, as it would presumably be at the 30 mph village posts structures. This would doubtless cause immense problems for farm traffic from Home Farm and consequently other road traffic, The distance mentioned of 220m from B4477 junction should be shown on a plan as most of us do not have access to equipment to measure long distances! We can then better judge what we think may be the effect of the siting.</p> <p>On reflection, It should , we feel, be the subject of a village meeting as you have proposed and to discuss other options that are available to the village. Last but by no means least, the Parish Council does not have a large precept or a large reserve to cover expensive solutions without affecting other regular needs for the village.</p>
(21) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - The main reason for my support is the safety of pedestrians and animals due to the current narrow pavements and increasingly speeding traffic.</p>
(22) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - The speed of traffic through the village continues at dangerous levels presenting a serious threat to pedestrians, children and general foot traffic. The proposed plan is a pragmatic and proportionate measure to slow traffic and raise driver awareness and is much welcomed and should be installed as a priority. Moreover, this is entirely coherent with post COVID plans to prioritise bike and foot traffic safe usage of road infrastructure.</p>
(23) Local Resident, (Alvescot)	<p><b>Support</b> - This traffic calming will obviously help in the village, but have noted the 3 cottages at the carterton end of the village have been forgotten.</p> <p>we have a cattery buisness and out drive is on a blind spot. everytime we pull out we take our life in our hands as cars come over the hill at terrific speed, and if we pull out they have the nerve to blast there horns at us. This road is a 60 mile hour speed limit, some of the cars are overtaking there is only a slow sign written on the road which no one takes any notice of. This either needs to be a 30 mile an hour speed limit or mirrors or extend the calming to further up.</p>

	<p>There are more and more cars going along this road and we feel this is going to end up in a bad accident.</p>
<p>(24) Local Resident, (Alvescot)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - These measures are needed especially at the beginning and end of school day as parents are too lazy to park by the church further along Mill Lane and, thereby, create chaos at the junction of the B4020 and the road leading to The Green and Lower End.</p> <p>May I also suggest the installation of traffic calming measures on the road leading past The Green towards Lower End as delivery drivers, boy racers and some drivers of fashionable but unnecessary SUVs are endangering children and others by their cavalier disregard for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>
<p>(25) Local Resident, (Alvescot)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I am a resident of Station Road. My house is The Firs, situated about 25m after the 30mph sign on the eastern approach into the village. It is also close to the site of the proposed build out, which will be only a few metres from my driveway. The road has a 30 mph limit through the village, and despite various speed surveys that play down the speeding issue, I have watched car after car entering the village from the east, speeding past my driveway triggering the illuminated 30 mph sign a few metres farther on. I estimate around two out of three cars are travelling faster than the speed limit. A build out would certainly help to slow down, or even stop, cars entering the village at speed. I am therefore delighted with this Parish Council initiative.</p> <p>I am aware of concerns over traffic calming from some residents (who mainly don't live on the main road), who think the proposal is unnecessary. But I would say to them that they are not aware, as I am (with an eye-witness view), of the dangerous speeds that some drivers travel at through the village. If I am willing to welcome a build-out outside my house, they have very little cause for complaint!</p>
<p>(26) Local Resident, (Alvescot)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - To many fast drivers. School Children at risk when crossing road from school to playground. Its at accident waiting to happen. Please do something about it. Thank you.</p>
<p>(27) Local Resident, (Alvescot)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - As this is a main thoroughfare and the number of cars entering the village continue to increase at speed any traffic calming measures are welcome in part due to the presence of the primary school and also as there is an aging population within the village.</p>

<p>(28) Local Resident, (Alvescot)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – We just wanted to drop you a note in full support of the proposed traffic calming in Alvescot. I don't know why it's taken so long to do this – as residents of Lower End – with 3 children, we pull onto this road frequently, and the speed which traffic comes through the village is alarming – it makes pulling out onto the B4020 quite dangerous.</p> <p>As I'm sure you'll know, there's young children crossing this road from the carpark and bus stop to get to the village school as well as older' less able people walking to the Village Hall and Church.</p> <p>I also go running fairly early most mornings and the much of the traffic speeds from Carterton passing the 30 mph sign significantly faster than 30 mph.</p>
<p>(29) Local Resident, (Alvescot)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – This proposal has full and unequivocal support of everyone residing at Stoneycroft, Main Road, Alvescot, and is a timely improvement to the increasing amount of speeding traffic through this village, especially with the risks associated with a thriving Infant and Junior School adjacent to the Main Road.</p>
<p>(30) Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - <i>No comments.</i></p>
<p>(31) Resident, (Black Bourton)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I support any scheme that helps slow traffic through our villages. However, it seems a shame that not all those effected by the speeding traffic along the B4020 will benefit from this scheme.</p> <p>I believe that the build out planned for the Westbound entry may lead to a situation where motorists leaving the village will see this point as a green light to increase their speed beyond the actual speed limit.</p> <p>It would seem to me that if the council is going to have workmen at this location installing the suggested traffic calming it would be cost effective to use this opportunity to the benefit of all those effected by speeding, all the way along the B4020 and through into Black Bourton, by installing further traffic calming along the B4020 until the traffic leaves Black Bourton. Maybe speed humps would be a better choice along this stretch of the B4020.</p> <p>If the workmen are going to be there anyway, why not make the best use of the crew and help alleviate the speeding issue for as many residents as possible.</p>

(32) Resident, (Abingdon)

**Support** - *No comments.*