



## Village Centre Reopening

Email received from Oliver Murray, Planning Policy Officer, West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) on 11 June advising that he has been taking part in some work with various service centres, authorities and stakeholders to facilitate the safe reopening of shops. Whilst our parish may not be a main service centre, it provides important resources to Eynsham and the rural populations nearby.

Olly didn't think any specific action, such as that happening in Witney was required, however he was open to hearing about any appropriate actions required.

An invitation to a meeting was sent by email to Councillors on 11 June and a Zoom meeting was arranged for Wednesday 17 June.

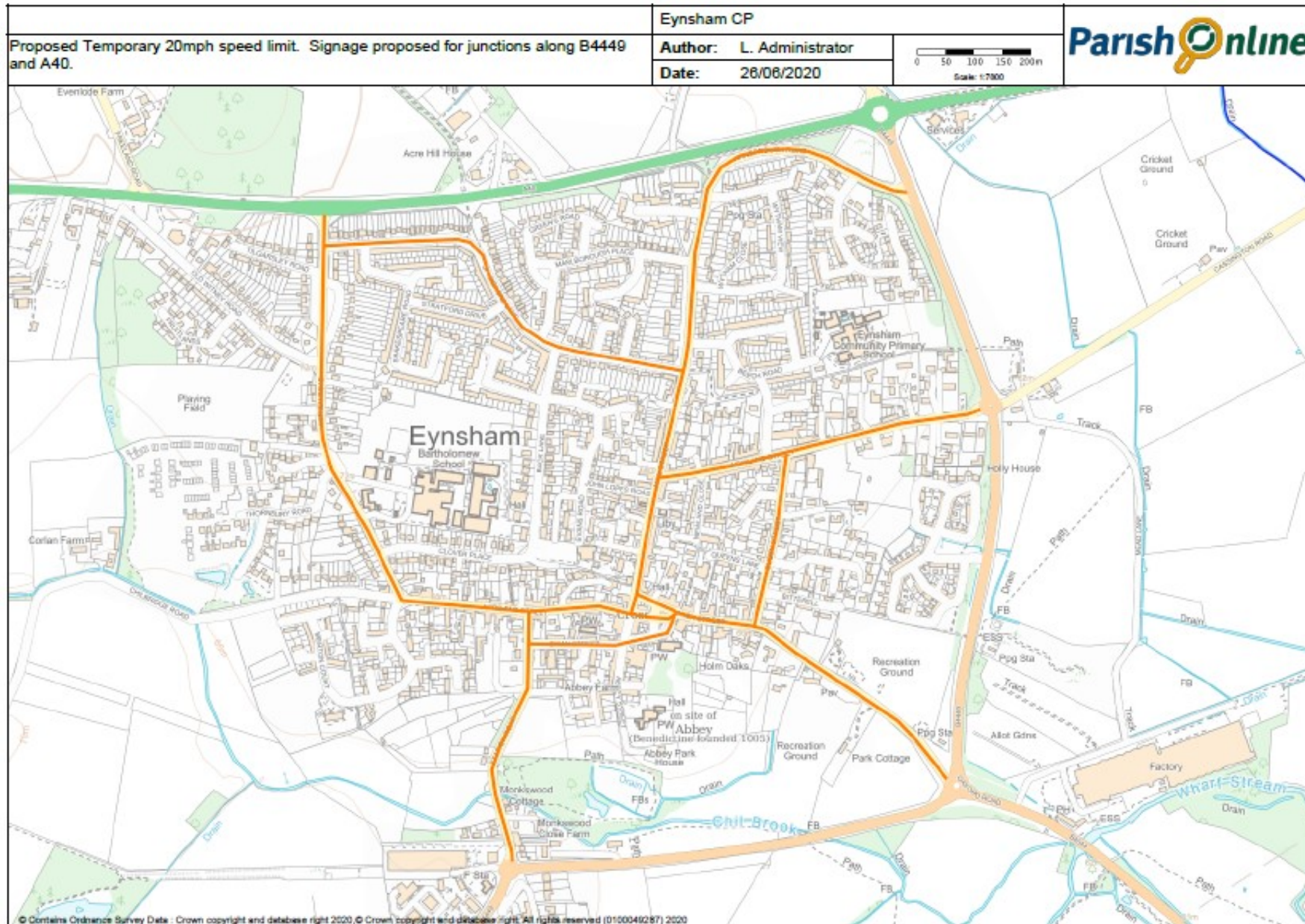
Gordon, Nick, Ross, Carl, Tricia and the Clerk met with Olly and various options were discussed. Please see maps at Appendix A. Tricia produced Appendix B to provide understanding of the current situation. Will Barton, WODC is to send some bollard signs reminding people to socially distance (free of charge).

