

Eynsham Traffic Working Group – 11 April 2023

Agenda item - To consider a traffic calming scheme for Old Witney Road for recommendation to Full Council.

Project Leader – Cllr Tricia Crowley

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The aim of this project is to enhance the existing 20mph scheme that was approved by Oxfordshire County Council on 26 September 2022 for the benefit of Old Witney Road residents.

2. Background

- 2.1. A photo from approximately 1936 (below) shows the A40 with direct access to Old Witney Road. In 1964, Old Witney Road residents petitioned the highways authority to have Old Witney Road closed for safety reasons (see Appendix A). Appendix B shows the current road layout, in particular, the white shaded area which is now a 77 home development currently named Abbey Green.



Figure 1 The Eynsham By Pass (courtesy of Eynsham Online CIC (2023))

3. Current situation

- 3.1. A vehicle survey was undertaken over a 7 day period during the week of 10 January 2022 (before implementation of the 20mph scheme) which recorded:-
 - 3.1.1. 329 vehicles travelled between 15-20mph.
 - 3.1.2. 391 vehicles travelled between 25-35mph (the majority).
 - 3.1.3. 4 vehicles were recorded travelling between 40-45mph during late afternoon hours.
 - 3.1.4. 900 vehicle movements were recorded (average of 128 per day).
- 3.2. The road layout lends itself to vehicles speeds in excess of 20mph due to its straightness, clear sightlines, lack of obstructions and turnings (only one at Fruitlands).
- 3.3. There is a popular play area situated at the southern end of Old Witney Road and children's nursery beyond that.
- 3.4. The no-through road is currently used by many families who value its relative safety and quietness that allow informal use of the road for play activities. The majority of residents are of retirement age and the safety of the road is therefore important to promote independent access to bus stops and the village amenities.
- 3.5. It should be noted that delivery drivers and commuters are regularly observed cutting through The Evenlode pub car park to/from the A40 in a bid to save valuable seconds or because their SatNav systems direct them that way. The Evenlode pub also draws vehicles to the area.
- 3.6. In the coming months, Abbey Green is to link with Old Witney Road thereby substantially increasing the volume of vehicles along the road. Based on an average of 1.2 vehicles per household¹ an additional 92 vehicles will use the road for access (there being no other way in or out). (The proposed road layout at the northern end of Old Witney Road is at Appendix C).
- 3.7. It is currently proposed that Abbey Green will be linked with the Chilbrook Meadows (the Derrymerrye Farm development²) for vehicles, pedestrians and cycles and the main access provided from a new Spine Road off the A40. When the two are linked, Old Witney Road will then be closed to vehicles at the northern end, however it will remain an access route for pedestrians and cycles for both developments and the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area (1000 homes approximately) more generally.

¹ Department for Transport (2021) *National statistics - National Travel Survey 2021: Household car availability and trends in car trips*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2021/national-travel-survey-2021-household-car-availability-and-trends-in-car-trips#:~:text=Household%20car%20access,-Chart%20%3A%20Percentage&text=The%20proportion%20of%20households%20without,every%2010%20household%20in%20England>. (Accessed: 04.04.2023)

² West Oxfordshire District Council (2023) 22/03484/OUT - *Outline planning application (with all matters reserved) for residential development of up to 180 dwellings together with open space, landscaping, parking and all associated infrastructure and engineering works*. Available at: <https://publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RN4P1URKHGXG00> (Accessed: 04.04.2023)

- 3.8. Oxfordshire County Council's Park & Ride and Salt Cross Garden Village (2200 homes) will also be accessed by pedestrians and cycles along Old Witney Road via a proposed underpass at the northern end. To summarise, Old Witney Road is proposed to be a main thoroughfare for active travel for both north and west developments.

