



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of an **INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION** will be held in SF1 - Civic Offices on **TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 12.00 PM**

*Heather Thwaites*

Heather Thwaites  
Acting Chief Executive  
Published on 5 November 2018

This meeting may be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council's control.



# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Our Vision**

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

## **Our Priorities**

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

## **The Underpinning Principles**

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

**For consideration by**

**Anthony Pollock, Executive Member for Highways and Transport**

**Officers Present**

**Sara Allman, Senior Traffic Management Engineer**

**Callum Wernham, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist**

| <b>IMD NO.</b> | <b>WARD</b> | <b>SUBJECT</b>  |               |
|----------------|-------------|---|---------------|
| 2018/37        | Emmbrook    | <b>OLD FOREST ROAD - TRAFFIC CALMING &amp;<br/>30MPH SPEED LIMIT PROPOSAL</b> | <b>5 - 10</b> |

**CONTACT OFFICER**

**Callum Wernham**

**Tel**

**Email**

**Postal Address**

Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist

0118 974 6059

callum.wernham@wokingham.gov.uk

Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item IMD37

## INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: IMD 2018/37

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>TITLE</b>                       | Old Forest Road - Traffic Calming & 30mph Speed Limit Proposal                |
| <b>DECISION TO BE MADE BY</b>      | Executive Member for Highways and Transport - Anthony Pollock                 |
| <b>DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME</b> | 13 November 2018<br>SF1 at 12.00pm  |
| <b>WARD</b>                        | Emmbrook; Winnersh;   |
| <b>DIRECTOR</b>                    | Acting Director of Locality and Customer Services<br>- Interim Sarah Hollamby |

### OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Requests have been made by residents associations in Emmbrook and all local interested Ward Councillors to reduce to the speed limit and improve safety of all users of the route. This will increase journey time for those vehicles using the route, but will promote other routes to be used.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Highways and Transport:

1. Notes the contents of this report;
2. Agrees that the traffic calming and reduced speed limit be advertised in accordance with current legislative requirements and if no objections are made, change the speed limit and install traffic calming measures as shown in Appendix 1.

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report outlines the responses following consultation with residents in the area of Emmbrook relating to reducing the speed limit to 30mph and installing traffic calming, and proposes that the scheme is advertised as proposed. It also considers impacts of deferring that decision until the NWDR has opened.

## Background

As part of the installation of the North Wokingham Distributor Road it is thought that traffic will “swing” away from Old Forest Road, just after the Toutley Bridge, towards the motorway and then go through the allotments onto a new junction with Reading Road. When this is open it will take a lot of traffic off the section of Old Forest Road between the junction of Reading Road and where this new road moves off of the top section of Old Forest Road.

During the planning process a signalised junction was designed at the junction of Old Forest Road and Reading Road, but this was discounted and the developer agreed to use those funds to improve the local area.

Emmbrook Residents Association, Winnersh and Emmbrook Ward Councillors have requested WBC to reduce the speed limit along Old Forest Road prior to the NWDR being opened. When setting speed limits local authorities are required to following guidance provided by Department for Transport which states that speed limits should be evidence-led, self-explaining and seek to reinforce people’s assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance. Speed limits should be seen by drivers as the maximum rather than a target speed. Where the nature and character of a road does not support self-compliance then physical measures must be provided to encourage traffic to travel at the new speed limit.

Traffic surveys show good compliance with the current 40mph speed limit with average speeds recorded on the section of Old Forest Road between Commons Road and Toutley Road within the tolerances considered acceptable by the Police. Therefore the Police, as the only agency that have the authority to enforce speed limits, have informed us that they will only accept a reduced speed limit if it is accompanied by physical measures such as speed bumps or chicanes, otherwise they will object to the formal process. An objection from the police would stop this proposal from being implemented.

The cost of the introduction of traffic calming measures to be installed is around £48 – 50k and the subsequent Traffic Orders and signing is around £5-6k.

During the month of July 2018, WBC carried out a consultation with local residents in the Emmbrook area with a view to installing traffic calming on Old Forest Road to achieve a speed limit reduction to 30mph. A total of 789 letters were sent out to residents and we had a total of 176 responses.

