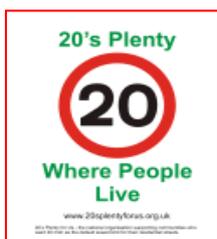


Traffic Management - Part Eight



After a 20-year long journey, Otford is on the brink of addressing the traffic challenges of the village.

The public consultation on the proposed traffic plans to improve road safety generated 70 responses. The responses covered a wide range of issues and suggestions. When considering the outcome of the consultation, it is important to remember that we are significantly constrained by highway regulation and what is physically possible.

Our Traffic Consultant has provided a professional and detailed response to the issues raised during the consultation, together with a summary on the evolution of the scheme and the design approach. As you will see, policy constraints, road geometry and average traffic speeds restrict the options available to reduce speed and improve road safety. It is for this reason, that the initial village-wide 20mph zone has evolved into a reduced 20mph zone along with measures to encourage greater compliance with 30mph speed limits. Whilst everyone's view has been considered, it is the regulatory constraints that determine what is possible and what is not.

The Traffic Consultant's report on the public consultation is now available on the Parish Council website at: www.otfordpc.kentparishes.gov.uk, select 'Traffic Management'. Paper copies are available in the Parish Office.

The traffic scheme will continue to evolve taking into account the feedback from the consultation along with KCC policy constraints and views. At the end of this phase, it is hoped that a final scheme will emerge that best reflects the wishes of Otford residents, within the constraints of highway guidelines, that will ultimately receive KCC approval.

I would like to thank the members of the public and Councillors who have taken the time to share their views on the traffic proposals during the consultation. My thanks also go to our County Councillor, Roger Gough, and Leader of KCC, for his invaluable guidance and support during this long and arduous process.

CLlr Irene Roy
Chairman of the Traffic Management Working Party