

OXFORD CITY – 20MPH PROPOSALS

COMMENTS OF OXFORD CITY COUNCIL'S AREA COMMITTEES:-

Cowley Area Committee – 4th March 2009:-

83. OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OXFORD CITY) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 200*

The Oxfordshire County Council submitted details (previously circulated, now appended), as part of the formal consultation process, details of the proposals to introduce 20 mph speed limits in Oxford.

The Committee agreed to support the proposals and to inform the Oxfordshire County Council accordingly.

Central South and West Area Committee – 10th March 2009:-

136. 20 MPH ZONE – CONSULTATION BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Democratic Services Manager submitted the following documents (all previously circulated and now appended) on behalf of the County Council:-

- (a) Public notice inviting comments;
- (b) Statement of reasons for the scheme;
- (c) Adapted briefing paper originally sent to the City Council's former Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Fran Melvin, a resident of Barrett Street, addressed the Committee. She wholeheartedly supported the County Council's proposals. However, in some respects they did not go far enough. A 20 mph speed limit should apply further west in Botley Road. It should also include Binsey Lane.

Resolved that the Committee's response to the County Council's consultation was as follows:-

- (1)(a) A 20mph speed limit should ideally apply to all arterial roads.
- (b) If this was not acceptable then, in the Committee's area it should apply to –
 - i. Abingdon Road
 - ii. Banbury Road north to Parks Road

- iii. Botley Road through the retail outlets
- iv. Oxpens Road
- v. Woodstock Road north to St Bernard's Road

(2)(a) A 20mph speed limit should apply to Binsey Lane.

(b) If this was not acceptable the speed limit should apply to a length north of the bridge over Bulstake Stream in order to slow down southbound traffic approaching the bridge;

(3) The 20 mph speed limit should be marked by roundels on the road surface.

East Area Parliament – 18th March 2009:-

144. 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ORDER - OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Area Committee considered details of the proposed 20mph zone (previously circulated, now appended) that had been submitted by Oxfordshire County Council.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Write to Oxfordshire County Council in support of the 20mph scheme;
- (2) Ask for the inclusion of Cowley Road East and Marston Road in the scheme;
- (3) Ask for the removal of all unnecessary signs.

North Area Committee – 5th March 2009:-

173. OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OXFORD CITY) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 200*

The Oxfordshire County Council submitted details (previously circulated, now appended), as part of the formal consultation process, details of the proposals to introduce 20 mph speed limits in Oxford.

Councillor Armitage introduced the item.

Councillor Campbell said that there were problems with the traffic going eastwards at the traffic lights at the junction of Moreton Road and Banbury Road as the drivers were accelerating to beat the lights from changing to red.

Councillor Goddard said there was a patchwork of speed limits and the County Council should avoid this and have a blanket limit across the whole of the City, with the exception of the Marston Ferry Road.

Councillor Fooks said that 20mph on most main roads was not a sensible approach. Under the proposals the current 20mph zones would be revoked. She also said that there were a number of roads in the Berkley Homes, Waterways development to the west of Woodstock Road which won't be adopted and it was not clear that those roads would have enforceable 20mph speed limits and that she had written to County Officers on this issue.

County Councillor Roaf said that it was not possible to add roads into the consultation process, you could only request that roads be taken out. To add new roads would require new orders. Councillor Goddard mentioned the leaflet which had been produced for people to send their comments to the County Council and it gave the impression that roads could be added.

Councillor Fooks said that physical calming measures would be required on the Godstow Road to reduce traffic speeds significantly, and again she had written to County Officers on this.

Councillor Armitage raised the issue of road with little or no public footpaths and gave Binsey Lane as an example and felt that roads such as these should be included in the 20mph zone.

The issue was raised on how the speed limits would be signed with regard to increased street furniture.

