

APPENDIX 1 - NORTHCOURT AVENUE TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

Summary of feedback received to the proposals

Version 2, updated 07/06/2025 (following completion of the consultation).

Please note that the feedback text contained in this document has been directly copied from the responses we have received to preserve the integrity of the feedback. Where there was any sensitive or identifiable information provided, this text has been removed and has been clearly indicated.

Ward	Proposal	Feedback received
Church	Northcourt Ave traffic calming scheme	Support: 25 Object: 6 Neither support nor object: 1
1. Neither support nor object	Thank you for the consultation in relation to the speed limit order for Northcourt Avenue and Wellington Avenue. Combined with the introduction of the other traffic calming features Thames Valley Police have no objection to the 20mph limit or the traffic calming speed tables and humps being introduced.	
2. Object	I would like to raise my objections to the speed humps planned for Northcourt Avenue. Whilst I agree that a 20mph limit is good for safety, the number of speed humps is completely excessive. You have planned 15 speed humps, on a road that is well maintained and has no pot holes. This will create lots of interruptions to the road and divert traffic towards Barnsdale Road from the south. Perhaps 3 across the road may be a useful way of slowing traffic, but 15!! Please cancel the one between Wellington Avenue and Ennerdale Road. After turning from Wellington Avenue into Northcourt Avenue north, a speed hump is not required so soon. If you are looking to invest money, please consider mending the pavement on Northcourt Avenue instead. We walk regularly here [REDACTED] and there are so many tree roots and unstable areas, whilst Northcourt Avenue is a well maintained road and does NOT require 15 speed humps and 2 speed tables.	
3. Object	I live at the top of northcourt avenue and drive up and down the road most days to go to and from work. While I agree that a small number of vehicles use northcourt avenue as a shortcut and often at excessive speeds, the proposed speed humps are not an appropriate solution. They would penalise all road users,	

	<p>especially local residents, most of whom drive sensibly and drive up and down the road regularly. speed cameras would be a much better solution, as they would only penalise speeding drivers, and they would also raise some income after the initial cost of setting up.</p>
4. Object	<p>I am not against the 20mph speed limit but I am opposed to the speed humps.</p> <p>While I know that the goal is to slow down traffic, I feel the speed humps could cause problems such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slowing down emergency vehicles like ambulances and fire trucks, which could be dangerous in urgent situations - creating more noise when cars go over them, which as one will be close to my bedroom window, is an issue <p>In addition, the road has regular flooding issues in heavy rain at the Christchurch Road end. Would speed humps make this worse and how will the flooding issues be mitigated?</p> <p>Could speed cameras be used to prevent speeding rather than speed humps?</p>
5. Object	<p>Whilst I have no major objections to the introduction of a 20mph zone, I strongly object to the proposed speed bumps!</p> <p>Firstly, Speed bumps would mainly disadvantage the residents as we are the ones who have no choice to use the road, making every journey to and from home unnecessarily uncomfortable.</p> <p>Secondly, there are several elderly/infirm residents living on or near northcourt avenue so speed bumps, even when traversed slowly, can cause significant pain and distress to those suffering with health conditions.</p> <p>Thirdly, the extra mechanical stress speed bumps put on vehicles will inevitably result in more frequent failure of suspension components leading to higher maintenance costs for those who drive over them regularly I.E. those who live or work nearby who have to use the road and are not likely the culprits of the alleged dangerous driving.</p>

