

Report for Publication – Implementation of the 20mph speed limit in Bampton

Introduction

This report has been compiled to clarify the activities undertaken by Bampton Parish Council (BPC) in relation to the request for the adoption of a 20mph speed limit as proposed by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

It should be noted that the Parish Council is made up of up to eleven local Bampton people who give their time and services freely to the community. As a body they strive to be without bias and represent their community unrestricted by any political or other personal affiliation. They would not normally enter into debate or arguments with members of their community but on this subject, because of the inimical nature of the comments made on social media, they feel it is important to establish the facts and make clear their position.

Background

In February 2020 the UK Government signed the Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety. The adoption of a 20mph limit in towns and villages stems directly from Resolution 11 which states:

Focus on speed management, including the strengthening of law enforcement to prevent speeding and mandate a maximum road travel speed of 30 km/h in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix in a frequent and planned manner, except where strong evidence exists that higher speeds are safe, noting that efforts to reduce speed in general will have a beneficial impact on air quality and climate change as well as being vital to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries.

In December 2020 BPC were informed by their County Councillor (Ted Fenton) that a Motion on a 20mph in Oxfordshire was to be presented to OCC by his Conservative colleague Pete Sudbury and that he had registered to take part in the debate and he would welcome BPCs support. Click on the following link to see the original motion, amendments and decision:

[Motion by Councillor Pete Sudbury](#)

Actions

No further information was received from OCC but on 25/10/2021 the 20s plenty for Oxfordshire group sent a letter and their Toolkit.

20mph in Oxfordshire and a TOOL KIT

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are one of the first counties to consider widespread changes from 30mph to 20mph. The plan is to roll out 20mph over the next three years. Initially there are five trial sites, Cuxham, which is the first followed by Wallingford Central, Wallingford North, Kirtlington and Long Wittenham. The reason for the test is to determine the success of just replacing existing signage with 20mph. The pilot tests will measure traffic speeds before and after the change of signage. If there is very little change then OCC will consider low cost traffic calming which measures would be developed with the local community.

Although the toolkit seemed to be marketed as something that could be put in place immediately, it was all about organising a campaign which is not in the Parish Council's remit. However, the

members of the Council did take into account the information supplied on the benefits of driving at 20mph i.e.:

There is a significant reduction in fatal injuries, when a child is hit at 30mph there are much more likely to die than if hit at 20mph

Noise pollution almost halves

Vulnerable people feel safer

Children are less intimidated

The latest research from engineering consultants, Skyrad, reveals that driving at 20mph lowers CO2 by 26% and NOx by 28%

In November 2021, before applying to OCC for a 20mph limit it was agreed that they would not only review the statistics supplied by recent road surveys and ask about the results from the Bampton Community Speedwatch group but also undertake an informal survey of Bampton residents' views. This was advertised on posters throughout the village as well as online and submissions were received on FaceBook and on paper. The results are available on the BPC website. For the avoidance of all doubt about the results the Council must make it clear that during the time it was running some unusual online activity was noted and it was ascertained that somebody or something was repeatedly voting at regularly timed intervals. This was rigorously investigated by the Council and the results, including some confidential personal data that cannot be disclosed, showed patterns not synonymous with multiple users completing the surveys indicating that, beyond reasonable doubt, they were made by the same individual so all but two of these votes were disavowed. The final results which were submitted online and on paper were 159 For and 95 Against.

An internal report was presented at the BPC meeting on 09/03/2022 and they made the decision to go ahead with the application for the 20mph limit subject to any financial considerations. On enquiry the OCC County Councillor (Ted Fenton) confirmed that no financial contribution would be expected from BPC so the OCC online application form was completed. The application was acknowledged by OCC on 17/03/2022.

From this point OCC took over the application of the scheme and BPC had no further input. Their activities included:

- Undertaking the statutory consultation demanded by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 between 20/07/2022 and 19/08/2022 (details of the results available from OCC)
- Contacting all responders to the above on 03/10/2022 to inform them that the decision on whether to implement 20mph in their area would be taken on 13/10/2022 and giving them the opportunity to input to the meeting.
- Once the decision was made contacting all respondents to the statutory consultation on 15/12/2022 to inform them of the OCC decision to implement the scheme in Bampton:
I am writing to inform you that following approval of one of the proposals you contributed to (see details above), the traffic order(s) relating to the scheme have recently been 'made' – meaning they have/soon to become legally enforceable subject to appropriate signs & lines being in place (works at some locations may have already taken place & been finalised or yet to be completed). Please see the attached notices for further information, which includes definitive dates.
- Installing the necessary signs for implementation on 19/12/2022. Unfortunately this did not go well and as at the date of this report the signs had not been completed or 'uncovered'.