# DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

#### **14 NOVEMBER 2024**

# A40 & B4047: BURFORD & ASTHALL – PROPOSED 40MPH & 50MPH SPEED LIMITS WITH PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGES ON ADJACENT ROADS

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:

Approve the following speed limit changes, as advertised:

#### a) 40mph speed limits:

- i. A40 Burford-Witney Road between a point 325 metres west of its junction with the B4047 Burford Road roundabout, and on the dual-carriageway to a point 140 metres east of the roundabout (including its circulatory carriageway),
- ii. B4047 Burford Road from its junction with the A40 Asthall roundabout eastwards for a distance of 185 metres.
- iii. The unnamed road running north towards Asthall from its junction with the B4047 Burford Road, northwards for a distance of 140 metres.

#### b) 50mph speed limit:

i. A40 Oxford Road – between the Burford 40mph speed limit and the proposed 40mph speed limit on the approach to the A40 / B4047 Asthall Road roundabout, as described in a) above.

# **Executive Summary**

2. The report presents responses to a statutory consultation on the proposed introduction of 40mph and 50mph speed limits on the A40 and the B4047, and associated speed limit changes on other roads adjoining the A40 and B4047, as shown in **Annex 1.** 

## **Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation and the proposals themselves has been provided by the County Council's Vision Zero programme.

## **Legal Implications**

4. 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**

5. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

## **Sustainability Implications**

6. The proposals will help to improve road safety in the immediate vicinity by reducing traffic speeds and, therefore, the risk of collisions on the A40 and B4047, and at the various junctions leading to/from these roads.

#### **Formal Consultation**

- 7. Formal consultation was carried out between 11 September and 11 October 2024. A notice was published in the Witney Gazette 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, West Oxfordshire District Council, the local District Cllrs, Burford, Shilton, Swinbrook & Widford, Asthall and Brize Norton Parish Councils, and the local County Councillor representing the Burford & Carterton North division.
- 8. 34 responses were received via the online consultation survey during the course of the formal consultation, and these are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Object	Partially support	Support	No objection	Total
40mph speed limits	20 (59%)	4 (12%)	7 (21%)	3 (9%)	34
50mph speed limit	19 (56%)	3 (9%)	8 (23%)	4 (12%)	34

- 9. Additionally, three emails were also received, with Thames Valley Police not objecting, and Asthall Parish Council supporting. Brize Norton Parish Council submitted their support, but raised concerns regarding Burford Road which has a 60mph speed limit road with no footpath and therefore currently gives a high risk to pedestrians in light of the planning application for 'Crocodiles of the World' visitor attraction.
- 10. The full responses are shown at **Annex 3**, and copies of the original submissions are available for inspection by County Councillors.

## Officer response to objections/concerns

- 11. Thames Valley Police did not object in principle in their initial response, citing the significant collision history on this section of road and the increase in pedestrian and vehicle movements created by the opening of the Farmer's Dog. The five-year collision history (2019-2023) can be viewed in **Annex 2**. It should also be noted that a fatal collision occurred in March 2024 on this stretch of the A40.
- 12. An Automated Traffic Counter speed survey was undertaken on the A40, between the White Hill and Burford Road junctions. This revealed a mean speed of 48mph eastbound and 45mph westbound. These values are compatible with a 50mph speed limit, as confirmed by TVP in their follow-up response.
- 13. The reasons given for the majority of objections are primarily that there is no need, there is a low collision record, there will be no enforcement and that it will cause congestion. Officers consider that the proposed speed limits will be appropriate for the actual speeds on the A40 and the approaches to the Asthall roundabout, particularly given the increased number of vehicle movements and pedestrian activity associated with the Farmer's Dog.
- 14. Several respondents, including Brize Norton Parish Council, requested a lowering of the speed limit on the Burford Road (leading to Crocodiles of the World). Although this may be suitable for future consideration, it is outside the scope of this current consultation.
- 15. Two of the respondents who expressed partial support requested that the 40mph limits be extended. It is, however, considered appropriate for the 40mph limit to be restricted to the roundabout approaches and in the vicinity of the new venue.