The Committee agreed to welcome the proposals and to make the following comments/requests:

- (i) The proposals are introduced with the minimum of additional street furniture "clutter" on the streets;
- (ii) That the Committee favoured the use of roundels at the entrance on the road to remind people of the 20mph speed limit;
- (iii) That physical measures be made to slow traffic between the Woodstock Road roundabout and the railway bridge on Godstow Road;
- (iv) That roads such as Binsey Lane where footpaths are non-existent are included in the proposals.

North East Area Committee – 17th March 2009:-

221. 20 MILE PER HOUR ZONES

Oxfordshire County Council is formally consulting on proposals to

introduce 20 mph speed limits in Oxford and submitted a briefing paper (previously circulated and now appended), stating the reasons and providing details of the streets that would be covered.

Richard Luxton, Principal Technician, Oxfordshire County Council Highways, was in attendance to answer questions and deal with matters arising. He explained that his role was also to collate information as part of the consultation process.

During the discussion, issues were raised and considered as follows.

Increased speed of traffic on Copse Lane, issues around the ability to enforce a 20 mph speed limit, the possibility of a crossing on Marston Road. Mr Luxton said that electric devices would be used to indicate speed zones and restrictions but that enforcement was a police issue.

A speaker raised the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the ring road from 50 mph to 40 mph in the vicinity of Beaumont Street/Kiln Lane due to the effects of traffic noise on local houses, and asked whether the speed change signs were in the right location. Mr Luxton said that the speed change signs were in the right location and that he would take the request for a change in the speed limit back to the appropriate department at the County Council.

Old Road was designated for a 20 mph limit although the traffic there was often slower due to congestion. There were concerns however, about pollution and the possible effect of slow moving traffic on air quality. Mr Luxton said that the City Council did undertake air quality monitoring. Other speakers said that the County needed to be aware of the affects of the speed restriction policy beyond the City Centre as restriction in one area had implications for the outer lying areas as traffic was displaced.

There was discussion about the removal and replacement of signage in Barton during the works to the Green Road roundabout and the designation of specific lengths of the Bayswater Road and other roads as specified in the draft traffic order. Mr Luxton explained that specific designations on parts of roads, where complete roads had not been specified, were necessary for the accuracy of the traffic order when it was implemented. Mr Luxton said he was unaware of any plans to replace speed humps with cushions in Wood Farm but that traffic calming measures in combination with the reduced speed limit would be a better overall deterrent to speeding. In response to further issues raised on the heights of speed humps, Mr Luxton said that they would need to comply with Department of Transport guideleines.

Regarding Windmill Road, the meeting noted that the varying speeds were applied to try and achieve a balance between the needs of pedestrians and the efficient flow of traffic and local public transport. Mr Luxton confirmed that late submissions would be considered sympathetically as part of the consultation process although there would need to be a cut-off to allow the preparation of the report to the County Council's April cabinet meeting.

Other speakers said that they were supportive of the 20 mph limits, especially where there were schools, but were concerned about additional signage. Mr Luxton explained the difference between 20 mph zones and where there were enforceable speed limits requiring terminal signs and repeaters. However, although compliance with the regulations was required, the County Council were aiming to keep signage to a minimum

Resolved to refer the Committee's comments to the County Council.

South East Area Committee – 2nd March 2009:-

140. 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ORDER - OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Oxfordshire County Council submitted details of the proposed scheme (previously circulated, now appended).

Councillor Turner expressed support for the scheme, but suggested that it should be spread more widely than proposed, so that all areas within the ring-road were covered, including Henley Avenue and Rose Hill; but excluding Marston Ferry Road. Councillors Val Smith and Rae Humberstone both felt that Blackbird Leys Road should be included as a 20mph road because of the large numbers of children in the area.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Support the proposal for a 20mph speed limit in Oxford (with the exception of Marston Ferry Road) expressing a desire to see it spread more widely, and to cover a greater part of the built up area of the City;
- (2) Suggest that Blackbird Leys Road be included within the proposal;
- (3) Note all other comments made.