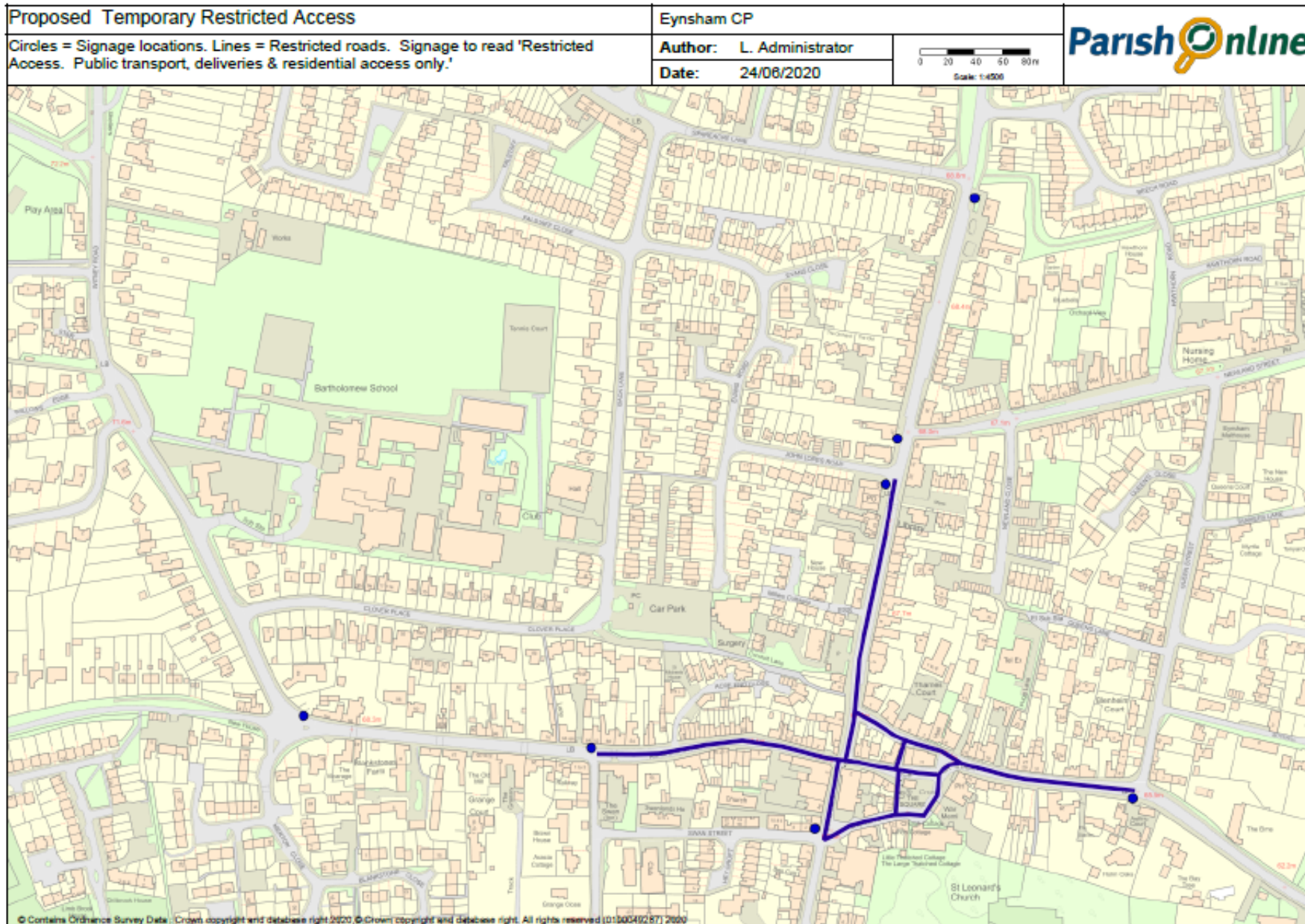
### **It is recommended to:-**

- 1. Create a temporary 20mph village-wide speed limit from all access roads into the Village to aid the safety of pedestrians/cyclists.**
- 2. Create a temporary 'access only zone' for the centre of the village to promote the safety of people queuing to enter shops.**

Following the meeting with Olly, he is liaising with WODC and Oxfordshire County Council to gain appropriate permissions for the recommendations and/or learn what modifications to the recommendations are needed in order to proceed.