# Paul Fermer Director of Environment and Highways

Annexes Annex 1: Consultation plan

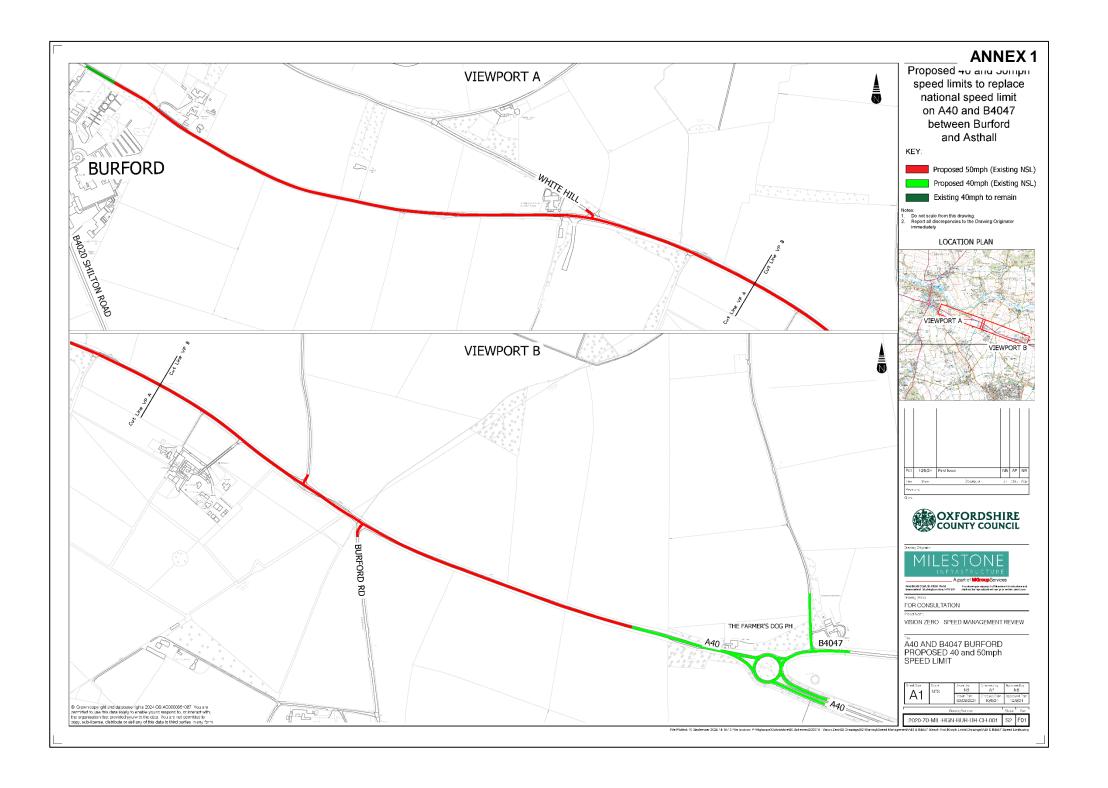
Annex 2: A40 & Asthall roundabout road collision plan

Annex 3: Consultation responses

Contact Officers:

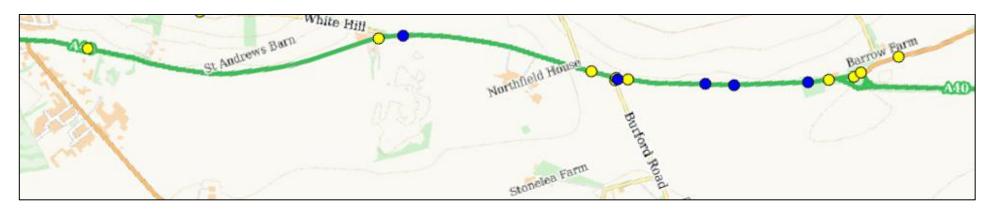
Roger Plater (Senior Officer – Vision Zero) Matt Archer (Portfolio Manager - Programme Delivery)

November 2024



A40 & Asthall roundabout road collision history (2019-2023)

(blue = serious, yellow = slight)



• Five serious injury, and ten slight injury collisions.

