

Divisions affected: *Bicester North*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –
16 NOVEMBER 2023**

CAVERSFIELD: PROPOSED 20MPH & 30MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the following proposals as advertised:
 - a. 20mph speed limit within Caversfield, and
 - b. 30mph speed limits on parts of Aunt Ems Lane & Fringford Road.

Executive summary

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit on Thompson Drive and Old School Close and also 30mph speed limits on Fringford Road & Aunt Ems Lane in Caversfield as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation and the proposals themselves has been provided by the County Council's 20mph Speed Limit Project.

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 encourage walking and cycling within Caversfield by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 05 October and 27 October 2023. A notice was published in the Bicester Advertiser newspaper, and an email 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, Cherwell District Council, the local District Cllrs, Caversfield parish council, Bicester town council, and the local County Councillor representing the Bicester North division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

7. Thames Valley Police were the sole statutory consultee respondent and reiterated their views concerning OCC's policy and practice regarding 20mph speed limits which they consider as 'concerns' rather than an objection.

Other Responses:

Proposed 20mph Limit:

8. 41 responses were received via the online survey, all from local residents with 19 in support, 19 objections, and three expressions of concern. The following table is a synopsis of the objections and concerns with the views of some respondents covering more than one category:

View/Opinion	Number of responses
Not needed	12
No safety justification	2
More hazardous as will increase complacency	1
Increased pollution	1
No public transport alternative	1
Enforce existing limit instead	1
Increased journey times	1
Will not be enforced	1
Increased driver distraction from focus on speedometer	1

9. Those who responded online, were also asked whether if the 20mph speed limit proposals were implemented would it likely influence a change to their mode of travel in the area, the results of which are shown below:

Travel Change	Number
Yes – walk/wheel more	12 (17%)
Yes - cycle more	6 (9%)
Yes – scoot more	1 (1.5%)
No	50 (71%)

Other	1 (1.5%)
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Proposed 30mph Limit:

10.41 responses were received via the online survey, all from local residents with 21 in support, 14 objections, and 6 expressing concern. Additionally, an email response was received welcoming the reduction of the speed limit on Fringford Road to 30mph as it goes through Caversfield. The following table is a synopsis of the objections and concerns with the views of some respondents covering more than one category:

View/Opinion	Number of responses
Not needed	8
No safety justification	4
Counter-productive / Terrible Idea / Will not work	3
Should be 30 throughout Caversfield	2
Increased pollution	1
Enforce existing limit instead	1

11. The consultation responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

12. The main purpose of the scheme is to encourage greater use of active travel by reducing speeds; this is also expected to reduce accidents. The aim of reducing speed limits is to change driver's mindsets to make speeding socially unacceptable and make more environmentally friendly modes of travel such as walking and cycling more attractive, and also help reduce the Counties carbon footprint. This forms part of a countywide programme of works that seeks to deliver 'a safer place with a safer pace'.

13. The 20mph limit proposals are essentially to cover a single urban through route and a cul-de-sac as all other roads are privately owned. There were an equal number of supporters and objectors with all objections covered well-rehearsed arguments. The 30mph limit proposal covers a single section of Fringford Road with, after analysis of those stating concern, 24 supporters and 17 objectors. 3 supporters asked for the proposed 30 limit to extend to the Ring Road but officers believe this extension of 300m into a rural area would compromise the lower limit where it was most needed.

