

Divisions affected: *Kidlington South*

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

20 JUNE 2024

YARNTON: CASSINGTON ROAD – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION

Report by Corporate Director for Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve the extension of the existing 20mph speed limit on Cassington Road in Yarnton as advertised.**

Executive Summary

1. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposal to extend the previously consulted on 20mph speed limit at the eastern end of Cassington Road in Yarnton to its junction with the A44 Woodstock Road, as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

3. No legal implications have been identified in respect of the proposals, with proposed changes to existing Traffic Regulation Orders governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and other associated procedural regulations. Failure to adhere to these statutory processes could result in the proposals being challenged.

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 Yarnton by making them safer and more attractive.

Formal Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 11 April and 03 May 2024. A notice was published in the Oxford Times 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, Yarnton Parish Council, and the local County Councillor representing the Kidlington South division.

Statutory Consultee Responses:

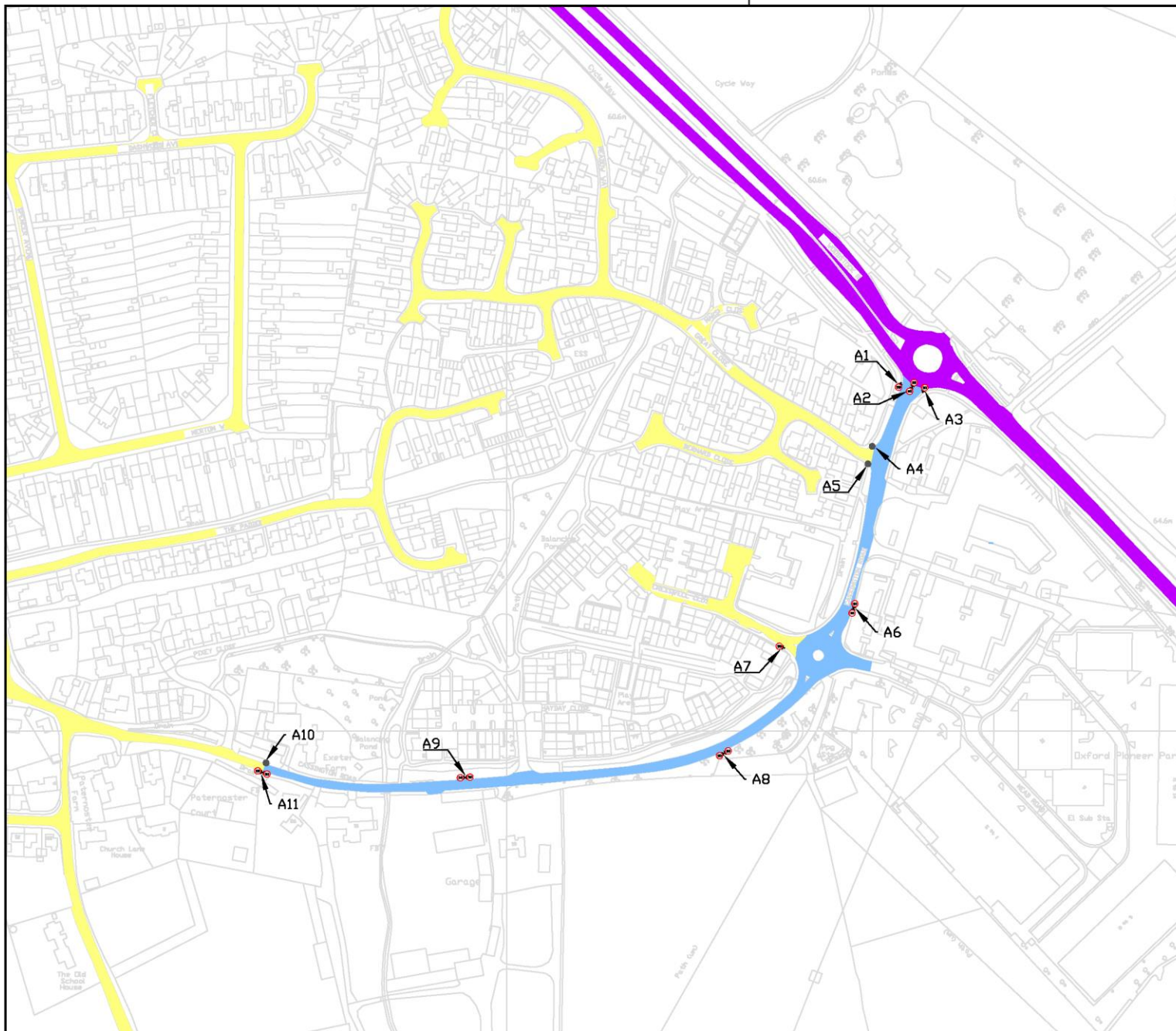
7. Thames Valley Police objected, stating that there was no evidence of the collision history having increased, nor had anything happened (development wise) to the road to justify the speed limit being lowered to 20mph.

