



## Report to the Leader (Transport portfolio)

**Decision Date:** 23 January 2023

**Reference number:** TR02.23

**Title:** Aston Clinton Traffic Calming Scheme

**Relevant councillors:** Cllr. Steve Broadbent, Cllr. Bill Chapple, Cllr Michael Collins, Cllr. Julie Ward

**Author and/or contact officer:** Simon Glover

**Ward affected:** Aston Clinton

**Recommendations:**

That the Leader notes the outcome of the public consultation and statutory consultation for the Traffic Regulation Order.

That the Leader delegates authority to the Head of Transport Infrastructure & Delivery to complete detailed design following public feedback.

That the Leader delegates authority to the Head of Transport Infrastructure & Delivery to enter a construction contract for the Aston Clinton traffic calming scheme.

That the Head of Transport Infrastructure & Delivery is delegated to approve contractual commitments up to the value of the released s106 externally funded budget of £440,642 to deliver the Aston Clinton traffic calming scheme.

**Reason for decision:** To enable the implementation of the Aston Clinton traffic calming scheme using s106 secured from local development.

## **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The Aston Clinton bypass was opened in 2003 and the initial impact on the village was positive. More recently, with several new and planned developments in the area, the increased volume and speed of traffic within the village has had a detrimental impact on the locality.
- 1.2 Buckinghamshire Council has worked with Aston Clinton Parish Council and local councillors to develop a package of traffic calming measures to be introduced on a phased basis as and when funding becomes available.
- 1.3 Some of the traffic calming proposals seek to directly address speeding as well as discourage 'rat running' while others provide enhancements to the public realm and sense of place. This builds on work the Parish Council undertook with the community in 2016 as outlined in the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4 As a result of local growth, during the period 2016 to 2018, developer contributions totalling £413,139 were secured towards the provision of this first phase of traffic calming in Aston Clinton village. In addition, contributions relating to speed limit and waiting restrictions have been pooled giving a total scheme budget of £440,642.
- 1.5 The Council carried out a public consultation from 17 August to 16 September 2022.

## **2. Content of report**

- 2.1 This project aims to reduce vehicle speeds and discourage 'rat-running', improve pedestrian safety along London Road and enhance the public realm and sense of place within Aston Clinton village.

London Road, Aston Clinton has been divided into five zones (Appendix A), and implementation of traffic calming measures will be on a phased basis as and when funding becomes available. In the long term, the Parish Council's ambition as set out in the [Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan](#) is to traffic calm the entire length of the village from the A41 Woodlands roundabout (in zone 1) to Tring Hill (in zone 5).

- 2.2 Dividing the village into zones has helped to secure funding from the appropriate developments along the route and, while each zone is being considered individually, when viewed together they will eventually form part of an overall traffic calming scheme for the village.
- 2.3 This report includes traffic calming proposals mainly focussed on zone 3 but also includes features in part of zone 4 and a minor intervention in zone 2, where funding

from developers has been secured for these zones. More significant traffic calming measures in the other zones will be delivered with funding from future developments including:

- Zones 1&2: Woodlands and Hampden Fields developments
- Zone 5: RAF Halton development

2.4 The proposals consulted on were:

- Two raised tables
- Four pairs of speed cushions
- Introduction of time limited parking
- Use of street print coloured textured surfacing
- Relocation and installation of new post and bus stop flag
- Double yellow lines

2.5 The plans illustrating the proposed traffic calming measures in zone 3 and parts of zones 2 and 4 can be found at Appendix B. The proposals in this paper have been assessed and aligned with Traffic Calming in Buckinghamshire guidance.

2.6 Public consultation was held from 17 August to 16 September 2022. Information about the proposals was made available on the main project webpage, a consultation webpage and feedback form hosted on Your Voice Bucks. The Council promoted the scheme through social media channels and via a letter distributed to approximately 300 properties in proximity of the scheme. In addition, an event was held during the consultation period. This is set out in more detail in section 7 of this report.

2.7 A separate statutory consultation was also carried out from 17 August to 16 September 2022 on the proposal to install two raised tables and four pairs of speed cushions, as part of the scheme proposals. It was noted the raised tables are to cover the full carriageway width and have uncontrolled crossing facilities. Based on this, a Notice (Appendix C) was displayed on site, advertised in the press and was served to Chief Officer of Police, Secretary of State, Fire and Rescue Authority, Chief Officer of the local Ambulance service and TfB consultee list. The Notice included the address of Head of Legal and the Highways Infrastructure Projects Team mailbox to which any objections or representations were directed.