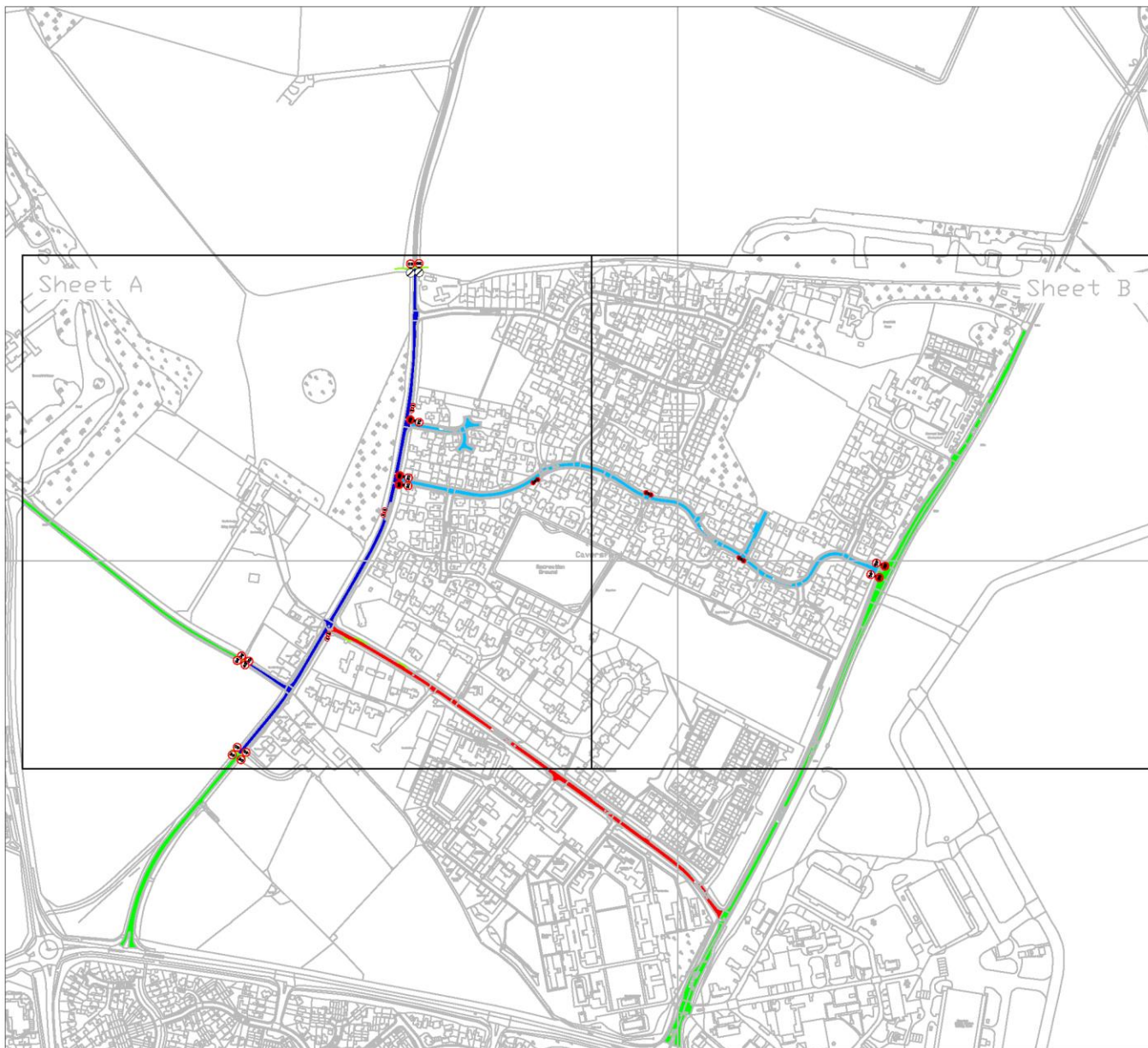
14. The authority considers objections along the lines of it being unjustified, anti-car, a waste of money, not enforceable or pointless to not warrant amendments to a proposal. As such the authority has not addressed any specific comments made of this nature in this report.

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes Annex 1: Consultation plan
 Annex 2: Consultation responses

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November 2023



Caversfield 20mph Revision 1.0

Legend	
Proposed 20	■
Proposed 30	■
Existing 40	■
Existing 30	■
Not Public Highway	■

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved
1.0	05.06.23	First draft	C.W		

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Project title: Caversfield 20mph Scheme

Drawing title:
 Caversfield 20mph Scheme Overview

Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by: C.W	Checked by: G.J.B	Approved by: G.J.B
	Date drawn: 05.06.23	Date checked: 27.06.23	Date approved: 27.06.23