Following the end of the consultation, there were 85 responses to keep the existing 40mph speed limit and 91 in favor to reduce to 30mph and install traffic calming. As this was exceptionally close, we applied further filters and removed multiple entries from the same properties. On applying this filtering it was also then flagged that some references did not correspond to a correct address, or the response was from a non-local and these were also discounted.

This resulted in a total of 64 responses in favor of keeping the existing arrangement and 68 responses to change to 30mph and install traffic calming.

Comments received over the telephone during the consultation were mainly along the lines of “why change it now?” and “why not wait until the road is opened and see what happens then?”

Consultation results:

40mph = 64

30mph = 68

## Safety Record

Since October 2007, there have been 4 personal injury accidents recorded along Old Forest Road. Of these 3 were slight injuries and 1 was a serious injury. The serious injury related to an intoxicated driver and therefore does not show any issues with the road layout or speed. None of the 3 slight injuries had contributory factors relating to speed or the road layout.

## Conclusions

As none of the injuries relate to speeding, it is un-necessary to reduce the speed limit based on safety records.

As there is no vast overall majority of support within the results for the changes, this implies that many residents are happy with the current arrangement and would prefer to wait for the opening of the NWDR before taking any action. The low response rate also shows that residents are not overly interested in having their say on the changes to the road.

Due to the costs involved and the speed compliance/safety record, it would be prudent to await the opening of the NWDR and this should be considered as a viable option.

However, the local residents association are keen to have these proposals in place prior to the opening of the NWDR and it is therefore proposed to continue with the consultation of the scheme to its formal stage.

It is therefore the recommendation to proceed with the proposals as shown in Appendix 1 to formal consultation stage.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

|                                   | How much will it Cost/ (Save) | Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall | Revenue or Capital? |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Current Financial Year (Year 1)   | £56,000                       | Existing budgets would need to be realigned                 | Capital (S106)      |
| Next Financial Year (Year 2)      |                               |   |                     |
| Following Financial Year (Year 3) |                               |   |                     |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b> |
| N/A  |

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Cross-Council Implications</b> |
| N/A                               |

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES</b> |                          |
| <b>Director – Corporate Services</b>     | Sarah Hollamby           |
| <b>Monitoring Officer</b>                | Andrew Moulton           |
| <b>Leader of the Council</b>             | Charlotte Haitham-Taylor |