	<p>Speed bumps will essentially cost all residents and those who work nearby, inconveniencing and punishing the majority of folk who drive perfectly safely in an attempt to dissuade a very small minority. As mentioned, a 20mph zone is fine and may even be a good idea in the interest of safety, speed bumps are not.</p> <p>However, if really trying to dissuade poor driving, a speed camera would make far more sense; only penalising the perpetrators of driving excessively quickly, costing them, rather than the all of the local residents.</p>
6. Object	<p>As a resident of Northcourt Avenue, who also works from home in a room looking onto the Avenue, I would like to express my objection to the proposed speed reduction measures in Northcourt Avenue and Wellington Avenue.</p> <p>I object to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of bumps The existence of bumps It doesn't solve the problem The excessive number of bumps <p>If we start with the cost. I do not see this as good use of my taxes. I would rather see a £1 reduction in my council tax than money spent on something which will reduce how enjoyable it is to live on Northcourt Avenue.</p> <p>The bumps will cause vehicles to slow down and speed up as they travel along Northcourt Avenue. This will lead to increased noise and increased pollution. Northcourt Garage may benefit from the number of car suspensions that need to be replaced but I strongly suspect that every resident will have to pay for things to be repaired that they otherwise would not have had to pay for.</p> <p>The reason that more cars are now using Northcourt Avenue is a result of the ill-conceived and almost unused cycle lanes on Shinfield Road. I walk around the area every day and I still see more bicycles on the pavement and on the road than on the cycle paths. As a main arterial road to new housing development, Shinfield Road should have been left to flow with any proposed cycle route being on Northcourt Avenue instead.</p>

	<p>The most dangerous traffic along Northcourt Avenue is not the occasional speeding car but the electric bicycles driven (and yes I use that word advisedly) by masked people with zero care for residents and other road users. I would call them drug dealers but I don't have concrete evidence ... you may well!</p> <p>Finally, I feel the number of bumps is excessive. To propose this many along Northcourt Avenue risks turning us into Beech Lane mark two. I like the fact that cars use Northcourt Avenue. I don't want to live in a giant cul-de-sac that only has residents driving along it.</p> <p>I fear that this is going to be yet another decision from Reading Council that makes my life in Reading less pleasant.</p>
7. Object	<p>I'm writing about the pose reduced speed limit to 20 mph and speed humbs, I live in [REDACTED] and parking between road junction and say doctors surgery is almost impossible at times and going up the road pass the doctors surgery there is still lot of parked cars, so you be lucky to get over 20 mph, and I know from my contacts with Police that a bad motoring law is one that can not be enforced,</p> <p>Also Speed humbs will not make much difference expect caused more wear and tear to vechiles going over them, a better option would be to use speed humbs as use in green park (near the motorway J11) where they are larger and flat with just small ramp on either sides, just enough to slow down cars that might be going to fast, and the tarmac can then be use to help fill in some of the pot holes on roads round Reading and some of them are a disgrace,</p> <p>Looking at how you already install some of the roads layout it, they can caused more road accidents and possible injury,</p> <p>Also has anyone who deals with this type of work every done somesortof Advanced driving course because if they have they could learn more about flow of traffic and the hazards that can caused road accidents,</p>
8. Support	<p>I do not object to these measures, in fact welcome them.</p> <p>My only concern is that some Road users when turning into Ennerdale Road will speed even more than now in response to the restrictions in Northcourt.</p>
9. Support	<p>I am strongly in favour of the proposed traffic calming measures. They should make the avenue much safer for everyone.</p>