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref
 Drawing No. 1.0 Revision 1.0

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The key factors that should be taken into account in any decisions on local speed limits are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

	<p>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 .</p> <p>Our stance remains that primarily 20 mph speed limits and zones should be self-enforcing</p> <p>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.</p>
(2) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fairhaven)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object I would prefer if the 40mph went to a 30. Also that there is a chicane put in place on the Fringford road to slow down traffic coming from the Fringford direction before Springfield road. it is dangerous the speed they come around that bend</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Concerns They cant keep to 40mph so definitely wont keep to 30mph</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Bicester)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object My experience of 20mph roads is that they are counter productive and cause residents to become complacent and less traffic aware.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – No opinion I am on the fence about this one.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(4) Local Resident, (Caversfield)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object It's not needed</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object It's not needed</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fairhaven)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object No need</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object Not needed.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Turnpike Road)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object I'm not aware of any accidents that are occurring within caversfield as a result of driving at 30mph</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object I feel it's unnecessary</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Elderfield)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object No reason to lower the speed limit to 20.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object No reason to lower speed lime it's a safe at current speed limit</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

(8) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fairhaven)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object If this is being done because of pollution concerns it is wrong as I will be driving my car in 2nd gear to keep to the speed limit this will cause my car to rev more and cause more pollution and the Fringford road is not in a built up area so the speed limits should stay the same</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object As previously reported on the page before</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(9) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fairhaven Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object We do not need signs/ speed traps to get people to drive slower. The amount of parked cars on the road already does this... and where the roads are clear, then the speed limits are more than fine. Having a slower speed limit does not support safety here- it gives pedestrians a false sense of security. I have 2 small children(age 3 and 2) and we scoot around, the speed limits are fine as they are.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object It's a fast road. It supports being a fast road. Makes no sense to put lower limits here.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(10) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Montgomery)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object I object as this lower speed limit is eroding time for getting from a to b and offers no viable gains for people in Caversfield living in affected area such as Oap s</p>

	<p>30mph speed limit – Object I object as there are no viable reasons for this limit and is derogatory for those living in affected area such as myself</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Old School Close)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object I don't think it's required as 30 mph is adequate</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object Not aware of any accidents or issues on either of these roads</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Old School Close)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object I DO NOT agree with this for caversfield it is not needed and far to slow for this area it's not outside of a school</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object No need to reduce the current speed limit</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Skimmingdish Lane)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object Not necessary</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object Not necessary</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Thompson)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Object</p>

	<p>Traffic in Caversfield is already slowed by the fact that everyone seems to park on the streets on Thompson. We do not need additional speed limits when Bicester is under construction nonstop.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object Terrible idea</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(15) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Wilson Way)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object Traffic is already slow enough through the village. I'd rather money be spent fixing Fringford Road or expanding visibility along St Emms Lane.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object Again, fix the state of the road on Fringford Road, and increase visibility on Aunt Ems Lane. Speed restrictions are counterproductive.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(16) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Woodcote Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object A driver's concentration will be on his speed to avoid penalties rather than the road. I believe the slower speed limit will cause more accidents.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object How many accidents have there been on these roads to justify the lower speed limit?</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(17) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fairhaven Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object This imposition only encourages a 'policing' approach. The next step will be a watch committee set up to impose regulation leading to legislative fines. Those who speed - will speed. Those who do are transient through the village.</p>

