

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020**

### **WITNEY – A415 DUCKLINGTON LANE & NEW CLOSE LANE: PROPOSED EXTENSION OF 30MPH SPEED LIMIT & WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

**Report by Interim Director of Community Operations**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit on A415 Ducklington Lane to include the A415/A415 Ducklington roundabout and waiting restrictions on both sides of New Close Lane as advertised.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Speed limits and waiting restrictions 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 parking obstructing traffic and/or being detrimental to road safety.

#### **Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to extend the 30mph speed limit on the A415 Ducklington lane to include the A415 Ducklington roundabout and introduce no waiting at any time restriction on both sides of New Close Lane in conjunction with the development of a new retail store accessed from New Close Lane.

#### **Background**

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward to mitigate safety issues in conjunction with the development of a new retail store accessed from New Close Lane.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 13 August and 11 September 2020. A public notice was placed in the Witney Gazette newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Witney Town Council, Ducklington Parish Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and local County Councillor. Street notices were placed on site in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the proposals.

6. Twenty-two responses were received as summarised in the table below

Location	Object	Support	Concerns	No Opinion
A415 – speed limit	2	17	0	3
New Close Lane – waiting restrictions	0	15	2	5

7. The responses are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

## **Response to objections and other representations**

### **A415 speed limit**

8. Thames Valley Police and West Oxfordshire District Council did not object and Witney Town Council and Ducklington Parish Council both expressed support, though the latter requested that a 50mph speed limit be introduced on the full length of the A415 Ducklington bypass.
9. Objections were received from two members of the public. One on the grounds that while not objecting to the extension of the 30mph speed limit itself, considered that as part of this project a 50mph speed limit be introduced on the full length of the A415 Ducklington bypass, citing the significant increase in traffic on the route as a result of development. The other objection expressed the view that the current 40mph speed limit is appropriate and that there would be no benefit achieved by the proposed speed limit reduction.
10. The speed limit was supported by fifteen other members of the public. Some of the responses cited concerns over the provision for cyclists and pedestrians accessing the new retail development and suggested possible further measures. These will be forwarded to the Road Agreements Team to review while noting that no funding for these additional measures has been identified at present.
11. Noting the above, the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit is widely supported. Requests for a lower speed limit on the A415 Ducklington bypass are considered beyond the scope of what could reasonably be considered in the context of the retail development on New Close Lane but could be considered at a later date subject to a full assessment and funding being available.

### **Proposed No waiting at any time restrictions on New Close Lane**

12. Thames Valley Police and West Oxfordshire District Council did not object and Witney Town Council and Ducklington Parish Council both expressed support.
13. No objections were received, although concerns were expressed by two members of the public, one citing concerns over the possible displacement of the current parking to other less suitable sites with the other not citing any

specific grounds for their concern. As with any restriction on waiting, it is accepted that some displacement is possible, but the proposal is considered essential on road safety grounds.

### **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 measures has been provided by the developer of the retail store.

### **Equalities Implications**

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

JASON RUSSELL  
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers:      Plan of proposed 30mph speed limit and waiting restrictions  
   Consultation responses

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September 2020

Drawing No. Revision 0

- Key**
- Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restrictions
  - Proposed 30mph speed limit in place of existing 40mph speed limit
  - Existing 30mph speed limit to remain

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**Project title**

**PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED LIMIT AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

**Drawing title**

WITNEY

**Drawing Status**

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	JaC	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	Date drawn	07/20	Date checked	Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No. Revision 0