A further recommendation to prohibit on-street parking at Mill Street will be explored and its merits considered after the above recommendations (as modified) are in place. It was felt inappropriate to implement this at the current time.





## Social Distancing and Eynsham roads and pavements

### A. Current situation

1. Traffic is increasing as lockdown is eased, but not such that traffic speeds are impeded by pre Covid-19 volume.
2. A sunny weekend amplifies the above.
3. With shoppers queuing, pedestrians can't easily use road space informally – which was the case during lockdown.
4. The traffic is different because there are more people (workers, school & University students) in the village during the day.
5. The non-local traffic related to the Thornbury Rd development (school hour restrictions currently) is coming back.
6. Footpaths (some ancient and poor quality at the best of times) are sometimes out of action because of queues in approximately 5 places:
  - (a) Lyalls café: Queuing on High Street side and the footpath directly opposite around Bartholomew Rooms is poor.
  - (b) Outside the Co-op, the queue and trolleys take up all the footpath. It's on a 4-way junction and alternative footpath space is either non-existent (outside The Jolly Sportsman) or narrow (outside Cornucopia).
  - (c) Outside the Butchers, a queue takes up all the narrow footpath and cars are parked immediately alongside so stepping onto the road is more difficult. Visibility is poor due to the proximity of the corner.
  - (d) Evenlode DIY, the narrow footpath and the bus stop opposite reduces alternative footpath space/visibility. DIY informally uses traffic cones to control parking outside the shop.
  - (e) Outside Chemist. Footpath isn't as narrow as some but the pavement on the opposite side of the road isn't continuous, but visibility isn't as bad as is at Harris' corner.
7. Back Lane Car Park is a lot less busy as there is reduced use of the Medical Centre, the older year 13 students aren't going back to school and the Bring Site has been removed.
8. Some walkways are very narrow and not conducive to two way traffic.
9. The South Playing fields carpark is available as a 'Park & Stride' facility as team sports haven't resumed(?)
10. More people are likely to be spending their holidays in the village.

11. The Square is proving to be a very popular outdoor meeting space, because it is a pleasant, peaceful place to be and take away food and coffee is available. (Lyalls and The Red Lion).

B. How to improve the situation so that residents and shoppers can enjoy the Village over the coming few months, especially as many more will have to have their summer holiday in the Village?

(List from least to highest intervention)

1. Reduce village wide speed to 20mph making 'informal' use of the road around shops less dangerous and make walking and cycling around the village safer.
2. Request drivers not to go via the Centre of the village (Harris' Corner) during peak shopping times unless it is essential (heavy item, residents' access).
3. Encourage shoppers to use Back Lane Car Park and possibly Playing Fields Car park
4. The Square: Another bench or two would be well utilized. Urge WODC to remove the dumped bikes as more social cyclists are stopping at The Square.
5. Where possible ask pedestrians to keep to the left-hand pavement.

Items 1 - 5 might be adequate and would affect all residents and retailers similarly. We know Stagecoach have no objections to 20mph.

If additional changes were thought necessary:

6. Widen the pavement where queues form by suspending all on street parking. Put in planned Parking Bays (PBs) / Loading Bays (LBs) in or near (if they aligned to a shop queue) to planned areas / trial period. There is also parking directly outside the Spar catering for those who need to park close to the shops.

Pros: Safer for shoppers moving about more likely to encourage people to shop locally rather than going further afield to more spacious shopping districts such as Witney. A chance to trial the new PBs / LB.

Cons: Residents will lose parking outside their houses so perhaps remove single yellow line up Mill Street for residential parking displaced by suspended on street parking.

Plus 1 – 4 above. And / or

7. A one-way system could be considered Harris' Corner / High Street, but the effort to do this might not deliver enough returns may require a different S1 route on outward and return journeys.

Enforcement? Nothing is easy without the installation, administration and maintenance of speed cameras. As without most things during this pandemic, we can only rely on people following clear and guidelines. We have different types of media available to us to inform residents about the changes. TC 15/6/2020