Other Responses:

8. The Oxfordshire Cycling Network submitted their support, stating that the Cassington Road in Yarnton is an important one for cycling, outlining its connections to local routes of importance. They also felt that by reducing traffic speeds from 30mph to 20mph on this stretch would have benefits to motorists and other road users in terms of reducing collisions and casualties but would also have specific benefits to cyclists in creating a more friendly environment for commuting, utility and leisure trips.
9. 11 local residents responded during the course of the consultation, with five objecting, five in support, and one non-objection.
10. Those who objected felt that there wasn't sufficient justification for lowering the speed limit on this stretch of road stating the change to be unnecessary, and that 30mph was more suitable considering the road environment.
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



Drawing No. 10023943

Notes:

- Proposed 20mph limit
- Existing 20mph limit
- Existing 50mph limit

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
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Project title
 Yarnton 20mph

Drawing title
 Sheet A

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by ER	Checked by GJB	Approved by GJB
	Date drawn 25/03/24	Date checked 25/03/24	Date approved 25/03/24

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.	Revision
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ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>Object – Since the original consultation in September 2023 I am not aware anything has happened to this road to justify the speed limit being lowered to 20mph.</p> <p>In the statements of facts dated 21st September 2023 it clearly stated that 30mph would remain in place with Officer's having taken into account current road environment and traffic usage.</p> <p>There is no evidence of Collison History having increased.</p>
(2) Oxfordshire Cycling Network	<p>Support – We support a reduction of this speed limit to make the streets safer for people, and to enable walking, wheeling and cycling. 20mph speed limits have been shown to reduce average speeds, even with no enforcement, with the reduction being large when the original speed is faster, and more importantly they have been shown to reduce road casualties. This contributes to a street environment that is more friendly for people to walk, wheel and cycle, which means in turn fewer journeys by car, which reduces the dangers still further.</p> <p>The Cassington Road in Yarnton is an important one for cycling. At the northeast end, it lies on NCR5 and the recently improved A44 cycletrack. This connects to the NCR5 and Canal path in Oxford, Yarnton Garden Centre (a frequent refreshment stop on group rides), Blenheim Palace (which offers discounts to people arriving by cycle). To the southwest, it continues on a quiet road to Cassington, where it meets the A40 cycletrack (to be improved soon) which connects to Oxford and Witney, and crossing this leads to a traffic-free route into Eynsham.</p> <p>Reducing traffic speeds from 30mph to 20mph on this stretch will have the normal benefits to motorists and other road users in terms of reducing collisions and casualties, but it will have particular benefits to cyclists in creating a more friendly environment for commuting, utility and leisure trips on this route.</p>
(3) Local resident, (Yarnton, Broad Field Road)	<p>Object – I am a pedestrian (when not being stopped by British Transport Police), cyclist, and motorist on the roads of Yarnton, and have been for 17 years. The reasons given are not convincing. If there be a bid from the Parish Council, I suspect that this is pressure from a small number of Greens. There is already a 20 mph limit for school opening and</p>

	<p>closing. I know of no accidents off the A44 in the village, so where is the safety issue with 30 mph, for which insufficient evidence has been adduced nationally? Lower speed-limits mean that for a given stretch of road, more traffic is present with its attendant air and noise pollution, making it more difficult to cross the road or join it for everybody. Cassington Road and Rutten Lane carry much trades-traffic. Has any research been done to assess the economic cost of this crazy decision? Why does your policy ignore the Prime Minister's dictum on the issue, without a democratic mandate? What justification can there possibly be for a 30 mph limit all the way along Sandy Lane, except that Ian Middleton and a couple of others live on it? Why are thousands to be subject to a band of vigilantes, taking it upon themselves to oppress all road-users?</p>
(4) Local resident, (Cassington, Cassington Road)	Object - Pain. Not necessary.
(5) Local resident, (Kidlington, Yarnton Road)	Object - It is not necessary and will make it worse for drivers to travel through Yarnton/Cassington.
(6) Local resident, (Yarnton, Merton Way)	Object - I believe the majority of the time, the road isn't that busy compared to others in the area. The road is wide enough for 2 cars and is hardly ever treated badly by drivers. Many drivers will stick under 30mph anyway, however, 20mph would cause more traffic and hassle for residents of Yarnton. Many people use this road as a cut through, and making it a 20mph road would cause slower moving traffic and upset for local people.
(7) Local resident, (Yarnton, Rutten Lane)	Object - Waste of time and money. 30mph has been good enough for years. Train pedestrians to use roads properly, not that there are many pedestrians along the Cassington Road.
(8) Local resident, (Yarnton, Hayday Close)	Support - Enforcing a 20mph speed limit will make the roads safer for everyone, including children and animals. There have been countless occasions where reckless drivers have travelled at speeds exceeding 40-50mph on Cassington Road which is completely stupid. There are also some drivers who think it's acceptable to overtake on this road, causing other vehicles to beep their horns, which in turn is causing an unnecessary disturbance. Not only should the 20mph speed limit be enforced, but a speed camera should be added to the road too. It does not make sense to have half of Cassington Road at 30mph with the other half and Rutten Lane at 20mph. This small section of road at 30mph is what causes some drivers to misbehave behind the wheel and drive at ridiculous speeds on an urban road.

(9) Local resident, (Yarnton, Hayday Close)	Support - people speed too fast very dangerous for animals and children
(10) Local resident, (Yarnton, Hayday Close)	Support - people slow down then speed up again only to slow down again it makes no sense
(11) Local resident, (Yarnton, Hayday Close)	Support - It's dangerous the way people drive along this residential area.
(12) Local resident, (Yarnton, Hayday Close)	<p>Support - I live in Yarnton and my house is next to Cassington road, so I am familiar with how the cars drive on that road and it is dangerous how some of them speed down this road. I saw that there is 20mph speed limit halfway down that road but the whole road needs going down to 20mph. We have kids on our street that play near that road, and the way some cars speed sometimes more than 50mph, overtaking other vehicles is concerning.</p> <p>Everyday I see this happen and it's dangerous. I would be in total support if the whole of that area was reduced down to 20mph I would feel a lot safer.</p>
(13) Local resident, (Yarnton, The Garth)	No objection - Slowing down in built up areas is sensible. However it's useless if not enforced