10.Support	<p>I have been made aware of the traffic calming scheme and 20mph speed limit which is proposed for Northcourt Avenue.</p> <p>While it is a great pity that such measures are necessary due to a small proportion of road users not driving in a manner conducive to road safety, I am afraid that the time has come to install such features.</p> <p>My comments are under two headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Vehicles leaving the road at the curve outside the entrance to the University Halls of Residence at 12 Northcourt Avenue at the north end of the Avenue. * Misuse of the 'Left Turn Only' at the junction of the Avenue with the Christchurch and Shinfield Roads at Christchurch Green. <p>Vehicles leaving the road I live [REDACTED] and since moving into the house [REDACTED] there have been at least 8 occasions where property damage has occurred [REDACTED] due to northbound cars leaving the road. I list these events, but in some cases the dates are estimates:</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Officer comment: The respondent has described a number of incidents and the content contains information that could identify them and/or others. We have redacted the information for this public report.</p> <p>In other words, property has been damaged by vehicles crossing the footways every [REDACTED] at this one site. In all these cases no pedestrians were hurt, but as this pavement is intensively used by the several hundred students in the University's Northcourt Halls on their way to and from the main campus at some point in the future chance will work the other way.</p> <p>Misuse of 'Left Turn Only' Although traffic should only turn left at the junction of Northcourt Avenue with Christchurch Road it is apparent that a proportion of drivers ignore the signs and turn right. From those I have seen the majority</p>
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	<p>go along Elmhurst Road. This turn has to be done quickly to fit into the traffic light sequence and as a pedestrian crossing the main road it is very disconcerting to find a car approaching quickly out of sequence.</p> <p>This junction is confusing as the road markings in Northcourt Avenue permit cyclists to turn right (also out of sequence).</p> <p>I would ask that consideration be given, during the final design of the traffic calming speed table at this junction, to ways of making it more difficult for drivers to make an illegal right turn.</p> <p>Conclusion I have looked at the drawings of the scheme and have read the supporting documents and I support the scheme as proposed. I hope that it will reduce the maximum speed of vehicles in the Avenue and, among other things, reduce the risk of vehicles coming off the road.</p>
11.Support	Cars are always speeding in that road, many times will almost crash with another one because of that.
12.Support	Speeding and traffic volume are considerable problems for residents in Northcourt Ave, there have been a significant number of accidents. NARA, the residents association for Northcourt Ave and Wellington Ave, have liaised with RBC traffic department to find the most suitable scheme, which we believe it is. I fully support the proposal.
13.Support	Speeds are regularly much too high along Northcourt Avenue, and this plan should reduce this, whilst not making it too inconvenient for residents.
14.Support	There has been much consultation about traffic calming options in the past five years, and this seems a well-planned answer to the serious problem we face in Northcourt Avenue
15.Support	We are in favour of the traffic calming to be carried out as soon as possible.
16.Support	<p>I am strongly in favour of the Northcourt Avenue traffic calming plans. Having worked as part of NARA in the consultation group and looked at all the options alongside the council planners, I believe that the scale, type and location of the measures are necessary and proportional and well focussed in order to deal with the very serious speeding issues.</p> <p>Both myself and my wife and our children, are looking forward to seeing some action to make the Avenues safer for residents and road users.</p>

	<p>The use of sinusoidal speed humps is preferred and the locations appear well considered in my opinion and as part of a 20mph zone, will be the best way to stop this area being continuously used as a rat run for speeding drivers.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing this implemented quickly before somebody gets killed as until now it is and still is a miracle that nobody has been seriously hurt.</p>
17. Support	<p>I write to strongly support the proposed introduction of traffic calming measures in Northcourt Avenue, Reading. Since Shinfield Road was narrowed by introducing raised kerb cycle lanes to slow traffic, drivers have increasingly been using NA as a rat run down to Christchurch Green. As a resident of the lower reaches of NA, I observe speeding and inconsiderate driving every day, which is especially dangerous near the University Health Clinic where patients cross the road on foot, or cars pull out of the clinic's parking lot. In addition to the implementation of a 20mph speed limit and calming measures, I would urge the council to consider installing speed cameras to enforce this speed limit; to include a flat top speed hump with pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the clinic; and to introduce a restricted residents parking zone along NA, which would further reduce through traffic.</p>
18. Support	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>RE: Dangerous speeding and speed reduction measures on Northcourt Avenue.</p> <p>There was a consultation process on 16th May which I was not able to attend.</p> <p>I live in [REDACTED]</p> <p>The speeding on Northcourt Avenue is on another level. It's like living next to an F1 track. People race down the road really dangerously at upwards of 60mph. At night I can hear them roaring past out of my daughter's window.</p> <p>I've been overtaken on the road while driving at 30mph, by people seeming to be going double my speed.</p> <p>It's dangerous and ridiculous. My kids have to cross the road to go to school in the morning, and sometimes there are maniacs roaring past. In fact, one child was run over on his bike [REDACTED]. Fortunately he was OK but his bike was trashed.</p>