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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b> – The area with these proposals were subject to informal consultation and Police concern about residual speeds in the section near the new Costa outlet, data evidence showed that this will be at the higher end of the acceptable threshold where enforcement here would be difficult due to site lines and distance.
(2) Witney Town Council	<b>Support</b> – Witney Town Council considered the proposals and is pleased to support them.
(3) Ducklington Parish Council	<b>Support</b> – Councillors fully support the 30MPH for the A415 as shown towards the Ducklington Roundabout where the 2 new buildings will cause a large increase in traffic in the area and the double yellow lines will stop parking.  In addition, they propose that a more graduated speed also be achieved from Cokethorpe School past Ducklington towards Witney. The 50MPH speed is too fast along this developing road system and should only be applicable over a minority of its course well away towards the Thames river.
(4) West Oxfordshire District Council, (Parking Services)	<b>No objection</b> – No objections or comments.
(5) West Oxfordshire District Council, (Planning & Strategic Housing)	<b>No objection</b> – After assessing the proposals, I can confirm that WODC Planning and Strategic Housing has no comments to make.
(6) Local Resident, (Ducklington)	A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Object</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b>  Our Ducklington property backs onto the A415. During recent years with the ever increasing local developments in housebuilding, gravel excavation (Smith's), factory use (Noble foods / Phillip Dennis), Cokethorpe School changing from being a Boarding School to Day School, the use of the field opposite my property each Sunday for holding a Boot

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	<p>sale to name but a few, has meant a huge, drastic increase in the amount of traffic travelling in both direction on the A415. The trucks using the gravel works alone equates to some +/-400 vehicles a day; very large articulated Noble Foods trucks make frequent journeys even during the early hours of the day; the daily delivery and pickup of some 600 children from Cokethorpe School; hundreds of cars entering and exiting the field right opposite for the weekly Sunday Car Boot Sale. Making all this traffic even more of a problem is the speed at which many travel! For the most part, the A415 has a 50mph limit restriction from Abingdon to the Cokethorpe School however, from that point until the Ducklington roundabout, the section termed the Ducklington bypass, that limit changes and becomes the national A road speed limit of 60mph !? Unfortunately, being a 'bypass, with generally a long straight section, vehicles are soon accelerating and speeding at the maximum limit and many more at even greater speeds than 60mph! This creates an unbearable traffic noise pollution issue as well as a safety issue in that exiting the village onto the A415 has become increasingly difficult and indeed dangerous. The fact that the car park for Ducklington CofE Primary School is just some 20 meters from the A415 junction, used twice daily to deliver/pick up a 3 figure number of young children makes for an increased risk that an accident will occur.</p> <p>With the building of the new Travelodge Hotel, including a Drive through Costa Coffee outlet, plus a Lidl Supermarket both at the Ducklington Roundabout, the volume of vehicles using the roundabout can only increase further. This will place untold difficulties exiting the village at the northern edge onto the roundabout and doing so will become increasingly hazardous. As a result it is becoming more and more apparent owing to the already existing congestion that safe traffic management will require the need for Traffic Lights, if only during the busiest am / pm rush hour periods, in order to provide safe access onto the roundabout.</p> <p>Therefore, I am not in support of the proposed standalone 30mph Speed limit restrictions for the limited distances described North and South of the Ducklington Roundabout. The speed limit of 30mph for 95 yards to the South must be in combination with a 50mph speed limit (in both a North &amp; South direction); from Cokethorpe School to that point 95 yards from the roundabout in order that vehicles approach the location at a slower speed that they do today. That speed limit restriction must also be backed up by adequate policing, therefore a need to place a Static Speed Camera that ensures vehicles abide by the limit.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Carterton)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Object</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I'm in support for Double yellow lines in areas that need it, there are too many areas that don't have them already.</p> <p>Reducing the speed limit in this area would cause more delays and not help the local area. I am not in favour of</p>

