

Update on the 20 mph limit.

I thought I would give you all an update on the 20mph speed limit introduction as various conflicting articles have appeared in the Henley Standard.

The Parish Council (PC) are hoping to make a final decision on financial grounds at the PC meeting on the 14th September.

To re-iterate the steps we have been through:

- Introducing a 20mph was first mooted as part of the Shiplake Villages Plan process and the SVP steering committee asked the PC to consider the plan. The PC agreed that they would pay for the consultation process at a cost of £1500 which included the cost of speed surveys. The value of the consultation was to get the formal views of the Highways Officers as well as the residents of our two villages.
- Following an open meeting the PC narrowly agreed to support the consultation in favour of the introduction of 20mph limits. The meeting was well attended by residents. This decision was made after the consultation had closed to the public and the Councillors were fully cognizant of the numbers of respondents and their comments.
- The consultation received 47 public responses: 36 were objectors; 6 in favour and 4 were neutral with comments. There was only 1 objection received from the village of Shiplake Cross.
- Following a review of all the comments received in the consultation the OCC Highway Officer recommended approval of the scheme. His report and supporting reasons can be accessed via: http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s29362/CMDE_MAY2115R03.pdf
- On the 21st May 2015 presentations were made on behalf of protesters and the PC at the OCC Cabinet Officer's meeting and the Cabinet OCC Officer "agreed" the recommendation of the OCC Highway Officer as can be shown on see page 3 of the attached minute: <http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/g4375/Decisions%20Thursday%2021-May-2015%2010.30%20Delegated%20Decisions%20by%20Cabinet%20Member%20for%20Environment%20includ.pdf?T=2>
- The Parish council asked for final costings for the actual implementation of the scheme including removal and change of signage and estimates have been received from OCC indicating the cost to be in the region of £3000.
- As is normal practice the costs are referred to the Finance Group of the PC and their recommendation is provided at the next available Parish Council meeting.
- The Finance Group are hoping to meet before the September PC meeting and they may be able to make a recommendation to the September meeting should they feel they have sufficient financial information to do so. That is where we currently stand.

For some, this has been a contentious issue and for my part I have tried to seek as many views as I can from residents. I know my fellow Councillors have been doing the same and I am confident that they will make a clear decision for the benefit of our community when the time comes.

Have a great summer!

Tudor Taylor (Chairman Shiplake Parish Council).