

Meeting Date – Tuesday 19 December 2023

Agenda item – 4. Old Witney Road Traffic Calming Scheme

- (a) To note the results of the informal consultation undertaken at Old Witney Road.
- (b) To receive the Clerk’s report and agree the next steps.

1. Recommendation

1.1. In accordance with para 6.1 and para 8. of the Old Witney Road Traffic Scheme Proposal dated , it is **RECOMMENDED** that the Traffic Committee progress to the next steps of the project as follows:-

1.1.1. Agreement that a traffic calming scheme can be implemented at no cost to the Parish Council.

1.1.2. Consultation is undertaken and any suggested changes to the proposals are considered by the Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

1.1.3. 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.

1.1.4. 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).

1.1.5. 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.

2. Executive summary

2.1. At its meeting on 11 April 2023, the Traffic Working Group recommended to Full Council that the Traffic Scheme Proposal is approved. Full Council considered and approved the recommendation at a meeting of the same date.

2.2. The scheme was revised at the request of OCC following the previous informal consultation. A revised scheme (that took into account comments received) was approved by the Traffic Committee on 31 October and new consultation letters were sent out on 14 November.

2.3. The proposal supports strategic intent ‘5 – Support social inclusion initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.’

3. Financial implications

3.1. Costs are currently anticipated between £10-£20,000 which it is anticipated the developer will contribute towards. Grants will be pursued should there be a shortfall in funding - the Council will not fund the scheme from its budgets.

4. Equality and Inclusion Implications

None identified.

5. Sustainability Implications

- 5.1. The proposals would make walking and cycling feel safer and due to the slower movement of traffic.

6. Consultation

6.1. A consultation letter was hand delivered to properties at Old Witney Road (Appendix A). This report presents responses received on the proposed OCC Highways' plan for traffic calming on Old Witney Road (Appendix B). The approved Traffic Scheme Proposal states that 'if 50% or more of responses received are in favour, the Parish Council will pursue the traffic calming measures.'

6.2. The informal consultation is required by OCC (and any matters of concern to be considered) before undertaking a formal consultation by OCC which is open to statutory consultees and anyone else to take participate in.

6.3. Residents were asked the following:-

Do you support OCC Highways' plan for traffic calming on Old Witney Road) – Yes/No.

6.4. 40 responses were received during the consultation period, however 3 responses were unclear – these have therefore not been included in the final results.

	<u>%</u>	<u>Count</u>	
No	16	6	
Yes	<u>84</u>	<u>31</u>	
Total	100	37	50% = 16.50
Unclear (not counted)		3	

7. Comments received

7.1. There are a small number number of comments for the OCC to consider. These include increased flood risk, alternative/enhanced traffic calming measures, alternative locations for traffic calming measures, negative impact on some residents, access concerns and various other comments.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1. As the Highway Authority, Oxfordshire County Council's agreement is required to pursue the project in accordance with legislation and good practice.

9. Alternatives/Options

- 9.1. Do nothing – Increased traffic from development sites at the western end of Old Witney Road would reduce the safety and well-being of residents (Abbey Green has 77 dwellings and a planning appeal is currently outstanding for 180 dwellings at Derrymerre Farm).
- 9.2. Additionally, it is unknown whether an underpass to Salt Cross Garden Village will be built at the western end of Old Witney Road as planned or to what extent West Eynsham Strategic Development Area or the A40 improvement work will impact the locality (including rat-running through The Evenlode car park).
- 9.3. Re-assess the design – OCC may wish to review and amend the scheme with approval to take into account comments received.

10. Background papers

Old Witney Road Traffic Scheme Proposal – Available at: https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/variable/organisation/877/attachments/OWR-TrafficCalming_AmendedProposalCushions_Nov23.pdf

Appendix A - Copy of consultation letter which was hand delivered to all homes at Old Witney Road.

Appendix B – All consultation responses.



EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: KATHERINE DOUGHTY,

VILLAGE HALL, 46 BACK LANE, EYNESHAM, OXFORDSHIRE OX29 4QW

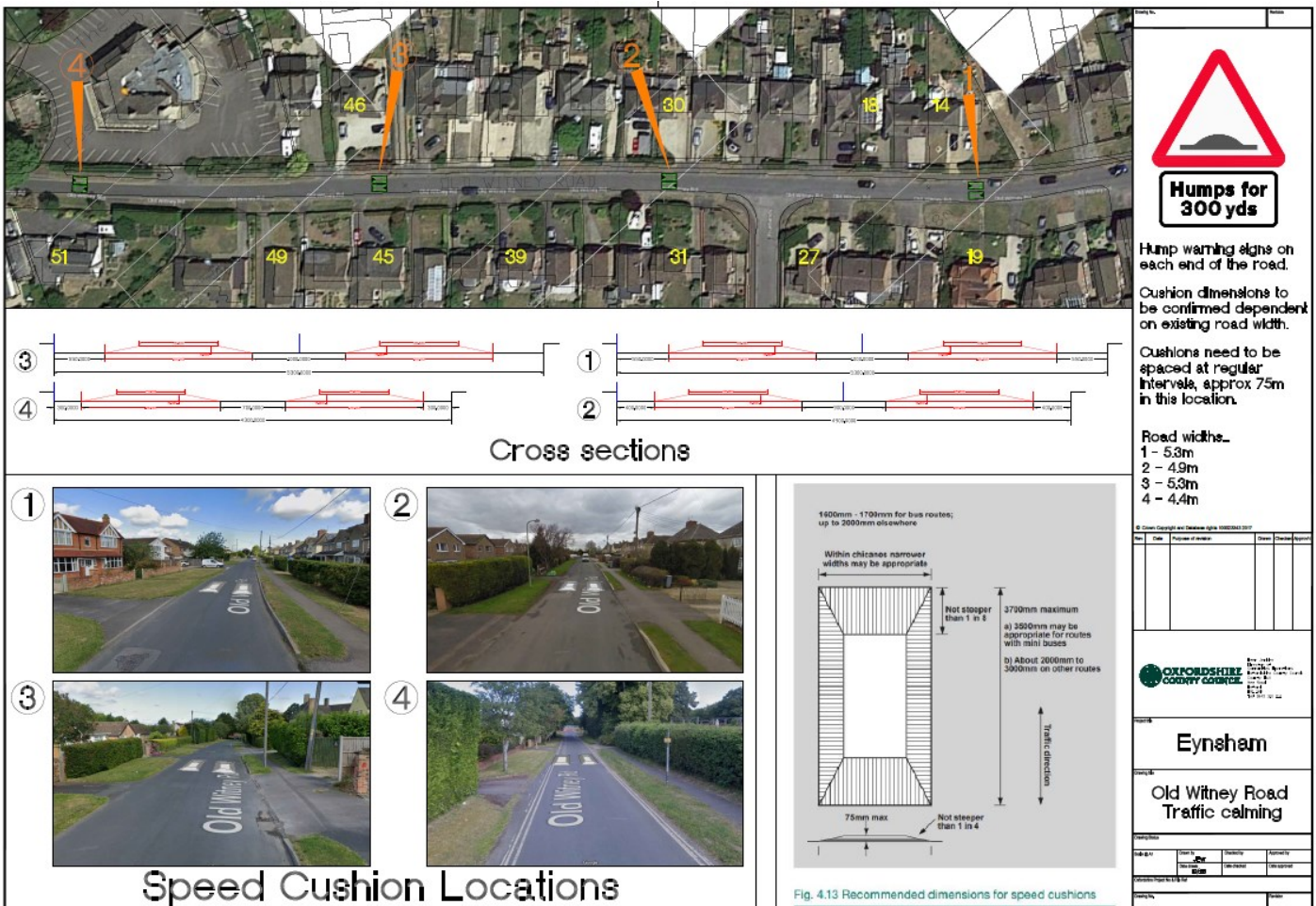
Telephone: 07956 901622 Email: epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk Web: www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk

14 November 2023

F.A.O. Current Old Witney Road residents

Further to our letter of 12 June, the Parish Council Traffic Committee and Oxfordshire County Council Highways Officer have now fully considered the 39 responses received. Whilst the majority of comments received were positive, we wish to address the few concerns raised.

The scheme has therefore been revised to provide the benefit of removing visual street clutter, maintaining on street parking space and improving the objectives of slowing vehicles travelling in both directions. It no longer includes build-outs and has four sets of road cushions instead – please see the plan below with house numbers detailed. The plan is also available online at https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/variable/organisation/877/attachments/OWR-TrafficCalming_AmendedProposalCushions_Nov23.pdf or it can be emailed to you by contacting the Clerk at epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk.



Background information on the scheme is available at <https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/variable/organisation/877/attachments/OWR-TrafficSchemeProposal-Final.pdf>.