	<p>30mph speed limit – Support Support</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(18) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Wilson Way)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object There's so many cars parked on the roads it's impossible to get up to 30mph so no need to change the speed limit.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support People drive so fast along Fringford road mostly people passing through the village and have witnessed cars mounting the pavement</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(19) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Woodcote)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object It's safe enough with 30mph plus there are no local bus routes for residents.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support It does need to be 30mph in Aunt Ems as it's a narrow road.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(20) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Elderfield Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Object 40 miles an hour is just right on the main road // and on the astates 20 miles an hour</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support i yhink 30 is fine on those roads there not dangerous</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(21) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Turnpike Road)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Concerns Mass hysteria is grasping everywhere. 20 mph, 30 mph? The answer is enforcement of breaches of whatever speed is stated. That's where, in my opinion, the answer lies.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Concerns As before. Enforce the limits there. 5 caught in speed traps and the maximum publicity given to the fact has always had a salutary effect</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(22) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Springfield Road)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Concerns As a resident of Caversfield I generally support the proposal but have concerns regarding enforcement. Vehicles using Fringford Road as a shortcut do not obey the current 40mph limit so are unlikely to adhere to a lower limit. Speed is not an issue on Aunt Ems Lane but the overgrown hedges are.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Concerns See previous comments</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(23) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Springfield Road)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Concerns is some one just guessing on which road to make 20mph as on as 2 of the road are so small that you cant even get to 30mph. for once can occ do something to help the villages not hinder them.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Object as in the last page you can't get to 30mph on 2 of the roads</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(24) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Woodcote Road)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Concerns</p>

	<p>I think that the Fringford Road needs 40mph speed limit all the way to its junction with Stoke Lyne Road. It is the main safe road out of Bicester and Caversfield to the very popular countryside area of Cottisford/Hethe/Fringford/Bainton/Stoke Lyne i.e. the Shelswell Parishes, for cyclists, joggers, pedestrians and dog-walkers. It is also a bendy road going through a wooded area full of deer, pheasants, rabbits, squirrels, other wildlife, all of which is regularly squished by drivers using this road at 60MPH, instead of the Banbury Road, to race up to J10 of the M40. If this were made into a 'green route' it would allow local residents to exercise far more safely, particularly cyclists and joggers.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support As above. The entrance to Fringford Road needs to be recognised as a calm green gateway for beautiful local countryside with opportunities for cycling, jogging, walking, etc. if it weren't for cars racing up the Fringford Road to the motorway.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
<p>(25) Local Resident, (Bicester, Hazel Grove)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Willow drive most definately needs 20 miles an hour. I've seen several accidents particularly from the mini roundabout. People park on the bend which reduces visability</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Concerns To prevent accidents and save lives</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(26) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fringford Road)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Local roads, especially those ith open gardens to houses need a low speed li it</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Concerns I believe the WHOLE of Fringford Road and Aunt Ems Lane should be 30mph. AEL because of its width and the increase in traffic both during and after the roundabout construction. FR to be more consistent throughout the village, otherwise we will have 20, 30</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

(27) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fringford Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support To support slowing traffic in the interests of road safety</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Concerns In the interests of road safety the 30 mph limit should apply on the whole of Fringford Road within Caversfield village boundaries.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(28) Local Resident, (Bicester, Haricot Vale Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Safer for walking and cycling</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support I use aunt Ems lane on a bike and it's currently intimidating</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
(29) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Elderfield Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support My children cycle along fringford road and it's not safe as there is no space between the road and the path. Way to many cars speed down that road.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Safety.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(30) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fringford Road)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Members of my household regularly travel between the Springfield Rd/Fringford Rd junction and Bicester centre, Elmsbrook and Caversfield Church, usually by bike sometimes by car and occasionally on foot. I strongly support the proposed 20mph limit on the residential roads and would also support 20mph on the stretch of Fringford road itself. It is extensively used by walkers, runners and cyclists, including families and teenagers going to school etc. There is currently no designated cycle path so the footpath is (quite appropriately) used by the less confident cyclists. A lower speed limit should encourage more cyclists to use the road. Aunt Ems Lane is the main pedestrian route to the church and has no footpath. In the near future it may become a good route to Gagle Brook school and Elmsbrook. Thought needs to be given to facilitating active travel along it.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Please see comments in previous section stating that I would be keen to see more extensive restrictions.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(31) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Skimmingdish Lane)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support It's the safest speed to have on residential roads. Caversfield has a lot of kids and people drove around like idiots here using the back roads to avoid the Bicester ring road</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Hardly anyone ever travels at 40mph. Taking the limit down more will improve safety. Additionally this is a road with a lot of kids pedestrian traffic, especially back and forth to gagglebrook school.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
<p>(32) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Elderfield)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Slower the better. I have young boys. This shouldn't even be open to a survey just get on with it and do what is best.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Again safety first.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