2.8 The project team has collated the responses received during the consultation period and the results are summarised in section 7 of this report. Responses to the feedback form and can be found in detail within the Consultation Report Document (Appendix

D), whilst responses to the free-text sections and via emails have been captured in the Consultation Response Document (Appendix E).

- 2.9 There have been no significant changes to the design as proposed for zones 2, 3 & 4 following the public consultation, although several considerations have been captured for future phases of traffic calming, particularly in zones 1 & 5 on the entry points into Aston Clinton village where speeding is problematic. Where feasible, we are proposing earlier implementation of some of these measures.

### 3. Other options considered

- 3.1 One other option has been considered for the project:

- Do Nothing - The project team does not progress with the project and instead returns the funding back to developers once it has expired. This would result in the loss of secured developer funding and the village would not be traffic calmed in line with the objectives of the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan.

### 4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The project finance summary is captured on the table below.

Scheme Name	TOTAL Budget (s106 Funding)	TOTAL Spend Previous Years	Actuals 2022/23	TOTAL Spend to Date	Budget Remaining
Aston Clinton Traffic Calming (Phase 1)	440,642	93,744	15,199	108,943	331,669

- 4.2 Actuals to date cover Feasibility, Preliminary and Detailed Design costs, as well as some consultation costs.
- 4.3 The total cost of the delivery of the Aston Clinton traffic calming scheme is forecast to be £387,370, leaving £53,272 for contingency - see below for details of the scheme cost breakdown:

Description	Total (£)
Feasibility	50,745
Preliminary Design	34,000

Consultation	1,000
Detailed Design	22,500
Construction (est.)	262,625
Supervision	16,500

<b>Total Expenditure</b> (excluding Contingency, Risk & Optimism Bias)	<b>387,370</b>
<b>Total s106 Funding</b> (Budget)	<b>440,643</b>
<b>Remaining Funding</b> (for Contingency/ Risk & Optimism Bias)	<b>-53,272</b>

- 4.4 Buckinghamshire Council has received s106 payments as detailed in Appendix F.
- 4.5 The latest construction cost estimate was produced in June 2022. A contingency, risk & optimism bias cost of £53,272 has been set aside to try to ensure that the scheme is delivered within budget. The construction cost information for the scheme has been provided by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) and once the detailed design is complete, updated prices will be confirmed. The expectation is that the scheme construction cost will be of a similar value but in the event the cost exceeds the available budget, the project team will explore options to value engineer the scheme and liaise with the Parish Council regarding additional budget contributions.
- 4.6 **Budget Changes:** No budget changes are required to the Capital Programme. The capital budget of £440,642 was added to the capital programme in 2021 and a report was approved in early 2022 by the Highways Board to enable release of the funds and delivery of the project.
- 4.7 If the recommendations of this report are agreed, Buckinghamshire Council will look to complete detailed design on the proposed traffic calming measures during December 2022 and enter a contract for the construction in early 2023.
- 4.8 **Legal Implications** – The proposed traffic calming measures are within existing highways which are adopted and maintainable at the public expense. The Highways Act 1980 provides the Council with the powers to implement these measures. The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1996 and the Highways (Traffic Calming) Regulations 1999 contain obligations to consult the chief officer of police about the proposal and to consult such person or organisations representing persons who use the highway or who are otherwise likely to be affected by the works as the highway authority thinks fit, and these procedures have been complied with. Separately the raised tables and speed cushions are subject to notification under section 90C of the Highways Act 1980, and notices in the press and on site were provided accordingly, with no objections received.

## **5. Corporate implications**

- a) Property: All land for this project is already within the Highway Boundary.
- b) HR: There are no foreseen HR implications in agreeing to the recommendations of this report.
- c) Climate change: Agreeing to the recommendations of this report and the introduction of traffic calming features in Aston Clinton, will likely discourage through-traffic in the current volumes/ speeds and keep it away from the village and onto the A41 bypass. Vertical interventions such as raised tables are expected to result in slower speeds while improved public realm can potentially lead to more people walking, providing a reduction in carbon emissions and a benefit to the climate. In combination with future phases of traffic calming the impact will likely be greater still.
- d) Sustainability: Agreeing to the recommendations of this report is expected to result in more people walking for short journeys rather than relying on cars locally.
- e) Equality: In progressing the scheme and carrying out consultations the Council has considered the needs of persons with protected characteristics as set out in equalities legislation.
- f) Data: There are no foreseen data implications in agreeing to the recommendations of this report. This project will not require a data protection impact assessment.
- g) Value for money: The construction contract will be let via the term maintenance framework with Ringway Jacobs (Transport for Bucks). This framework meets all required procurement protocols. The Project was assessed for VfM against similar schemes detailed in Buckinghamshire Council's Traffic Calming document and meets the criteria for outcomes v cost.