No resident or Councillor will see any personal information submitted to this consultation. All responses to this consultation will be published with personal information redacted by the Clerk. The Council's General Privacy Notice is available at https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/variable/organisation/980/attachments/EPC_General-Privacy-Notice_May2023.pdf

Do you support Oxfordshire County Council Highways' revised plan for traffic calming on Old Witney Road?

Yes / No

Comments.....

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Name:

Address:

Please send your reply by Tuesday 19 December to:

- Eynsham Parish Council, Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 4QW or
- drop through the Parish Council's letterbox at the Village Hall or
- email your response which must stipulate 'yes' or 'no' support to epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Mrs Katherine Doughty
Clerk to the Council

Consultation Responses

Responses to objections and other comments – the following notes are references where appropriate in the following comments:-

Note 1 - Consider at a later date in a village-wide traffic review.

Note 2 - OCC will be asked to consider the information provided when preparing detailed plans for the Old Witney Road Traffic Calming Scheme.

Response No.	Comments	Y / N
1	I would like to respond to your recent traffic calming letter.	Yes
2	I am in full support of your proposal. That's a 'yes' from me. Thank you for all the time and effort spent getting this scheme off the ground.	Yes
3	Yes. I agree with the proposals.	Yes
4	Please take this email as confirmation that myself and [redacted] approve of the revised plans.	Yes
5	Please take this email as confirmation that myself and [redacted] approve of the revised plans.	Yes
6	Yes, I support the revised proposals	Yes
7	<p>As per my previous letter, I do not support the revised plan but, as I stated in the first consultation, it is a "done deal" by all accounts.</p> <p>If the intention is to press ahead with the proposal, I would make the following observation:</p> <p>It looks like the two pads that are proposed right outside my house (#4 on the document) are being placed on what is probably the narrowest part of the OWR. Already, and much to my frustration, HGV's and other plant vehicles (tractor units and trailers) which are moving up and down the road outside constantly ride up my verge causing damage (photo attached). My concern is that traffic (HGV and the like) will try and circumvent the pads and cause even more damage.</p> <p>When the road works took place in OWR to effect remedial drain works, the company involved "fixed" the damage they did. Who will be remediate in this particular case because, I'm sure it will happen. Can I also ask who is responsible for the management and the maintenance of these pads because, I'm not sure they will have longevity given the nature of the traffic currently passing up and down the road.</p> <p>I'm definitely not a "nimby" , just highlighting my concerns. I'm more than happy to talk to reps from the Eynsham traffic police (committee) if nesc. Perhaps they could even take a walk down the road to see the damage that's constantly being done to my property and other verges in the immediate vicinity.</p>	No

8	Can it be ensured that cars will have to slow down over the pillows and not just drive over with no need to slow by having wheels over each side. <i>See note 2</i>	Yes
9	If everyone kept to 20mph there would be no need for speed cushions.	Yes
10	In reply to the note re road cushions my answer is still no to traffic calming on Old Witney Road. It is the quietest road in Eynsham and not a through road and to subject it to road cushions so that which is already subjected to 20mph is totally unnecessary. People down the road seem to be under the illusion that it is going to be closed off again so if that is the case then, what a waste of money! The only persons to be inconvenienced by these cushions will be the residents themselves and the Darby & Joan Brigade who will almost stop at each one. Over the years (64 in my case) the one thing that has impressed on my brain, has been when the signage has been painted on the road surface say 20, 30 and keep two bars apart (M5) etc at the appropriate distance apart. In the instance of Old Witney Road I would suggest eight to ten times. Drivers need reminders to check speed regularly. There is a lot that can be said against on this subject but it is the law breakers you are not catching by the painting on the road surface has a chance of getting to some of them, without much money being spent.	No
11	Yes - I support Oxfordshire County Council Highways revised plan for traffic calming on Old Witney Road	Yes
12	Yes - I support Oxfordshire County Council Highways revised plan for traffic calming on Old Witney Road	Yes
13	Yes	Yes
14	Yes	Yes
15	Yes	Yes
16	There should be limited parking close to the playing field <i>See note 1</i>	Yes
17	There should be limited parking close to the playing field <i>See note 1</i>	Yes
18	Let's get on with it! More and more vehicles using OWR and travelling a lot faster than 20mph	Yes
19	Let's get on with it! More and more vehicles using OWR and travelling a lot faster than 20mph	Yes
20	No need for humps if drivers go 20 mph which many don't. I still want to see double yellow lines to stop people using it as a park and ride but what we say you ignore. It's all cut and dried by you. <i>See note 1</i>	Unclear
21	I do support the traffic calming measures (although I preferred the original scheme, but it does need something)	Yes