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection – Although I still await the results of a speed survey, in principle I do not object. My decision based on the significant Collision history on this section of road and the increase in pedestrian and vehicle movements the Farmer's Dog has created.  Thank you for arranging the speed data, and glad it supports the lowering of the speed limit to 50mph.
(2) Asthall Parish Council	Support – seems sensible in the light of increased volume of traffic. There has I believe already been one accident on the B4047; a car coming off the roundabout at speed running into a car turning right.
(3) Brize Norton Parish Council	Support – Although we support the introduction of the proposed speed limits, we wish to add a further comment which we also made about Burford Road in our response to the planning application for Crocodiles of the World and the increase in size to their car park. Brize Norton Parish Council is fully supportive of this planning proposal but we are concerned about the additional volume of traffic on Burford Road which has a 60mph speed limit road with no footpath and therefore currently gives a high risk to pedestrians.
	We fail to understand the logic of OCC's comment that 'it will not have a significant impact (in terms of highway safety) on the adjacent highway network' because the planning application is for an additional 47 parking spaces which will inevitably lead to an increase in traffic volumes on Burford Road which in turn, will lead to a corresponding increased risk to pedestrians because they have no option but to walk on the highway to access the facility.
	Because there is only a very short length of footpath from Monahan Way towards the first houses which are inside the village boundary, some members of staff have no option but to walk on the highway to access site. Likewise, should visitors wish to use sustainable transport to visit this facility, then they too have to walk on the highway as there is no footpath from before the houses to Crocodiles of the World. There is already a significant risk to pedestrians and this increase in traffic volume can only lead to a proportional increase of risk. Although OCC did carry out a survey for the installation of a footpath earlier this year, to date, BNPC have not been advised of the outcome.

Referring to our emerging Neighbourhood Plan which is at the Final Submission Reg15 stage, Appendix 06, Document D - Highways, section 2.3, details the concerns the community have about traffic volumes and speeds on Burford Road as far back as 2018. However, more importantly, we would refer you to the attached table which appears in the same appendix within section 2 which provides data about traffic volumes and speeds at key locations within the Parish of Brize Norton.

Following on from residents' concerns about traffic volumes and speeding, in 2017/2018/2019, Brize Norton Parish Council funded their own traffic surveys within the Parish including Burford Road. Specifically referring to this road, the forecast traffic volume in 2028, which was calculated by Cole Easdon in 2018 (Consultants to Bloor Homes, developers of Brize Meadow), without the development being constructed, would be 199vph (two way) in the peak hours. As you will read, this volume was exceeded in 2018, some ten years ahead of time! At that time, there were no occupations in Brize Meadow. Not only will this volume have inevitably increased since 2018, the Brize Meadow traffic will now be adding to it with over 500 occupations in place, and potentially additional traffic to Crocodiles of the World. Please note, there are still a further 299 houses to be built in Brize Meadow.

With reference to speeding, it can be seen that 40% of vehicles exceed 35mph in the 30mph zone. It can therefore be assumed that the volume of speeding traffic will have increased with the change to 20mph. Likewise, 8% of vehicles exceeded 66mph in the 60mph zone which is an alarming statistic on such a narrow road which is classed as 'single track with passing spaces.

With the above in mind, BNPC respectfully request that due consideration is given to reducing the speed limit between the entrance to the village (20mph) and the entrance to Crocodiles of the World from 60 mph down to at least 40mph, but preferably 30mph, and urgent consideration is given to constructing the footpath to provide safe connectivity between Monahan Way and the site. We also request that due consideration is given to reducing the speed limit on Burford Road from the A40 to a location west of Crocodiles of the World down to 50mph.

# (4) Local resident,(Carterton, Queens Road)

40mph speed limits – **Object** 

How about the speed limit is reduced on the Burford side of the roundabout on the A40 and maybe 300 yards before the A40/B4047 roundabout than all the way to Witney.....as that is absolutely pointless

