

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

Held on Monday, 23 May 2022

At 4.15 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor L Duncan (Chair)

Councillors:	J Aitman T Ashby	A Prosser R Smith
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities
Others:	Geoff Barrell (Oxfordshire County Council)	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were in attendance at the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared a non-prejudicial interest insofar as they were all residents of Witney and proposals would affect the whole town.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held on 25 January 2022 were received and adopted.

Members were advised the time frame and details of consultation would be covered by the attending County Council Officer.

4 20MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

Members received and considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk and addendum, latterly circulated with updates from Oxfordshire County Council.

The Working Party discussed the potential of Witan Way remaining at 30mph but stressed there was currently no safe cycling path on the eastern section and there were two pedestrian crossing points on the western section; the latter including Farm Mill Lane which was a key route for the strategic Witney East development into the town centre.

The County Officer raised the prospect of beginning the 20mph limit at Avenue Two as this was an active travel route from Ducklington, and the Lake & Country Park and the avenue would also

have a limited speed restriction. Members agreed, as the scheme needed to be as simple and logical as possible.

Members also considered speed limit buffer zones on the approaches to Crawley Road, Hailey Road, and New Yatt Road.

County Officers questioned whether buffers were needed in certain areas; New Yatt and Crawley Roads for instance, were derestricted roads and the alignment of the physical infrastructure already resulted in speed reduction. There was further discussion to be had with Hailey Parish Council on a buffer between the two parishes, but town councillors stressed they would like to see a speed restriction of 30mph due to school age cyclists and pedestrians travelling into Witney. There was agreement that where the limit changed, this would be highlighted by road surface marking and repeaters on the route.

The question of other approaches had not yet been fully discussed at County level. These included, Curbridge Road, Oxford Hill and Woodstock Road; all were areas the town council had suggested buffers, extended restrictions and/or VAS warning signs.

The County Officer advised there was no official timeline yet, but it was hoped the completed scheme could go to consultation soon, with a County Cabinet decision made towards the end of July. It was agreed that a final map showing all changes and repeater/VAS locations should be presented to the town council for clarity ahead of the consultation stage.

Recommended:

1. That, the entirety of Witan Way has a speed limit of 20mph; and
2. That, this begins at Avenue Two, Station Lane as you approach The Leys/Sainsburys;
3. That, the County Council explored all further approaches/buffer zones into Witney;
4. That, the County Council provides a map showing the final scheme to the town council prior to consultation.

The meeting closed at: 5.00 pm

Chair