22	Yes, I support the revised plan for traffic calming on Old Witney Road. I think the revised plan is an improvement on the previous one but in any case I would support any traffic calming on Old Witney Road which I think is vital.	Yes
23	Yes	Yes
24	Yes	Yes
25	<p>My initial response to the traffic calming measures being discussed for Old Witney Road was that it had merit, this was my point of view even with one of these measures being located by my property. However, having looked at the latest plan, (posted through our letter box late November 2024), the location of this speed cushion seems to have been relocated from its original position (approximately on the boundary line between numbers 30 and 32) to the front of our house to such an extent that the pillow seems to be encroaching across and onto the drop curb of our property.</p> <p>I am hoping this is just an approximation of the plan drawing, but if this is now the proposed location for the speed cushion, I would like to formally object to this proposal and request that you consider the following points:- The pillow would impede on our vehicle driving into our driveway, our original way of parking our vehicle was to drive in normally into the driveway and reverse out, but since the bottom of the road has been opened up, we have had to change our practice and now drive past our driveway and reverse onto our drive (this was to avoid reversing onto the now much busier road). If the location of the speed cushion is as shown on the new proposal, we would be immediately driving onto and over this mound and then reversing onto and over it at a severe angle in order to gain access to our driveway thereby creating a difficult viewing position and possible strain to the vehicles steering and suspension.</p> <p>The new proposed location would also impede the parking of vehicles outside our house and would particularly cause issues with vehicle parking on the opposite side of the road. Currently there is normally a car parked on the road opposite our house. At present this issue is of no great concern as the vehicle is positioned further up the road (approximately halfway between our house and our immediate neighbour at number 32). If this speed cushion was located as per the new proposal, I believe this would cause the vehicle to be parked further down the road (immediately in front of our driveway) creating a further obstacle whilst reversing our vehicle onto our property.</p> <p>If my assumption is wrong, and the proposed location of the speed cushion is as originally planned (approximately on the boundary line between numbers 30 and 32) I would not formally object to the plan. However, I would urge the council to consider that the proposed location for this particular speed cushion is at one of the narrowest parts of this road and where the majority of residents would be adversely affected due to the large number of driveways in what is a relatively small stretch of roadway.</p>	Unclear

	If you require any further clarification of my position, please contact me at the address or on the telephone number as shown above. Thanking you in advance for your consideration on this matter. <i>See note 2</i>	
26	This has to happen. I see the traffic escalating. The speed cars come down is scary sometimes. The verges are becoming a mess too.	Yes
27	The plan is better than the first iteration, but the number of speed restrictions has increased and we still do not see the need for restrictions. <i>See note 2</i>	No
28	There is no need for any traffic calming as parked cars and 20mph speed limit deem it unnecessary.	No
29	Sooner the better	Yes
30	Sooner the better	Yes
31	Yes as long as it does not increase the already standing water from rain run off at the beginning of Old Witney Road especially on the left hand side houses 11-15. <i>See note 2</i>	Yes
32	Yes as long as it does not increase the already standing water from rain run off at the beginning of Old Witney Road especially on the left hand side houses 11-15 <i>See note 2</i>	Yes
33	No need for other speed restrictions. Are our Councillors admitting that the 20mph limit is not adhered to? Absolutely a complete waste of Council tax. I simply cannot see why any scheme of this nature was considered necessary. I would have thought our PC Councillors have better things to do with their time!	No
34	Thanks for your work and consultation note regarding the proposed traffic calming on Old Witney Road. As owner residents of 29 OWR, we both support the proposed measures.	Yes
35	Thanks for your work and consultation note regarding the proposed traffic calming on Old Witney Road. As owner residents of 29 OWR, we both support the proposed measures.	Yes
36	The revised plan is much better although I'm not in favour of any of the ideas.	Unclear
37	Thank you for the revised plan. We are much happier with the cushions than the buildouts, assuming that cushion 3 allows room for parking a car outside our house. <i>See note 2</i>	Yes
38	Thank you for the revised plan. We are much happier with the cushions than the buildouts, assuming that cushion 3 allows room for parking a car outside our house. <i>See note 2</i>	Yes
39	We had asked via email to have the plans sent to us but they haven't been which is extremely disappointing. Some exact dimensions of the pillows would be nice before they are put in. <i>See note 2</i>	Yes

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