

Divisions affected: Henley and *Goring*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –  
24 MARCH 2022**

**WHITCHURCH ON THAMES – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit as advertised.

**Executive summary**

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit at Whitchurch on Thames as shown in **Annex 1**

**Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by Oxfordshire County Council.

**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 facilitate walking and cycling within Whitchurch on Thames and the safe movement of traffic.

**Consultation**

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 3 February and 4 March 2022. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, South Oxfordshire District Council, Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council, Goring Heath Parish Council, and the local County Councillor.
7. Thirty-one responses were received during the formal consultation comprising of: 2 objections (6%), 1 expressing concerns (3%), 27 expressions of support (87%), and 1 expressing no objection.



Drawing No. Revision 0

**Key**

- Proposed 20mph speed Limit in place of existing 30mph speed limit
- Existing 20mph Speed Limit to remain
- Existing 40mph Speed Limit to remain

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

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**Project title**

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES

**Drawing title**

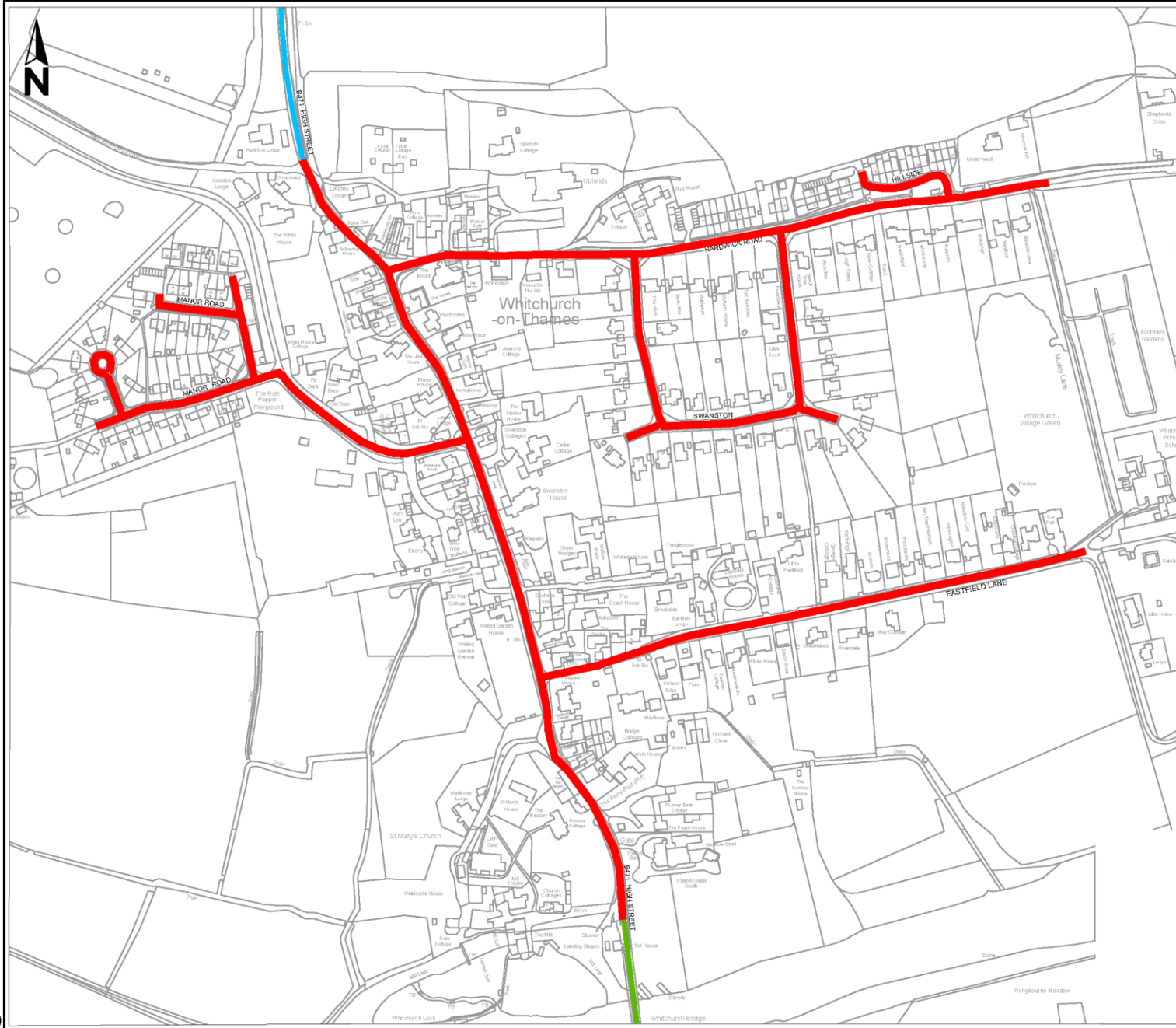
PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

**Drawing Status**

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	JaC Date drawn 12/21	JaC Date checked	JaC Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No. Revision 0



RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Thames Valley Police, (Traffic Management Officer)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – Thames Valley Police are not opposed to lowering speed limits providing they are appropriate to the road environment and likely to have casualty reduction benefits. All aspects of the proposed speed limit are taken into account i.e. collision history, speed of existing traffic, road environment, enforcement, road character and driver perception etc.</p> <p>The current speed of traffic is a reliable indicator of how acceptable a new speed limit would be. The recognised way of ascertaining this level of self-compliance is the mean speed. If the mean speed is 4 mph or more over the proposed limit it is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or continual enforcement.</p> <p>There is a proven link between road environment/character and drivers speed .Drivers must respect the need for a speed limit. If it is not accepted as realistic it will quickly be abused and be the source of constant demands for police action.</p> <p>The police stance still reflects that 20 mph limits and zones should still be self-enforcing.</p> <p>The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria (Circular Roads 1/2013) 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 Speed Limit should not be used to attempt to solve the problem of isolated hazards, for example a single junction or reduced forward visibility.</p> <p>I am aware that speed data has been obtained on 2 roads which may support this lowering. The data on <u>Hardwick Road</u> is a little high and I would suggest this is monitored with a view to future engineering.</p>
(2) Goring Heath Parish Council	<p><b>Support</b> – Goring Heath Parish Council had a full meeting on February 8th 2022. At that meeting it was agreed unanimously that we support these proposals in their entirety.</p>