4. Objectives

- 4.1. Make residents – of all ages - safer and feel safer by reducing the speed of traffic on all residential streets. "If average speeds reduced by 1mph, the accident rate would fall by approximately 6% on urban main roads and residential roads with low average speeds" ROSPA.³ It's also been shown that you are seven times more likely to survive if you are hit by a car driving at 20mph, than if you are hit at 30mph. This information was not available at the time that 30mph was set as the default speed in 1935 (Road Traffic Act 1934). Road deaths and injuries are not inevitable.
- 4.2. Encourage people to use streets and public spaces - in a variety of ways - to preserve and foster the existing sense of community. Whether cycling to school, using a mobility scooter to access shops or walking to work, slower vehicle speeds create a beneficial environment for everyone.
- 4.3. Make compliance as easy as possible for drivers by making it feel natural to use a lower speed.

5. How will the changes be implemented?

- 5.1. A site meeting was held with Oxfordshire County Council to consider which areas were most likely to experience speeding and which were also able to facilitate a traffic calming measure. (Driveways, frontages and the street scene were considered).
- 5.2. Proposed traffic calming locations are at Appendix C. Traffic calming options are at Appendix D for consideration. Traffic calming options may also include installing street planters at the build-out locations to help reduce the feeling of urbanisation (not illustrated).

6. Consultation

- 6.1. It is proposed that a letter from the Parish Council is delivered to every household on Old Witney Road to gauge support for the proposals over a 6 week period. If 50% or more of responses received are in favour, the Parish Council will pursue the traffic calming measures. The Council's Public Engagement Policy⁴ 'Consult' level is applicable to this project which includes surveys and publishing information via social media/website.

7. Costs

- 7.1. Costs are currently anticipated between £10-£20,000 which it is anticipated the developer will fund. Grants will be pursued should there be a shortfall in funding (where possible).

8. Proposals

- 8.1. Agreement that a traffic calming scheme can be implemented at no cost to the Parish Council.
- 8.2. Consultation is undertaken and any suggested changes to the proposals are considered by the Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council.
- 8.3. A traffic survey will be undertaken after the traffic scheme is implemented to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures and understand the increased traffic movements. These will be funded by the developer/Oxfordshire County Council.
- 8.4. The scheme is monitored to assess whether any changes are required. (Monitoring to be via feedback to the Clerk from Old Witney Road residents, Eynsham Community Speed Watch or other relevant organisations).
- 8.5. In view of the imminent completion of Abbey Green homes, this project will be pursued promptly to mitigate against the impact of the additional traffic movements.

9. Next steps

- 9.1. Following approval of this report by the Traffic Working Group on 11 April, it is recommended that Full Council approve the project at its meeting also scheduled for 11 April.

10. Does this support a strategic intent (1-5)?

- 10.1. The project supports the Council's vision 'Eynsham Parish is a great place to belong', and 5. 'Social Inclusion.'

11. Legal implications

- 11.1. All legal aspects will be undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council. The traffic calming measures have been drafted by Oxfordshire County Council and therefore should meet appropriate highway regulations.

12. Conclusion & Recommendations

- 12.1. It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Council approve the proposals as set out at para 8 above.

³ ROSPA (2019) *A Guide to 20mph Limits*. Available at: <https://www.rospa.com/rospaweb/docs/advice-services/road-safety/employers/guide-to-20mph-limits.pdf> (Accessed 04.04.2023).

⁴ Eynsham Parish Council (2023) *Public Engagement Policy*. Available at: https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/variable/organisation/37/attachments/EPC_PublicEngagementPolicy_04May2021.pdf (Accessed: 04.04.2023).

Old Witney Road closure order

P111

(26)

THE COUNTY OF OXFORD (OLD WITNEY ROAD, EYNESHAM)

(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER, 1968

The Council of the Administrative County of Oxford in exercise of their powers under Section 1 (1)(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967 and of all other powers them enabling in that behalf hereby make the following Order:-

1. No person shall cause any vehicle to enter or leave Old Witney Road (unclassified) at a point 26 yards south of its junction with the Oxford-Witney Trunk Road A.40 in the Parish of Eynsham.
2. The Interpretation Act 1889 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
3. This Order may be cited as "The County of Oxford (Old Witney Road, Eynsham) (Prohibition of Driving) Order, 1968".