## **6. Consultation with local councillors & community boards**

- 6.1 In April 2022, the project team consulted with the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Local Members and shared the consultation plans prior to the public consultation period. In total, 4 Local Members attended the Member Briefing sessions (all Local Members from the Aston Clinton ward were invited to the member briefing sessions).



Members were also given the opportunity to comment on consultation material prior to the material being finalised.

- 6.2 Feedback from the Local Members indicated support for the proposals and welcomed the Aston Clinton traffic calming scheme.
- 6.3 Local Members requested that the project team liaise with the Parish Council to ask for their views on the designs, which the project team did in May 2022. The Parish Council and Members were happy to proceed.
- 6.4 Following consultation, Members and the Parish Council have asked that we look at trialling a one lane entry on the London Road/ Lower Icknield Way mini roundabout, on the eastern approach to the junction. We will introduce the trial to assess traffic impacts ahead of the traffic calming scheme implementation, to bring into scope of works if successful. Also, that we consider increasing the parking restricted waiting time from 30 minutes to 2 hours. We will make an amendment to the proposed TRO to include 2-hour time limited parking. Lastly, that we pursue a speed limit review on Tring Hill, reducing it from 50mph to 40mph prior to entering the village 30mph. The Highways Network Safety team is to assess this as part of the Speed limit Review programme.

## **7. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

- 7.1 The Aston Clinton traffic calming scheme held a public consultation from 17 August to 16 September 2022.
- 7.2 The project team provided the following consultation materials:
  - The project webpage was updated and is accessible at:  
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-and-infrastructure-projects/view-road-projects-in-development/traffic-calming-london-road-aston-clinton/>
  - A consultation webpage was set up on Your Voice Bucks and a feedback form, accessible at:  
[https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/highway-projects/aston-clinton-traffic-calming/supporting\\_documents/Aston%20Clinton%20Traffic%20Calming%20Scheme%20consultation%20%20Printed%20survey.pdf](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/highway-projects/aston-clinton-traffic-calming/supporting_documents/Aston%20Clinton%20Traffic%20Calming%20Scheme%20consultation%20%20Printed%20survey.pdf)
  - An e-bulletin setting out the Aston Clinton Traffic Calming scheme proposals was sent to key stakeholders such as the Local Members and the Emergency Services on 16 August 2022.

- A consultation leaflet was distributed to approximately 300 residents and businesses.

- Local press and social media output was produced to inform the public of the consultation.

7.3 Following the closure of the consultation on 16 September 2022, the project team collated and analysed the responses. In total 148 responses to the consultation were received, 129 via the Your Voice Bucks questionnaire and 19 via the HIT mailbox. Members of the public who completed the feedback form were asked whether they supported or opposed each of the six traffic calming proposals.

7.4 The specific results were as follows:

<b>Traffic calming proposed</b>	<b>Strongly Support/ Support (%)</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose/ Oppose (%)</b>
Double yellow lines	78	10
Two raised tables	76	20
Use of street print coloured textured surfacing	67	11
Four pairs of speed cushions	65	31
Relocation and installation of new post and bus stop flag	60	11
Introduction of time limited parking	53	22

7.5 Within the feedback form, members of the public also had the opportunity to provide free text answers for some questions. People could also submit letters through the post or provide their thoughts by e-mail. The project team has provided a response to the questions and comments that have arisen from the feedback form, letters and e-mail. These can be found in the Consultation Response Document (Appendix E).

7.6 The project team has and will continue to issue regular e-bulletins updating those on the project mailing list with scheme progress. The project webpage is regularly reviewed and updated. Following the questions asked during the consultation period, the Consultation Response Document that was produced will be uploaded onto the project webpage after a decision has been made by the Leader.



## **8. Next steps and review**

8.1 If the recommendations of this report are agreed, the project team will:

- a) continue with detailed design
- b) proceed with the construction of the Aston Clinton Traffic Calming scheme

## **9. Background papers**

Appendix A: Aston Clinton Zones Plan

Appendix B: Traffic Calming Plans

Appendix C: Statutory Consultation Notice

Appendix D: Consultation Report

Appendix E: Consultation Response Document

Appendix F: s106 Contributions

## **10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the Leader to consider, please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by email to [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