(33) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Elderfield Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support I regularly walk along the Fringford Road when taking my 4 yr old school. He's often riding his bike or scooter. The pavement is narrow in places which means when a car passes at 40 mph it feels far to fast and due to close proximity of traffic to pavement ik concerned that an accident between pedestrians and traffic could occur. I'd like to continue to walk/cycle my son to school for obvious reasons abd a reduction in the speed limit would help us feel safer.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support We regularly walk along the Fringford Road when taking our 4 year old to school. He enjoys cycling but the pavement is narrow in places and the traffic feels far to fast/ dangerous when travelling at 40mph.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
(34) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Fringford Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Safer conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Parents, children and elderly people walk daily down fringford road. The 30 mph speed limit would make the experience safer.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(35) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Old School Close)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Much safer limits, better for the environment, safer for wildlife, less pollution</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support As before. Needs to be enforced though.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>

<p>(36) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Old School Close)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Lower speeds mean safer roads, less noise, less pollution. There is only a minimal impact on journey time.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Lower speeds means safer roads, less noise and less pollution</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(37) Local Resident, (Caversfield, The Parade)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support Poor visibility at junction of Aunt Ems Lane and Fringford ..hard to see oncoming traffic from right. 20mph far safer</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Um already commented on this in previous quest</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(38) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Truemper Grove)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support I've lived in Caversfield for over 20yrs and have seen it become a rat run since its been consumed by surrounding building estates. This only increases traffic through the area who ultimately travel at excess speeds through the villiage. I therefore support he changes to make the area safer for my family and neighbours.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support I've lived in Caversfield for over 20yrs and have seen it become a rat run since its been consumed by surrounding building estates. This only increases traffic through the area who ultimately travel at excess speeds through the villiage. I therefore suppo</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
<p>(39) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Wilson Way)</p>	<p>20mph speed limit – Support The twisty road of Thompson drive is not built for 30mph - to safely navigate and have time to see children crossing the street or cars coming behind the parked cars, 20mph is already a lot.</p>

	<p>30mph speed limit – Support A lot of young children return from school and walk by this road, a slower speed makes this safer.</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(40) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Wilson Way)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support On these roads there are lots of parked cars and sharp turns that make it dangerous to go beyond 20mph. Also, Aunt Ems Lane is quite narrow that 40mph is irresponsible for that road.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support I've included that in my previous response</p> <p>Travel change: No</p>
(41) Local Resident, (Caversfield, Bicester, Thompson Drive)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support I fully support the speed limit proposals because there are so many hazards on Thompson Drive with poorly parked cars and solid-sided vans obscuring a drivers view of oncoming traffic, inattentive pedestrians crossing the road, children playing, dog walkers using long/no leads, and huge furniture removal lorries relocating military personnel. Any speed reduction is welcome as it gives a driver more time to react to a hazard, and reduces the damage should a collision occur.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support Since the 40mph speed limit has been applied to the A4421 Buckingham Road, it is much easier to exit Thompson Drive. Similarly, if the proposed speed limit at the junction of Aunt Ems Lane and Fringford Road were applied, then we would also see a reductio</p> <p>Travel change: Yes - cycle more</p>
(42) Local Resident, (Glory Farm, Bristol Road)	<p>20mph speed limit – Support To keep everyone of the residents safe. It should also be introduced in all estates around Bicester.</p>

	<p>Also Glory farm where there are schools and nurseries. Mothers with children face a constant danger when crossing roads with their children in all areas.</p> <p>30mph speed limit – Support To many speeding motorists who ignore the rights of pedestrians.</p> <p>Travel change: Yes – walk/wheel more</p>
(43) Email response, (unknown)	<p>Support – I would welcome a reduction of the speed limit on Fringford Road to 30mph as it goes through Caversfield . As cars come into Caversfield from the north some tend to ignore the existing 40mph limit and only gradually slow down as they reach Skimmingdish lane. A lower limit might be taken more seriously and it might help if it started slightly earlier.</p>