GIVEN under the Common Seal of the said Council this 10th day of October, 1968.

The Common Seal of the
Oxfordshire County Council
was hereunto affixed:

SEAL.

BY ORDER

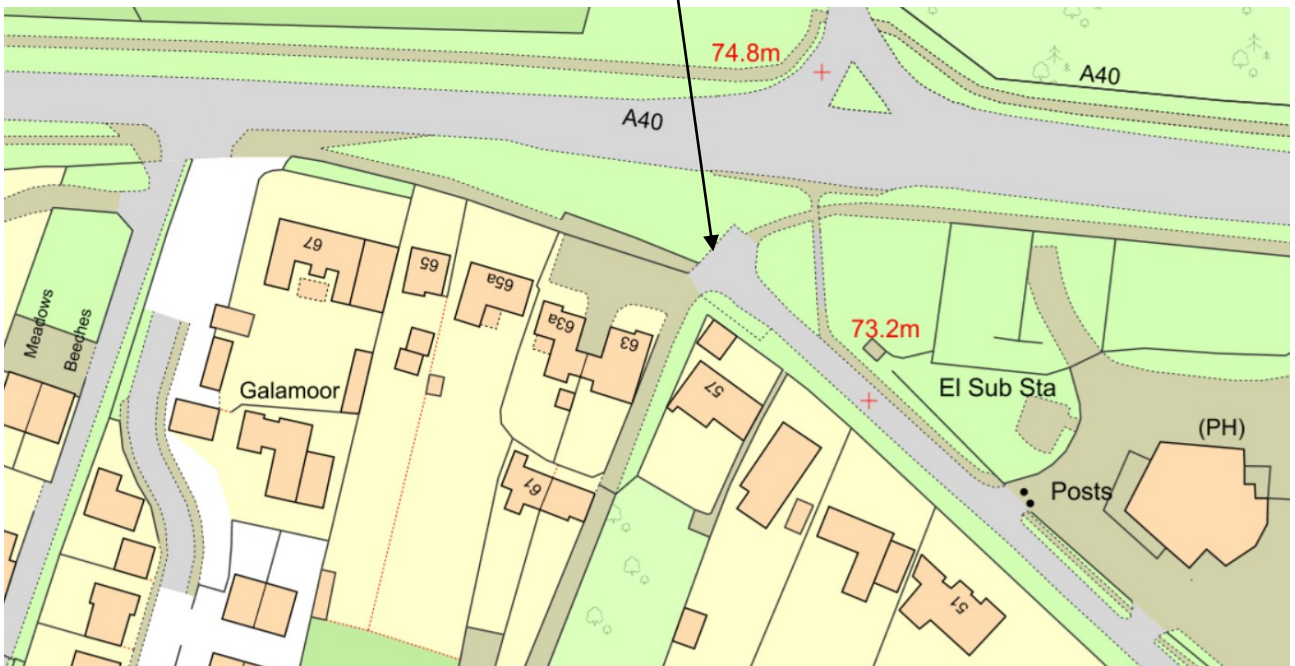
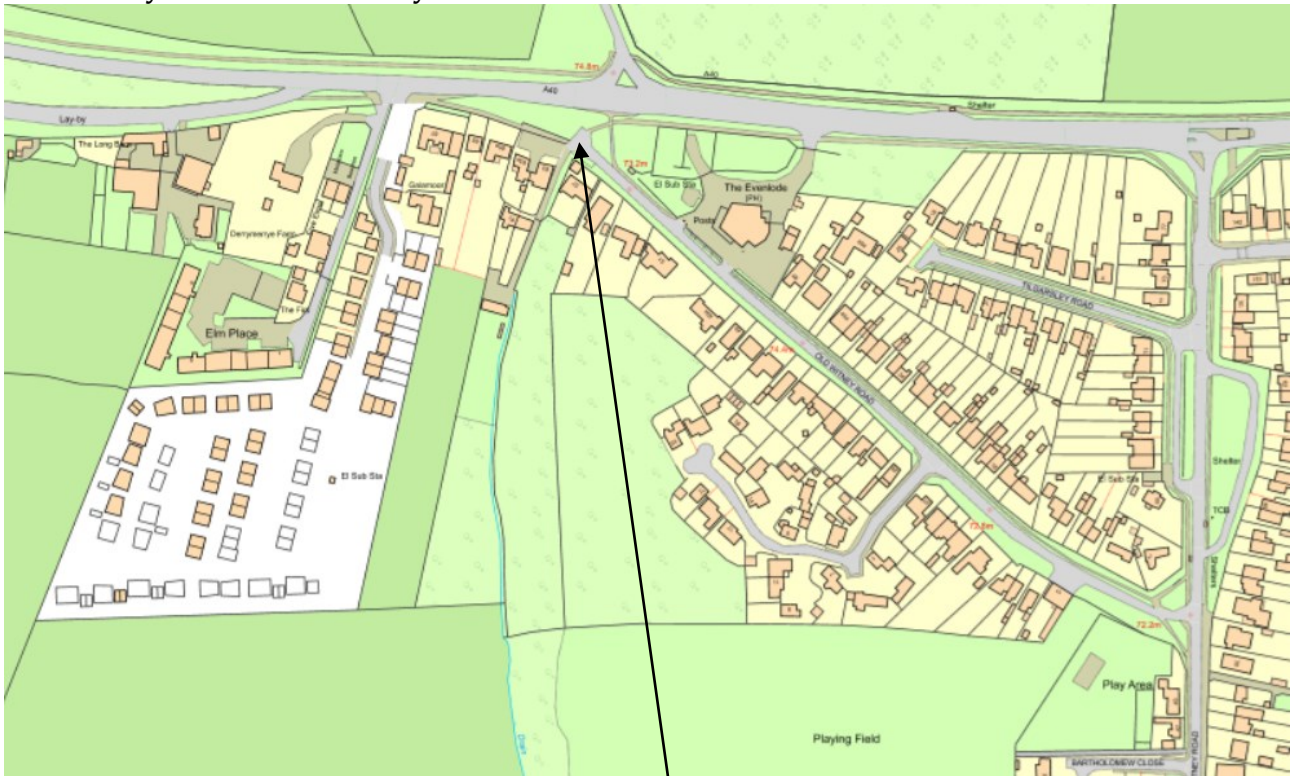
T. G. HOLDEN