50mph speed limit – **No objection** N/A

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(5) Member of public, (Charlbury, Hundley Way)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> There is no need for any reduction on through main roads. This is special treatment for the Clarkson soap opera and in any case he would rather see limits raised, not lowered! Anyone stupid enough to walk along the A40 here does so at their own risk.  50mph speed limit – <b>No objection</b> No strong view
(6) Local resident, (Burford, Swan Lane)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> I recall one accident at Asthall Barrow roundabout in recent years. The issue here is visibility over and around the roundabout. If the undergrowth on all approaches and surrounding bushes were trimmed more regularly the risks would be reduced. As for the 40 limit, why? There has been a restaurant on this site for many years, yes I accept that ther will be more traffic because of "celebrity appeal" but surely the new owner could help by making his establishment reservation only?  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> I cannot see the benefit. I suspect it will encourage frustrated drivers to overtake assuming it is "national speed limit". This stretch of the A40 seems to be pretty well self regulating anyway. I think we need more enforcement of speed regulations at Burford Roundabout (30) as there are so many racers accelerating hard away fro that roundabout
(7) Local resident, (Burford, Woodside Drive)	40mph speed limits — <b>Object</b> Main access road, west to east. No issues with original—speed limits. Initial interest in THe Farmers Dog has subsided so temporary limits should not be extendedREsidents and businesses have already been negatively impacted by the removal of the Burford School Bridge in Burford which has caused extensive traffic jams at peak times and at weekends. It is making life very difficult for residents to travel to work or for services in Oxford and Witney. OCC are making life in WEst Oxfordshire very difficult with increased congestion everywhere.  50mph speed limit — <b>Object</b> It is a major route and essential for work and services. Travel times have increased significantly in West Oxfordshire and also congestion. The existing speed limit should not be reduced. Traffic is jammed up at the Burford roundabout due to the removal of the school bridge and introduction of pedestrian crossings + the 20mph limit down the High Street. Frequently traffic is stationary. It is important to keep traffic flowing - do not reduce the speed on the A40.

(8) Local resident, (Carterton, Woodcote road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> Will add congestion on an already busy road  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> There has been no accidents or anything in need of reducing speed limits
(9) Local resident, (Carterton, Cranwell Avenue)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> We have already seen a drastic decease in speed limits around the area which all this does is has more traffic congestion for longer period of time leave the limit as it is the pub has only just opens and yes we are seeing more traffic but has there been any accidents that have meant the need to reduce the speed limit.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> Same answer as previous question
(10) Local resident, (Carterton, The Lawns)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> This blanket reduce speed limit thing you want to do doesn't work. Nobody follows the new speed limits, and those that do are practically pushed down the road by those that don't. STOP wasting tax payer money and actually do something useful like resurface roads properly or make the A40 a dual carriageway.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> Same as before, you're wasting our money on schemes nobody wants and nobody will obey.
(11) Local resident, (Carterton and West Oxfordshire, Queens Road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> Totally unnecessary. Existing limits perfectly adequate. I regularly use this part of A40, and have never found a problem. Also I object to council spending my money on changes to road speed limits, just to pander to a self important persons ie Jeremy Clarkson.

	Apart from the very first day the pub was opened under his ownership, I have never seen any cars in the overflow car park. This proposed change of speed limits is a waste of money, and totally unnecessary.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> Same reasons as my answer to Q3
(12) Member of public, (Law enforcement, Law enforcement)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> No reason with regards road safety on that stretch.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> No road safety reason to impose the limit.
(13) Local resident, (Minster Lovell, Burford Road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> The road needs to stay fast to keep the traffic flowing  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> Keep as is, why slow down the traffic.
(14) Local resident, (Shipton under Wychwood, Sinnels Field)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> I use this road regularly and the supposed extra traffic, both motor and on foot, is negligible. No change is required  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> irrelevant. Traffic rarely reaches 50 never mind 60
(15) Local resident, (Swinbrook, Cox Rise)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> I don't really see the point as the quality of these roads makes speeding unsafe anyway.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b>