	<p>This cannot go on. With the level of school children crossing that road in the morning, sooner or later there's going to be a horrific accident.</p> <p>You need to reduce the speed limit to 20mph and use your allocated budget to put in traffic calming measures.</p>
19.Support	<p>Proposal will add value to my house which is on the street - that we will live in a safe area. I have considered moving in the past because it is so unsafe.</p> <p>Proposal will help with sense of community - especially the crossings at the end of the roads - I feel this is really good, gives the area a separate community minded continental vibe. It doesn't punish people who live on the road but adds to their experience.</p> <p>Proposal makes road safer - my kids can be allowed to go outside in the front by themselves as far less likely they will be killed. Currently I worry even when I am with them because cars go so fast, sometimes on the wrong side of the road. If we don't have these measures someone will eventually lose their life.</p> <p>Proposal makes road safer - as an adult I have to be very cautious crossing the road. I will still have to do this but with a 20mph in place at least I know if I get hit by a car it won't be as bad as if they are going 70mph.</p> <p>Proposal makes road safer - we have seen recently cases of cars totalled, twice in two months. It's only a matter of time before an out of control driver hits a house or kills themselves on the road.</p>
20.Support	<p>Cars use this road to avoid traffic lights on Shinfield Road and race down Northcourt Avenue at reckless speeds. Many children walking to school are in danger of being killed at such high speeds.</p>
21.Support	<p>To slow down traffic</p>
22.Support	<p>Broad support, though less happy about humps AND 20mph. I think humps alone would do. And thank you for your involvement with this "rat-run and speeding" issue. Nuisance is one thing, but the speeding is downright dangerous on occasions.</p>
23.Support	<p>I have experienced damage to my house</p>
24.Support	<p>My wife and I support the principle of introducing speed bumps to the avenue and accept the economic argument for limiting maximum speed to 20 mph.</p>

	However, we ask that the entry angle to the bumps be made more shallow than that commonly used in Reading so that cars with normal-sized wheels can progress over the bumps at up to 20 mph without either the risk of injury to the occupants or damage to the vehicle."
25. Support	I fully support the proposed traffic calming measures - both the speed humps and the 20mph speed limit - which are long overdue to prevent dangerous speeding and repeated accidents in the Avenue.
26. Support	I am writing in support of the proposed introduction of speed humps on our road. The street is increasingly being used by boy racers, with vehicles often travelling at excessive and dangerous speeds. This poses a serious risk to residents, particularly school children. The road urgently needs traffic calming measures to ensure safety for everyone. As long as the speed humps do not create significant noise disturbance, I am fully in favour of their installation.
27. Support	Speeding and use of Northcourt Avenue as a rat run has been an issue for many years.
28. Support	I have reviewed the plans thoroughly and agree that the measures are fair and appropriate in efforts to improve the safety of residents of Northcourt Avenue.
29. Support	Traffic on road currently dangerous and speed limit often ignored with speeds up to 60-70 mph. Hopefully this measure will make the road safer.
30. Support	I fully support the proposal to take traffic calming measures on Northcourt Ave having witnessed dangerous speeding incidents frequently. I hope these can be installed before a serious accident happens.
31. Support	Strongly support the proposed scheme to reduce traffic speed in Northcourt Avenue. However, please check the exact location of proposed speed hump 9m NW of Wellington Avenue as the drawing appears to position it across the driveway of 51 Northcourt Avenue. Thanks
32. Support	I am writing to express my support of the proposed traffic calming scheme in Northcourt Avenue. My thanks to the council for their work in bringing this scheme forward.