Divisions affected: Didcot East & Hagbourne

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT 12 OCTOBER 2023

EAST HAGBOURNE: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OFF MAIN STREET – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

 The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the 20mph speed limit in the 'Deanfield Green' residential estate, East Hagbourne.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses to a consultation on a proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit in the 'Deanfield Green' residential estate, north of Main Road at the western end of East Hagbourne. The limit will be introduced on the following roads in their entirety; Hacca Close, Roundhouse Row, and St Andrews Crescent, as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for the proposals, including consultation will be met by the residential developer.

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 proposal endeavours to promote road safety for all users, and will ensure adherence to Council policy that all new residential developments should see a lower speed limit as standard when appropriate.

Formal consultation

- 6. A formal consultation was carried out between 12 July and 04 August 2023. A notice was published in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper, and an email was sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport/access & disabled peoples user groups, South Oxfordshire District Council, the local District Cllrs, East Hagbourne parish council, and the local County Councillor representing the Didcot East & Hagbourne division.
- 7. Three responses were received during the course of the formal consultation, with one objection from a member of the public, Thames Valley Police raising concerns, and a local bus operator having no issues.
- 8. The full responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original submissions are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

- 9. Thames Valley Police raised concerns stating that 20mph speed limits and zones should primarily be self-enforcing suggesting that speed limits should be considered as part of a package of measures to help manage vehicle speeds and improve road safety at a given location, and that changes to the highway (such as vertical traffic calming or re-aligning the road) should also be considered.
- 10. The concerns from TVP are noted, however as per OCC policy and its 'Street Design Guide', all new residential developments are required to be designed and built to self-limiting 20mph speed limits as appropriate. The new residential estate considered here is no different considering likely traffic usage & levels, and as such Officers consider the introduction of a 20mph speed limit (and the associated legal Traffic Regulation Order) here necessary & appropriate.

Bill Cotton Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes Annex 1 Consultation plans

Annex 2 Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Rosie Wood

Ryan Moore 07557 082568

October 2023

ANNEX 1



Respondent	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	Concerns – Thames Valley Police welcome the opportunity to engage on plans for road safety improvement and acknowledge that 20mph limits can be a useful tool in road safety. There are other reasons 20mph limits may be desirable for communities, such as environmental concerns, and creating a shared space environment to encourage greater diversity of road users.
	Compliance with 20mph limits is a challenging issue as there is a difference between the achievable results of the various available schemes. For example a sign-only scheme will only have a limited effect on the mean speeds, as opposed to other schemes that influence the road environment, which is recognised as being key to achieving compliance. If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored then this could result in the vulnerable road user being less safe. It can also cause a dis-proportionate number of drivers to criminalise themselves and could bring the system of speed limits into disrepute.
	Thames Valley Police have no policy to enforce based on arbitrary speed limits alone but will enforce based on threat of harm, risk and resourcing. 20mph limits are not excluded from this and will be enforced where appropriate. There should be no expectation that the police would be able to provide regular enforcement if a speed limit is set too low as this could result in an unreasonable additional demand on police resources and there are no additional resources available to support extra enforcement. Messages from partners that police will not enforce need to be discouraged. Such messaging can encourage non-compliance and should be avoided.
	The policy of Thames Valley Police is to use sound practical and realistic criteria (Setting local speed limits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) 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.
	The key factors that should be taken into account in any decisions on local speed limits are:
	 history of collisions road geometry and engineering road function composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users) existing traffic speeds

	road environment
	However I recognise Oxfordshire County Council now have their own Policy for Setting Speed Limits and I expect full compliance of that policy going forward in relation to both monitoring, future engineering and self-enforcement through Community Speed Watch.
	Our stance remains that primarily 20 mph speed limits and zones should be self-enforcing
	Speed limits should be considered as part of a package of measures to manage vehicle speeds and improve road safety. Changes to the highway (for example through narrowing, providing vertical traffic calming or re-aligning the road) may be required to encourage lower speeds in addition to any change in speed limit. Though these may be more expensive, they are more likely to be successful in the long term in achieving lower speeds without the need for increased police enforcement to penalise substantial numbers of motorists.
(2) Managing Director, (Go Ahead group, Oxford Bus Company, Thames Travel)	No objection – no issues with these proposals.
(3) Member of public, (Witney)	Object - No reason to implement this at all as the speed limits have already been attacked why do you need to go after a newly built housing estate where people already drive at a reasonable speed? This is again propaganda.