

Divisions affected: *Woodstock*

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 23 JUNE 2022**

### **COMBE: PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the 20mph speed limit at Combe.

#### **Executive summary**

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit at Combe in place of the current 30mph speed limit.

#### **Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by Combe PC with OCC funding implementation of the proposals should they approved.

#### **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 the village and the safe movement of traffic.

#### **Consultation**

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 7 April and 6 May 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, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, West Oxfordshire District Council, Combe Parish Council, and the local County Councillor.

7. Sixteen responses were received during the formal consultation, with 1 objection, and 15 expressions of support.
8. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

### **Officer response to objections/concerns**

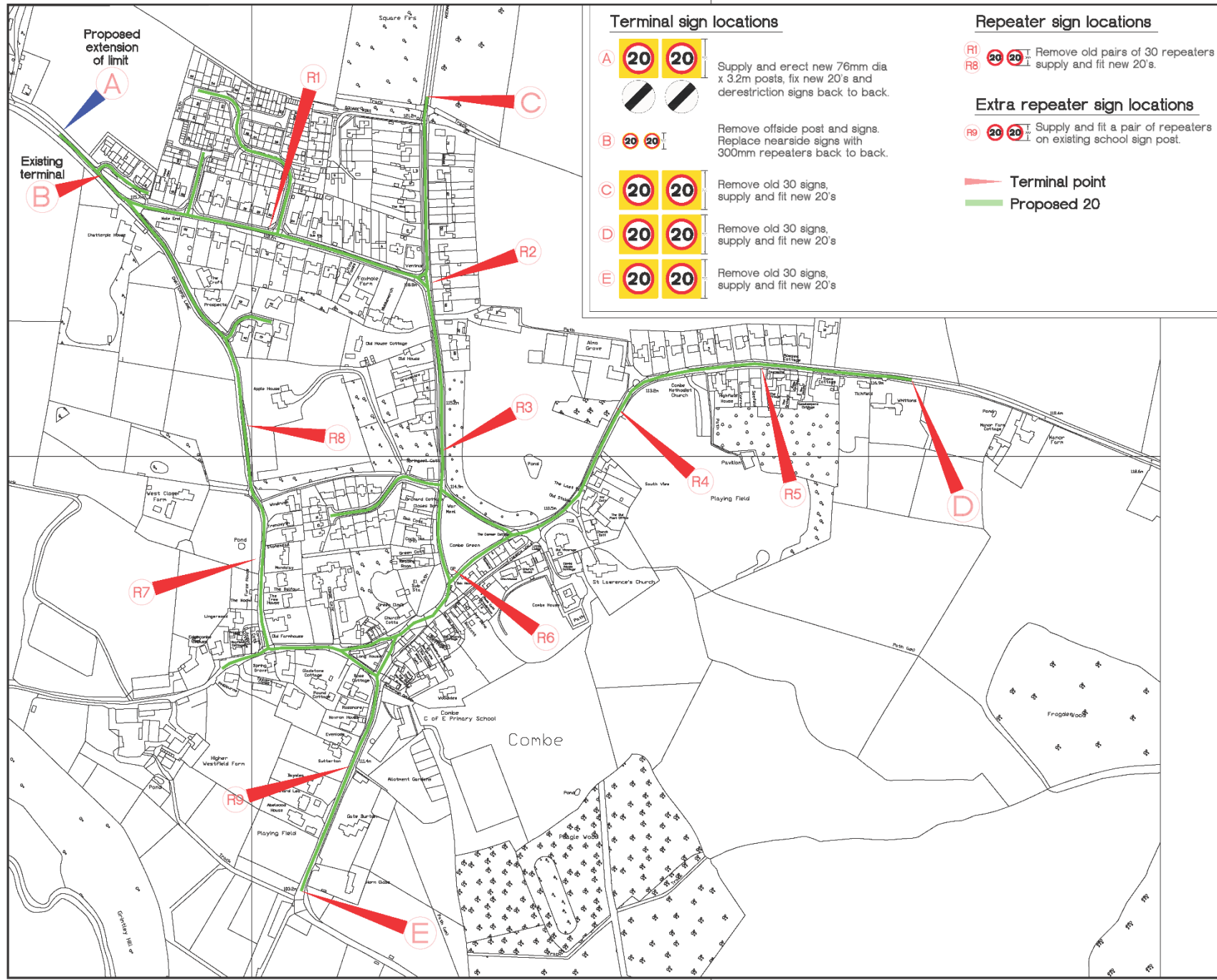
9. Thames Valley Police stated that speed data had been received for the proposed 20mph limit taken in 2017 which does not support lowering the limit on some of the roads namely, Robin Hill & Akerman Street. Other engineering measures should be considered for these locations.
10. The county council is changing its approach and acceptance of 20mph restrictions which will enable a much greater coverage across Oxfordshire. The proposal is aimed to make streets safer, encourage residents to walk or cycle & reduce noise and pollution. With specific reference to Robin Hill & Akerman Street, these locations within the proposed 20 limits comply broadly with OCC qualifying criteria as set out in the counties current 20mph speed limit policy.

Bill Cotton  
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes                                      Annex 1: Consultation Plan  
   Annex 2: Consultation responses

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June 2022



**Terminal sign locations**

- A** Supply and erect new 76mm dia x 3.2m posts, fix new 20's and derestriction signs back to back.
- B** Remove offside post and signs. Replace nearside signs with 300mm repeaters back to back.
- C** Remove old 30 signs, supply and fit new 20's
- D** Remove old 30 signs, supply and fit new 20's
- E** Remove old 30 signs, supply and fit new 20's

**Repeater sign locations**

- R1** Remove old pairs of 30 repeaters
- R8** supply and fit new 20's.