Deputy Clerk of the Council.

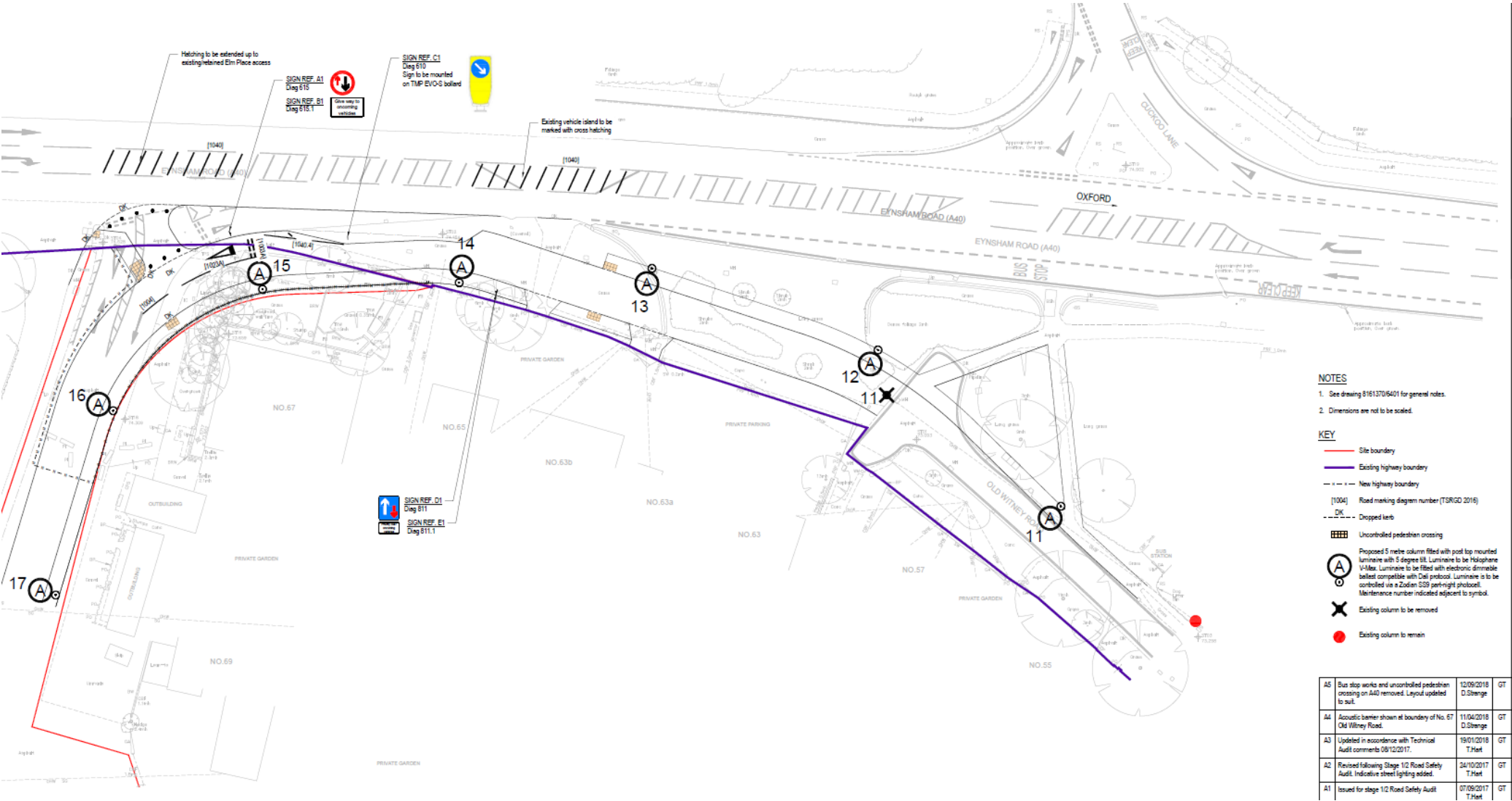
PROPOSED ROAD CLOSING ORDER OLD WITNEY ROAD EYNESHAM



Old Witney Road – Current Layout



Old Witney Road/Abbey Green Junction Design



- NOTES**
- See drawing 81613706401 for general notes.
 - Dimensions are not to be scaled.
- KEY**
- Site boundary
 - Existing highway boundary
 - - - New highway boundary
 - [1040] Road marking diagram number (TSR/GD 2016)
 - - - DK - Dropped kerb
 - Uncontrolled pedestrian crossing
 - Proposed 5 metre column fitted with post top mounted luminaire with 5 degree tilt. Luminaire to be Holophane V-Max. Luminaire to be fitted with electronic dimmable ballast compatible with Dali protocol. Luminaire is to be controlled via a Zadan S29 per-night photocell. Maintenance number indicated adjacent to symbol.
 - Existing column to be removed
 - Existing column to remain

A5	Bus stop works and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on A40 removed. Layout updated to suit.	12/09/2018	GT
A4	Acoustic barrier shown at boundary of No. 67 Old Witney Road.	11/04/2018	GT
A3	Updated in accordance with Technical Audit comments 08/12/2017.	19/01/2018	GT
A2	Revised following Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit. Indicative street lighting added.	24/10/2017	GT
A1	Issued for stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit	07/09/2017	GT

Oxfordshire County Council – Traffic Calming Locations



