

"We refer to the proposed Oxfordshire County Council (Shiplake speed limits) order 2015 and hereby give notice that, at its meeting of March 9th 2015, Shiplake Parish Council voted to support the proposed order.

The PC listened carefully to the views of its residents and decided that on balance the introduction of a blanket limit would improve the safety of all road users whilst minimising both cost and street signage. Much of the parish is without pavements and pedestrians and cyclist all use the roads for passage - the awareness of the lower limit may occasion drivers to take extra care on these shared use roads. Any, even minor, reduction in speed would reduce the risk of accident and the seriousness of any accident.

The council noted that the proposal for a 20mph limit came from the parish-wide consultation undertaken by the Shiplake Villages Plan.

Most of the private roads in Lower Shiplake already voluntarily use traffic calming measures via signage or speed humps to reduce road traffic speeds. Distances within the villages are small and a reduction in speed will make little difference to journey times.

The council recognises that the proposed order has divided opinion both within the parish and on the parish council itself, which passed the motion of support only on the Chairman's casting vote.

The PC understood the concerns of objectors including parish councillors. However, the council believed that the 20 mph would be a step forward in improving traffic safety within our community and would also lead to a reduction in signage within the parish.

Particular mention was made of the need to calm speeds along Memorial Avenue where the primary school is situated and Station Rd, Mill Road and Mill Lane remain a major concern particularly during rush hour periods and the school run.

The Parish Council remains guided by the expertise of OCC in Highway matters and will fully support the decision of OCC following the consultation."

Roger Hudson

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