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	<p>increasing this as this road i feel is better at 40MPH I use this route to go to work during the school holidays when the A40 is very busy, it would cause more disruption and chaos during rush hour and take longer to clear with no suitable alternative for drivers to use.</p> <p>I feel this is only going to negatively impact the area not positively. Please reconsider</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Concerns</b></p> <p>Lower _enforecable_ speed limits are always a good idea when there is a potential concern of pedestrian/cyclist safety. I don't see the Ducklington roundabout being a high traffic area for either of these vulnerable groups but I also don't see the need for that road to require a higher 40mph speed limit.</p> <p>I'm unfamiliar with New Close Lane and the reason for needing the double yellow lines, but if this is genuinely a problem then I have concerns that any vehicles that are currently using that area will simply move elsewhere. Witney has, and should continue to enjoy, a well-balanced, mostly-free parking system. In my opinion, it doesn't suffer excessively from people parking in dangerous locations (other than within the larger housing estates). I would like to understand why these double yellow lines need to be installed, what problem they are trying to address, and what the anticipated repercussions (if any) would be of having these lines installed.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Concerns</b></p> <p>With more traffic using the roundabout reducing the speed limit should help to improve safety. Some people go far to fast round it sometimes which makes it hard to get on to the roundabout. Also reducing the speed limit should make it safer for pedestrians crossing near to the roundabout.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>There is development of an hotel, coffee shop and supermarket surrounding this area and it has become quite dangerous.</p>

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	<p>I would also fully support reducing the speed on the rest of the A415 from 60 to 50MPH. This is also a "fast" road with a number of exits where an accident is waiting to happen. There have already been near misses and "minor" collisions on this stretch of road. It is also the only stretch of road between Witney and Abingdon that is above 50MPH, with the exception of a small run between Frilford and Marcham where there are no turnings.</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I have small children and also cycle. Vehicles, particularly big lorries, hare along the A415 outside Ducklington, a lower speed limit would make it safer - particularly with people slowing to turn into or out of the new businesses.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I would like you to cut the speed limit to 40mph from the roundabout to the crossroads after Cokethorpe school. I have lived here for almost 30 years and vehicles regularly drive along the A415 at motorway speeds and higher. Our lives are now blighted by noise and to try to cross the A415 on foot or maybe cycle along it even for a short way is to take your life into your hands. Very scary. So if you lower the limit in this proposal could that be the first stage? Please - aren't you supposed to be improving cycling and walking facilities?</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>People drive down the A415 at high speeds and sometimes approach the roundabout with such speed it's dangerous... there is also an entrance to the allotments near the roundabout we're people might want to pull out off and it's hard when no one sticks to the speed limit, the A415 limit was increased fro. 50 to 60 without warning and people often speed there anyway, the entrance to the car book sale is so dangerous at the weekends and pulling out from the village is so risky I tend to drive through the village and go the long way for safety reasons</p>



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<p>(14) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>The proposals are timely and sensible and are the minimum required. But I believe they should go further as follows:- 1 the 30mph limit southwards on the A415 should be extended to 200 metres 2 the speed limit from this point on the A415 until it meets the existing 50 mph limit near Cokethorpe should also be lowered to 50mph . However, I believe there is a strong case to lower it to 40mph until past the entrance to the staggered Aston Road junction given that is very close to Ducklington Primary School and subject to higher traffic volumes at school start and finish times</p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I support making roads safer in general. A busy roundabout like this should not be permitted at any speed over 30, especially any approach to it. Reduce speed, reduce the risk.</p>
<p>(16) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>the a415 speeds are crazy. Reducing limit down to 30mph will make it safer on approach to roundabout (only if they are actually enforced) The whole a415 should be reduced down to 50mph with a speed camera facing both direction between the Aston and Curbridge turns.</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I believe that traffic control measures will be needed ensure the safety of road users and others. The reduced speed limit gets my particular support.</p>