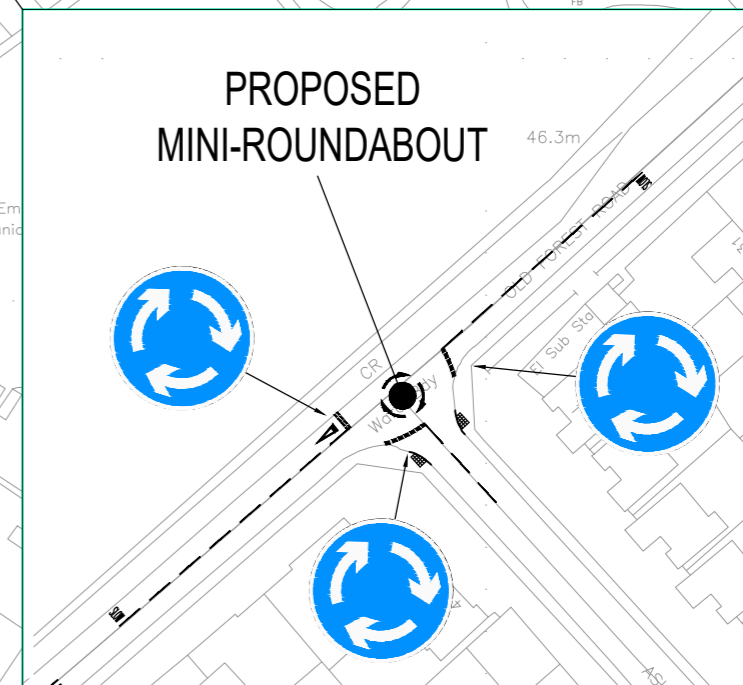
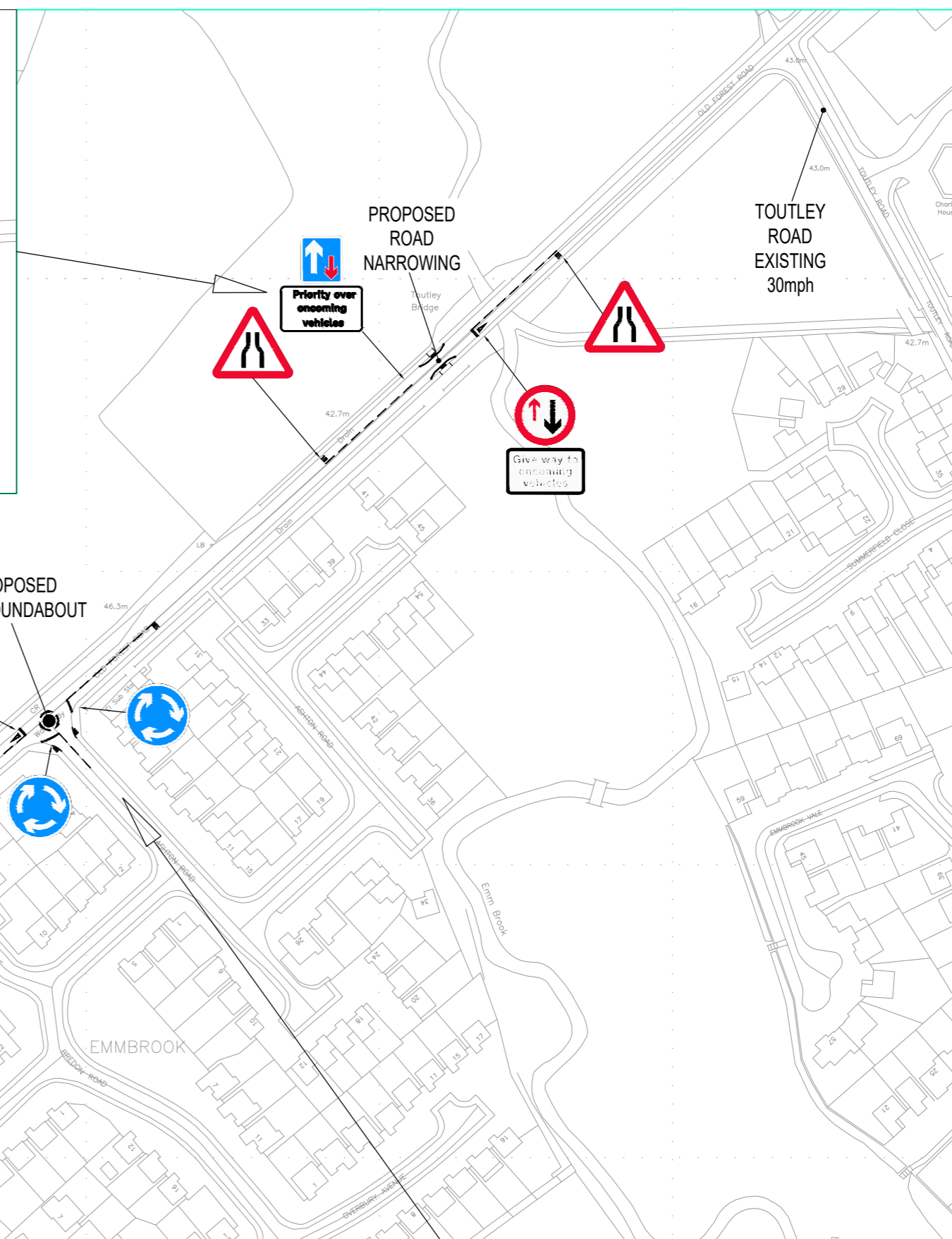
