

**20 MPH SPEED LIMIT WORKING PARTY MEETING OF THE
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Tuesday, 25 January 2022

At 4.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillors:	T Ashby L Duncan	A Prosser R Smith
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities
Others:	No members of the public.	

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Duncan be elected Chair of the Working Party.

There being no other nominations it was:

Resolved:

That, Councillor L Duncan be elected Chair of the 20MPH Speed Limit Working Party.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aitman and Coles.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from members or officers.

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Working Party considered the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Working Party.

It was noted that the Working Party would be reporting to the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee and the TOR needed amendment to reflect this.

Resolved:

That, the Terms of Reference of the Working Party, as amended, be approved.

5 **20MPH ZONE SCHEME**

The Working Party considered the report of the Democratic & Legal Services Officer together with a plan showing existing speed limits in Witney.

Members welcomed Tim Shickle who was attending the meeting representing Oxfordshire County Council.

It was noted that the focus for the working party meeting was to discuss key roads in and around the town, consideration was given for risk and usage, proximity to schools and walking/cycling routes for children, likely driver compliance, local knowledge on routes and whether reductions in speed on specific roads might bring safer travel for all road users, looking at needs and constraints for individual roads.

Tim Shickle confirmed that this initiative would be a pilot project and nothing was irreversible. When the scheme was started OCC would be launching a county-wide marketing campaign to raise awareness, and additionally there would be some locally targeted advertising. It was recommended that any existing speed cameras are retained (which for Witney is just one camera on the Woodstock road).

A discussion ensued around the roads and areas. It was agreed that all housing estate roads should become 20mph at the point you turn into the estate.

Key routes were then discussed in turn, in the main it was agreed that existing 30mph roads would become 20mph, including Crawley Road, Hailey Road, Woodstock Road, Oxford Hill/Newland, Cogges Hill Road/Stanton Harcourt Road, Station Road (partly), Curbridge Road and Burford Road.

The point at which the 20mph restriction begins was debated, in particular Station Lane, Woodstock Road and Curbridge Road. It was mainly agreed that the start points would be where existing 30mph limits are introduced, some exceptions were applied. The agreed start points and zones would need to be mapped and circulated to members for final agreement before being referred to Full Council on 14th February, and onwards to OCC.

Additionally to the 30 > 20 amendments, it was agreed that a proposal would be put to OCC for reductions in speed limits on other roads. Including:

- Jubilee Way to be reduced to 40mph from current 50mph, with the possibility of this 40mph stretch being extended further East towards North Leigh, as indicated on the map.
- Deer Park Road to be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.
- Burford Road – Existing 40 mph reduced to 30mph and existing 30mph reduced to 20mph.

Following a discussion around driver compliance and the potential for speed to creep-up on long stretches, Tim Shickle introduced the possibility of installation of flashing signs that are a visual reminder to drivers of their travelling speed.

The design of these would need clarification and cost implications were not confirmed. OCC would be exploring procurement options and the three areas were to be mapped showing where potential VAS could be located.

Resolved:

That, the proposed speed limits and associated infrastructure as outlined at the meeting be mapped and circulated to Working Party members for approval prior to consideration by Full Council on 14 February 2022.

The meeting closed at: 5.30 pm

Chair