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	<p>In addition, I feel it worth mentioning that A415 &amp; New Close Lane (Witney) Proposed 30mph Speed Limit &amp; Parking Restrictions must also consider how other non-driving users will be expected to more safely access the new retail facility and adjacent hotel.</p> <p>At present a pedestrian, cyclist or pushchair user must cross at least 3 major roads (4 for cyclists riding out of Ducklington village) to come to the retail area. There are limited road markings or lights to ensure their safety while crossing and this must be rectified. In addition to the hotel entrance and exit now being constructed.</p> <p>Cyclists in particular have little choice but to follow the roundabout on cycle lanes marked on the pavement contrary to the flow of traffic, and should be given restricted bike lanes for entering the retail area in the normal flow of traffic.</p>
<p>(18) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>It is essential to slow down traffic, particularly motorbikes, on the A415. Please consider restricting speeds on the A415 between the roundabout and Aston Road, before someone is killed at that junction.</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Travelling out of Ducklington onto the A415 can be very difficult and dangerous due to the speed of traffic coming along from Cokethorpe. Speed there should also be reduced to 50 or preferably lower.</p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>No opinion</b></p> <p>Firstly, it is a dangerous junction and cars speed very fast towards the roundabout. Secondly, because of the speed of you are trying to pull out of the garage junction it can be hard to see cars and also judge the speed of oncoming vehicles.</p>

<p>(21) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) - <b>Support</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I support the 'no waiting at any time' proposal for New Close Lane. (I hope that the lady who has been living there for some time in an old white van will be given plenty of notice of this!)</li> <li>2. I support the reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph in the places listed, though please see my point 3 below.</li> <li>3. I do feel quite strongly that the 30mph restriction along the A415 itself (what I think you refer to as the south side?) should be extended beyond the rather short distance of 95 metres proposed. As well as time being needed for people zooming along from Abingdon etc to slow down, it will now also now need to allow time for people dithering around looking out for the Lidl entrance to have time to work out where to go before they hit the roundabout, which will be ridiculously close to that turning.</li> <li>4. There seems to be no plan to include any easier access for cyclists from the village (and elsewhere) and pedestrians to get more safely around the roundabout if heading for the new Lidl shop? It seems fairly clear that the planners have been trying to nudge people in the direction of going the 'long way round', crossing alongside the Oxford Witney Hotel and then crossing again and yet again in an anti-clockwise direction if aiming for the garage shop. People of course don't always do this! They are much more likely if walking to try to make a quick dash across the A415 at the roundabout and this is even more likely to happen when the new Lidl opens. I did notice when the pavements were last redone that the lowered part at the end of Witney Road was raised to try to discourage people from crossing there and going clockwise to get to the garage shop - by far the quickest option.</li> </ol> <p>If you are still intending to funnel pedestrians from the village unnaturally the 'long way round' to get to the new Lidl, I hope that your proposals at least include a completion of the circle by having some kind of crossing at New Close Lane? This is always quite a dodgy place to cross already, even without Lidl, with traffic from the garage and garage shop going in both directions plus the admittedly more occasional traffic from the sewage works (also abattoir?). We are supposed to be encouraging less car use, and trust that the new Lidl will not be one of those out-of-town-style shops that can only really be accessed safely by car, particularly for those of us living in Ducklington where we will have the inconvenience of all the additional traffic from the new Lidl, the new hotel and coffee drive-through to contend with. It is also unclear how the pavement/cycle lane (if there is one?) will join up between New Close Lane and Lidl itself so I hope that this has all been made part of the plans and we will not be expected to dash across even more roads designed just for car access.</p>
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<p>(22) Local Resident, (Ducklington)</p>	<p>A415 (30mph Speed Limit) - <b>Support</b> New Close Lane (Double Yellow Lines) – <b>No opinion</b></p> <p>I agree that there should be speed restrictions onto Ducklington Roundabout. In fact, 30mph is still too fast and 20mph would be a sensible solution to the speeding onto the roundabout which occurs at present.</p> <p>Access onto the roundabout is very difficult from the hotel area as vehicles come down the slip road from the A40, do not slow down and shoot out round the roundabout, sometimes at 50 mph. I think 30mph is still too fast and access to all roundabouts should have a regulated speed limit of 20 mph.</p> <p>With the access to and from the new Travel Lodge also being just before the roundabout onto the 415 there are possibilities of accidents occurring and 20mph from the previous traffic lights, where the slip road from the A40 joins the A415 and other vehicles accessing the A40 via the slip road towards Oxford, might alleviate accidents.</p>
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