

Traffic Calming Subcommittee

Over the past few years there has been a substantial increase in traffic throughout the county including our village. The majority of parishioners are enthusiastic for actions to slow down the present traffic through Kirtlington, deter motorists as much as possible, and try to tackle access for HGVs. This is a tricky issue as the road through the village is an A road and this is unlikely to change soon.

The traffic calming subcommittee, reporting to your Parish Council, has proposed a two-part approach to traffic calming involving both short-term and long-term targets. Both stages will offer a combination of traditional and progressive solutions to engage the motorist throughout their journey through the village.

The first phase incorporates several different actions which are hopefully achievable within the next 4-6 months. There will be uniquely designed "20 is plenty" signage placed along the route to encourage motorists to check their speed. We will also use substantial planters to deter vehicles from mounting footpaths placed throughout the village to enhance the village, but also remind the motorists they are in a village environment and should not drive as they would outside villages on the A4095. Anyone interested in helping to build and maintain these planters would be most appreciated. We will, of course, discuss the siting of the planters where they are near people's accesses. Additionally, we will contact the school to ask permission to use the primary colours, associated with areas for children, on the existing barrier and elsewhere to attract motorists' attention driving by the school. White entry gates are being discussed and considered for the north end of the village. A Speed Indicator Device approved by Thames Valley Police has been purchased and a training date and roll-out of the Community Speedwatch scheme will be confirmed when Covid-19 restrictions are sufficiently eased. Lastly, we are in conversation with the Oxfordshire County Highways Department to look into reviewing the location of the existing 30mph signage at the north end of the village, the routing of HGVs through the village and decluttering excessive signage. Since we could do all of this with minimal investment, we took the decision to take action now.

A representative of the group is liaising with Bladon & Woodstock to create a larger strategic group to bring all the villages along the A4095 together to create a cohesive plan for dealing with traffic calming as well as HGV use along the road.

The second phase of the traffic calming measures involves larger ideas which take longer to achieve, are significantly more costly, and will require input from the entire village. We have not confirmed which schemes will be presented to villagers yet but are considering common methods (e.g. requesting a reduction of the mandatory speed limit) and current professional thinking; an example would be physically extending short lengths of verge so that these protrude with grassy areas and perhaps trees to "narrow" the road and encourage motorists to slow down, drive around them and perceive they are in a village. The combination of removing clutter, regulatory signs and markings, and replacing them with alignment changes and village features is known as place-making, which has been proven in other applications to be more effective than the traditional reliance on signage alone.

You will be seeing more about place-making which is the latest professional approach in traffic calming. Place-making engages motorists' attention and responsibility for their actions. It reduces the wallpaper effect of excessive signage. The model is a psychological approach to motorists using the features on either side of the road so that the road becomes less dominant and the motorist slows down as though to "seek permission" to enter the space, which is our village

We look forward to presenting our big ideas to everyone once we create enough options of the larger projects for consideration, as well as finding a platform that is suitable for everyone to be included equally.