	It makes no sense to have 50mph speed limits on a high quality A road and then have 60mph on the side roads. This brings the logic of speed limits into disrepute and people will end up ignoring them even more. The A40 here is either busy enough to make speeding impossible, or empty in which case a 50mph limit looks ridiculous.
(16) Local resident, (Witney, A40)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> The current state of the traffic with or without the pub in place doesn't warrant a change in traffic conditions on A40. It's the responsibility of the pub to ensure public life is not affected by the operations and the public should not sacrifice travel comfort for the pub  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> The current state of the traffic with or without the pub in place doesn't warrant a change in traffic conditions on A40. It's the responsibility of the pub to ensure public life is not affected by the operations and the public should not sacrifice travel comfort for the pub
(17) Local resident, (Witney, Blenheim Drive)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> There are absolutely no solid reasons to reduce the speed limit to 50mph to/from Burford. This road is mainly straight with good visibility and does not have a record of accidents. Also the roundabout itself reduces traffic speed as it is not possible to navigate it at 60mph.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> As before, safe straight road with no accident record.
(18) Local resident, (Witney, Burford Road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> Rubbish  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> Not a leftist
(19) Local resident, (Witney, Campion Way)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> There is no reason to apply these limits. I have not seen the detailed speed/flow data for the approaches to the location, but I very much doubt speeds are in excess of the proposed limit anyway. Traffic departing the roundabout

	on the A40 eastbound certainly needs no limit, and I would say the same for westbound traffic. I don't have the detailed STATS 19 data, but my awareness of crashes at the roundabout suggest daft drivers were responsible: speed limits do not solve those problems (especially where alcohol is a factor).  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> No purpose at all.
(20) Local resident, (Witney, Manor Road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> There is utterly no reason to introduce your politically driven speed limits. The Farmer's Dog hasn't generated any significant traffic issues.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> The A40 between Burford and the Asthall roundabout is in a disgraceful state. The whole road needs resurfacing rather than being subjected to politically driven wholly unreasonable speed limits.
(21) Local resident, (Witney, My business)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> your objective is to make private mobility as difficult as possible which i also object to, you have no justification in doing so, you use "safety " purely as an excuse to forward your control, you are overreaching your authority.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> Slow driving causes lack of concentration, you already see clowns driving 10-20mph slower than prescribed ,it causes congestion , these people should have licenses removed, they are a hazard!!
(22) Member of public, (Woodcote, Reading Road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> I am against both proposals. This plan reflects how the Council ignores the actual road conditions before proposing speed restrictions while lacking proper risk assessment. A40 is a busy major road which is wide, safe, and with clear visibility. The area doesn't have a residential properties being affected by the traffic. Furthermore, the newly opened The Farmer's Dog is located on a side road and the proposed speed limits won't help much.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> I am against both proposals. This plan reflects how the Council ignores the actual road conditions before proposing speed restrictions while lacking proper risk assessment. A40 is a busy major road which is wide, safe, and with clear

	visibility. The area doesn't have a residential properties being affected by the traffic. Furthermore, the newly opened The Farmer's Dog is located on a side road and the proposed speed limits won't help much.
(23) Member of public, (Carterton, Burford road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Object</b> Very low risk and low problem area of road. It also involves a very low number of collisions considering the heavy use. As it is currently, this road has been running smooth for many, many years. 'Don't fix what isnt broken'  50mph speed limit – <b>Partially support</b> Most drivers will slow to 50 on the approach and then slow further before entering the roundabouts. This road doesn't need altering.
(24) Local resident, (Witney, Larch Lane)	40mph speed limits – <b>Partially support</b> I support the 40mph around the roundabouts You really shouldn't go faster than that anyway so not really making a difference. I do not support the lowering to 50mph to Burford. The A40 is major through road to the west from Oxford and the only thing that has happened in the last 15 years is to make it slower. More traffic lights, more roundabouts, lower speed limits. When will things actually be made better instead of worse?  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> See my first comment
(25) Local resident, (Burford, Widford Lane)	40mph speed limits – <b>Partially support</b> I support the reduction in speed but believe it should be reduced to 40mph all along the Burford to Asthall road. In particular the White Hill turning (from Burford direction toward Asthall - just past the Burford Nursing home) is extremely tight, with turning cars almost coming to a crawl. The cars behind tend to swerve dangerously into the oncoming turning lane (i.e those turning down White Hill from A40 Asthall direction) or brake hard to avoid turning cars. I have been involved in several near misses in my four years living down White Hill/Witney Street. I also believe 40-50-40 is confusing to drivers and it would be better to avoid doubt by being 40 all the way  50mph speed limit – <b>Partially support</b> Please see earlier comment