**Extra repeater sign locations**

- R9** Supply and fit a pair of repeaters on existing school sign post.

- Terminal point
- Proposed 20

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Rev.	Date	Subject of revision	Drawn	Checked/Approved

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Project title  
**Combe**

Drawing title  
**Proposed  
20 mph speed limit**

Drawing status

Scale	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
NTS	NEW		

Determine Project to a File

Date from	Date to	Date approved	Date approved
November 2021			

Drawing No:      Revision

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>Object</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. If the mean speed is 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 20mph limits and zones should still be self-enforcing. 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>Speed data has been received for the proposed 20mph limit taken in 2017 which does not support such a lowering on some roads namely: Robin Hill &amp; Akerman Street.</p> <p>Unless other engineering is being considered for these locations the Police object.</p>
(2) Local Cllr, (Combe)	<p><b>Support</b> - I have lived in Combe for 15 years and have seen the traffic volumes and speed increase year upon year. Most of the vehicle movements constitute 'through-traffic' and most of these vehicles seem in a great hurry to get through our otherwise quiet village with its narrow streets, which often do not have footpaths for pedestrians. And there is a total lack of street lights which makes it even more hazardous for those pedestrians during the winter</p>

	<p>months.</p> <p>More than a year ago, villagers anxious about the speeding traffic supported the installation of Speed Indication Devices (SIDs). Data from these devices confirms that as much as two-thirds of vehicles are travelling at higher speeds than the current 30mph limit. Vehicles have been recorded entering the village at more than 60mph.</p>
(3) Member of the public, (Combe, West End)	<p><b>Support</b> - Increased safety for pedestrians, cyclists, school and pre-school children and all non-car road users. Better for the environment, encourages healthier, active lifestyles, less air pollution and reduced road noise. Following the increased level of housing development in surrounding areas, Combe is becoming more and more of a short cut for speeding cars trying to avoid local traffic jams. This is especially noticeable during morning and evening peak times.</p>
(4) Member of the public, (Combe, Horns Lane)	<p><b>Support</b> - Improve safety, better environment, encouraging more active travel, e.g. cycling, and walking, especially when areas of Combe have no pavements and verges are being eroded by cars and vans.</p>
(5) Member of the public, (Combe, Park Road)	<p><b>Support</b> - Combe has significant through traffic and, since introducing speed warning signs, it is increasingly obvious how fast that traffic is driving through the village. Any measure that increases safety in Combe is to be welcomed.</p>
(6) Member of the public, (Combe, Robin Hill)	<p><b>Support</b> - Some of the village roads are narrow with little or no pavement. Thus, pedestrians can often be obliged to walk in the road with the consequent risk from speedy traffic. There is a village primary school with children either being picked up/dropped off or walking to or from school. This necessitate either crossing or being in the road on occasions. Being a rural village there are often equestrians using the narrow roads with the potential for accidents involving fast moving vehicles. A 20 mph speed limit will probably be observed by most and even those not doing so are likely to curb their excess.</p>
(7) Member of the public, (Combe, Church Walk)	<p><b>Support</b> - To slow traffic travelling through the village making it safer for pedestrians, children and people walking dogs as there are no pavements in parts</p>
(8) Member of the public, (Combe, Akeman Street)	<p><b>Support</b> - Speeding cars cause noise and increased pollution and one day it might not just be an animal that is run over but a child on their way to the primary school. We have some narrow roads and, in places, and no footpaths. A reduced speed limit would make a huge difference to our village life. We live here it's - more than a road.</p>

(9) Member of the public, (Combe, Akeman Street)	<b>Support</b> - People travel too fast along Akeman street it is unsafe.
(10) Member of the public, (Combe, Akeman Street)	<p><b>Support</b> - We have 3 young children and live on the opposite side of the road to the pavement. Our route to Combe school means we have to cross Akeman Street once and then navigate the dangerous corner of Akeman Street and Stonesfield Road where adults have to physically stand in the road to get a clear view of whether it's safe to cross with children. 20mph would be much safer.</p> <p>I also find that people seem to regularly drive faster than 30 mph along Akeman Street. There has also been a steady increase in cars parking along the road outside houses of Akeman Street which means pedestrians view when crossing the road is often restricted and cars are coming through a narrow gap. We have witnessed a crash between a bus and a car which could have been prevented if the speed was lower.</p> <p>In summary I feel the current speed limit is dangerous and it is only a matter of time before someone is hurt. I fully support the introduction of a 20mph limit.</p>
(11) Member of the public, (Combe, Stonesfield Road)	<b>Support</b> - Children crossing the road near Akeman Street as it's a school route and vehicles can come round the corner very quickly. Vehicles can drive too fast down both Stonesfield Road and Akeman Street.
(12) Member of the public, (Combe, Park Road)	<b>Support</b> - Much traffic going through our village, particularly at rush hours and school run
(13) Member of the public, (Combe, Stonesfield Road)	<b>Support</b> - I support the proposal for a 20 mph speed limit in Combe. We have children and the paths in Combe are very narrow in places. I want them to be safe.
(14) Member of the public, (Combe, Akeman Street)	<b>Support</b> - The village, particularly the stretch of road near the school, would have been much safer place should the speed limit was reduced to 20mph. At the moment, many cars drive too fast through the village.
(15) Member of the public, (Combe, Park Road)	<b>Support</b> - I support the proposal. Speeding in the village is a huge problem. Parking along the carriageway and the many pedestrians without pavements in large parts of the village, 20 mph is an appropriate speed for the community.

(16) Member of the public,  
(Oxford, Courtland Road)

**Support** - If you own the atmosphere of the area it will be improved, one child lay dead on the road from being hit is one too many... You can go faster when you go slower...