(3) West Berkshire Council	<b>No objection</b>
(4) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Hardwick Road)	<b>Object</b> - The people who flaunt the current 30 and crash in the High Street (the wall, the parked cars on the left lay by) ignore the current 30 sign, so what makes you think they'll abide a 20? They won't. We need to suspend parking on the high street during rush hours, that's all. 7-9am, 4-6pm.
(5) As an individual, (Oxford, Rymers Lane)	<b>Object</b> - While I could potentially understand this on some of the narrow side roads there is absolutely no need for this on the High Street which comes North from Pangbourne. I've cycled this route several times and suspect even a cycle would be going faster than this on the downhill slope into Whitchurch.
(6) As an individual, (Whitchurch-on-Thames, Duchess Close)	<b>Support</b> - For road safety and air quality reasons
(7) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Eastfield Lane)	<b>Support</b> - Safer for pedestrians. Quieter for residents. Cannot see any reasons against.
(8) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Eastfield Lane)	<b>Support</b> - Traffic management. Safety for pedestrians, children in particular, cyclists of all ages, noise and pollution.
(9) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Eastfield Lane)	<b>Support</b> - Safety. Increased traffic throughout the village now requires a speed reduction for safety reasons.
(10) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Hardwick)	<b>Support</b> - Children, walkers, cyclists, noise pollution, deter traffic, elderly, safety
(11) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Hardwick Road)	<b>Support</b> - Pedestrians in the village will be better protected from traffic by having a lower speed limit.

(12) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Hardwick Road)	<b>Support</b> - Traffic needs calming in Whitchurch
(13) As an individual, (Whitchurch, Hardwick Road)	<b>Support</b> - Need to slow traffic in village
(14) As an individual, (Whitchurch-on-Thames, Hardwick Road)	<b>Support</b> - The roads are narrow, many have no pavements, and there are many pedestrians, runners, children walking to Whitchurch school or to the Langtree bus. The village lies on the Thames Path and many groups of walkers pass through. The Village Hall in W Hill is often used as a base for cycling events so we often have large groups of cyclists too. There several pinch points with poor sightlines, hazardous for cars and hapless pedestrians alike. 20mph limit would give everyone a fighting chance to see potential dangers and avoid them
(15) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames , Hardwick Road )	<b>Support</b> - Many vehicles speed through the village at 40+ mph. I have an 8 year old son and I worry for his safety. A lower limit might slow some speeders down
(16) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - Reducing the speed can only help pedestrian safety and encourage good driving behaviour
(17) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - Reducing the speed limit to 20mph is a vital safety measure
(18) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - We live on the high street just as it turns into the narrows to go up Whitchurch hill. Cars regularly speed up and down through the gap despite it being so narrow. There is poor visibility as the road sweeps into the village so slowing down can only be a good thing to improve safety for all road users.
(19) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - I fully support this proposal. The village main streets (those proposed) are narrow, with parked cars and narrow pedestrian paths. It makes total sense to implement a 20 mile an hour speed limit.
(20) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - Improved safety for pedestrians in the village, particularly young children.

(21) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - Traffic needs to be slowed down on the High Street
(22) As an individual, (Whitchurch-on-Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - Traffic is often congested and slowing down the speed will improve the flow, reduce the chance of accidents and promote a cleaner and safer environment for all road users, especially cyclists & pedestrians
(23) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - The traffic is too fast and dangerous for pedestrians and small children in particular given the narrow pavements. There are relatively frequent accidents involving cars hitting other cars or walls.
(24) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - For safety reasons particularly for children walking to school on High Street and Eastfield Lane
(25) As an individual, (Whitchurch-on-Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - It is crucial that the speed of vehicles in Whitchurch is controlled and reduced . I think it is currently unsafe for pedestrians , especially Mums and children when a small proportion of drivers drive too fast and recklessly .
(26) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, High Street)	<b>Support</b> - traffic regularly passes through the village at too great a speed
(27) As an individual, (Whitchurch-on-thames, Hillside)	<b>Support</b> - Address pedestrian safety concerns, especially on the high street and near the school drop off points on Hardwick Road and Eastfield Lane.
(28) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Manor Road)	<b>Support</b> - Car speed is a problem in the village. Some cars speed excessively and with the problems of too much traffic and too many parked cars on the High Street it feels very dangerous, especially when attempting to cross the road to Eastfield Lane. It is small and peaceful village, but it is very noisy when cars travel at 30mph or above
(29) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Manor Road)	<b>Support</b> - I am concerned about individuals who drive at speed through our village. Not only does this endanger pedestrians/cyclists but also puts our historic buildings/walls at risk (which happens when they crash - which they do).
(30) As an individual, (Whitchurch on Thames, Manor Road)	<b>Support</b> - I support plans to make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists. I have concerns about road safety in the village, particularly that of children going to and from the school and pre school. I feel there are many points that need urgent attention. This is a good start.

(31) As an individual,  
(Whitchurch-on-Thames,  
Swanston Field)

**Support** - A 20mph limit would increase pedestrian and cyclist safety and studies show it would also encourage more people to walk/cycle.