(26) Local Cllr, (Witney, Newland)	40mph speed limits – <b>Partially support</b> The 40 mph speed limits should be extended westerly along the A40 to support safer cycling and safer vehicle exiting, until the junction with the Burford Road to Shilton/Brize Norton, and in the Witney direction easterly along the B4047, to at least the junction with the Worsham road. The A40 is the only route that can be cycled to go west in this area, and there are no cycle lanes or suitable footpaths.  50mph speed limit – <b>Partially support</b> See previous comment and preference on extending the 40 mph zone from the Asthal roundabout until the Junction with the Burford road (to Shilton and Brize Norton). This will enable safer cycling in this area.
(27) Local resident, (Fulbrook, Beech grove)	40mph speed limits – <b>Partially support</b> As well as slowing traffic down some form of control is needed on the road about to break up flow or roundabout will become impassable.  50mph speed limit – <b>Support</b> Speed limit ok but again traffic control required on Burford roundabout
(28) Local Cllr, (Swinbrook & Widford Parish Council)	40mph speed limits – <b>Support</b> We agree with the 40mph speed limits at the roundabout up to and including the A40 and B4047 roundabout. We would support an extension of the speed limit north towards Asthall on what is a very narrow road.  50mph speed limit – <b>Object</b> We can't see a justification in the reduction of the speed limit along the A40 from the Burford Roundabout and object to it. We would however would like to see an introduction of a 30mph speed limit from just south of Claybutts to the existing 20mph limit in Swinbrook Village.
(29) Local resident, (Asthall)	40mph speed limits – <b>Support</b> The roundabout is dangerous due to the increase in traffic and the vroom-vroom attitudes of JC supporters 50mph speed limit – <b>Support</b>

	Support, but it would make no sense for the smaller roads going off the A40 to remain at 60mph, so the speed limit should also apply to the "crocs of the world" road, and the road going down to Swinbrook, and the road that goes down to the Burford-Asthall road at Whitehill.
(30) Local resident, (Burford, Tanners Lane)	40mph speed limits – Support Fully agree with intentions  50mph speed limit – Support Fully agree with intentions
(31) Local resident, (Swinbrook)	40mph speed limits – <b>Support</b> The volume of traffic has increased significantly, and many drivers are passing in excess of the current limit. All this B roads are multi use, so with a reduced speed limit hopefully, walkers, riders and cyclists will be safer.  50mph speed limit – <b>Support</b> Again the volume of traffic has increased significantly and there have been a number of recent accidents on this stretch of road
(32) Local resident, (Swinbrook, Road from A40)	40mph speed limits – <b>Support</b> Due to weight of traffic towards the Clarkson pub  50mph speed limit – <b>Support</b> As before
(33) As a business, (Farm, B4047)	40mph speed limits – <b>Support</b> The traffic around the roundabout and lead up roads needs to be slowed down so I agree with the speed limit changes to help reduce accident frequency  50mph speed limit – <b>Support</b> With the increased amount of traffic in the area a curtain times the road will benefit from a speed reduction.

(34) Local resident, (Witney, Burwell Road)	40mph speed limits – <b>Support</b> Necessary consequence of the new situation with national attention suddenly being drawn to one particular location.  50mph speed limit – <b>Support</b> The difference in travel time is not actually as significant as it feels, and safety will improve.
(35) Local Cllr, (Asthall)	40mph speed limits – <b>No objection</b> It should help to have lower speed limits approaching the roundabout  50mph speed limit – <b>Support</b> However, I would like you to consider "Burford Road" where it goes down from the A40 to Brize Norton, past Crocodiles of the World. Even before I learned of this new 50mph speed limit on the A40, I was going to write to ask for the speed limit on this road to be lowered. At the entrance to Brize Norton, there is a sudden 60-20 change, and some residents have told me that they would like the speed limit on this road to be reduced, probably to 40mph. Many people cycle along this road, and there is no alternative safe cycling route. Now that the A40 at the top is going to have a lower speed limit, this makes even more sense.
(36) Local resident, (Asthall, Asthall)	40mph speed limits – <b>No objection</b> Good idea  50mph speed limit – <b>No objection</b> Good idea
(37) Local resident, (Widford, No name)	40mph speed limits – <b>No objection</b> Increased traffic makes a lower speed limit essential in my opinion  50mph speed limit – <b>No objection</b> I neither support or object. Am happy either way.