

DECISION OF THE SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL ON 17 AUGUST 2023

ON PROPOSED 20 mph SPEED LIMIT INTRODUCTION TO THE VILLAGE

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The Parish Council supports the proposal from Oxfordshire County Council to introduce a 20 mph speed limit and accepts the positioning of the signage within the village including the side roads off the A361.

However, there are significant residual safety concerns about the entry to the village from the South and request that James Wright, the senior County highways officer, visits the village to meet Parish Council members and inspects this part of the road. Briefly the issues the Parish Council would like to raise are:

1. This entrance to the village passes seven houses with access onto the A361 and a residential road (Upper End) which leads into Fiddlers Hill which is a route from the A361 used by residents living in the South of the village. The accompanying extract from an OS map has the houses on the A361 and Upper End marked in pink.
2. It has been proposed that the existing 30 mph signs marked on the map are changed to 20 mph signs which involves a speed reduction from 60 mph to 20 mph. The Parish Council believes that the signage on the road should be amended so as to reduce the existing 60 mph to 40 mph before the seven houses on the A361 perhaps within the circle shown on the map and change the existing 30 mph signs to 20 mph as intended.
3. The Parish Council also has concerns that the existing signs are currently obscured by trees and hedge foliage and very poorly lit thus affecting their visibility and potentially not affording drivers sufficient distance to reduce their speed down to 20 mph after they first see the sign. The sign on the right-hand side of the road is not visible until a few feet from the first 90-degree bend.

NOTES:

- a. The height of the A361 is 187 metres at Shipton Down and 118 metres at the bend adjacent to Tall Trees Residential Home – a drop of 226 feet.
- b. The position of the new 20 mph signs will need some care to ensure maximum visibility. Steps will be taken by the Parish Council to persuade landowners whose trees or bushes are contributing to the excess foliage to cut them back.
- c. By coincidence we received an email from an elderly individual, who lives outside the village and whose wife had just taken up residence in Tall Trees. He was frightened at the speed of vehicles as he waited in the road in his car to turn into the Home's entrance and suggested moving the nearby signs further up the road.