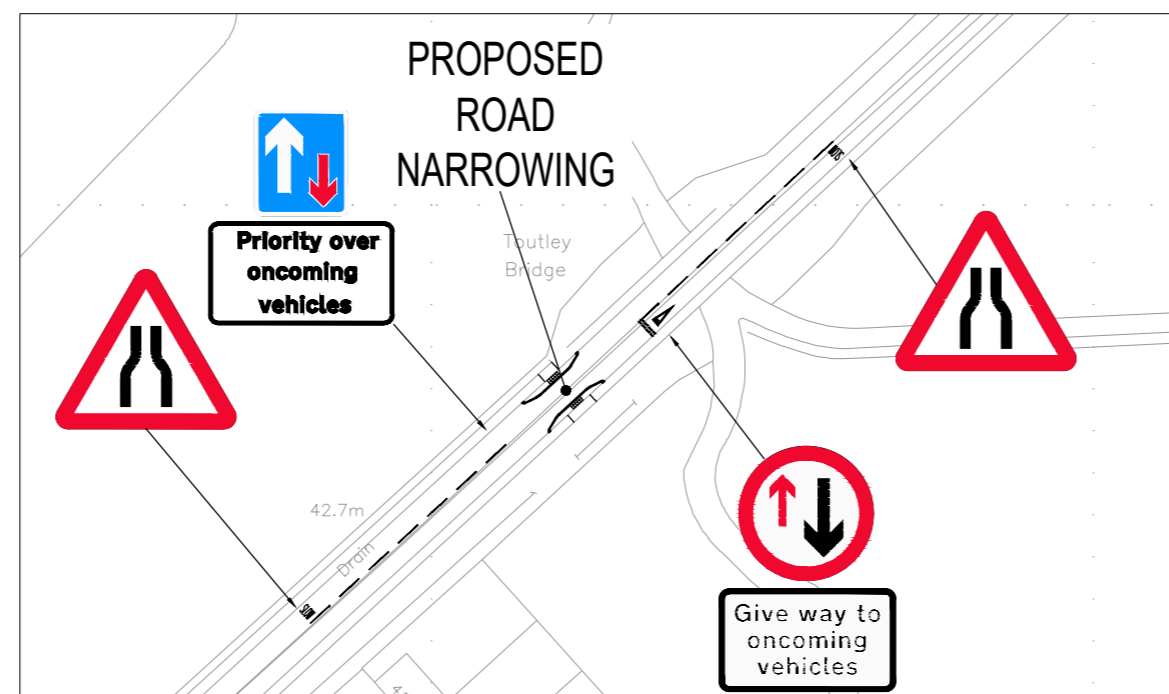
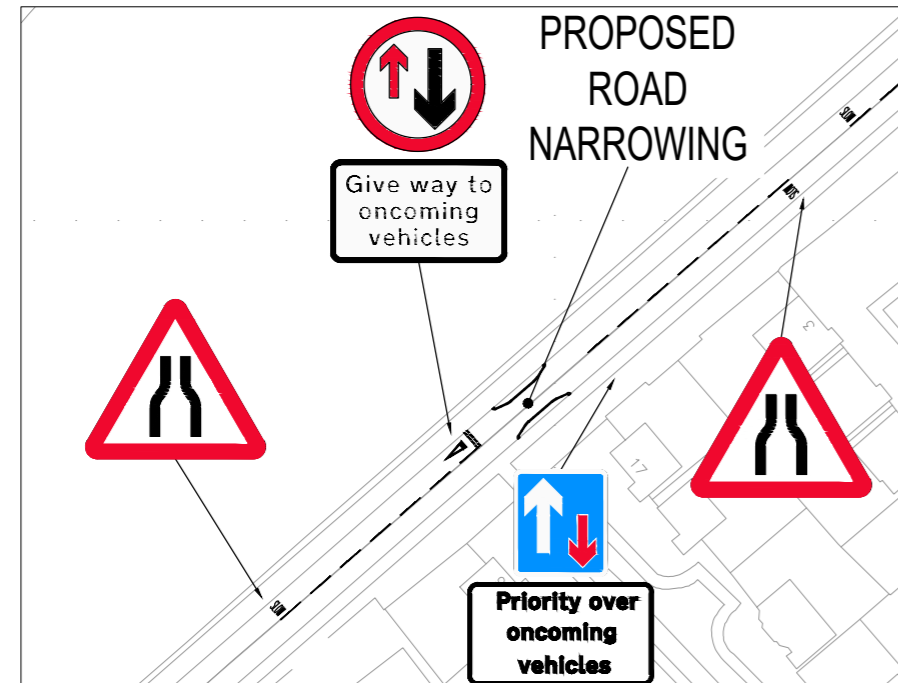
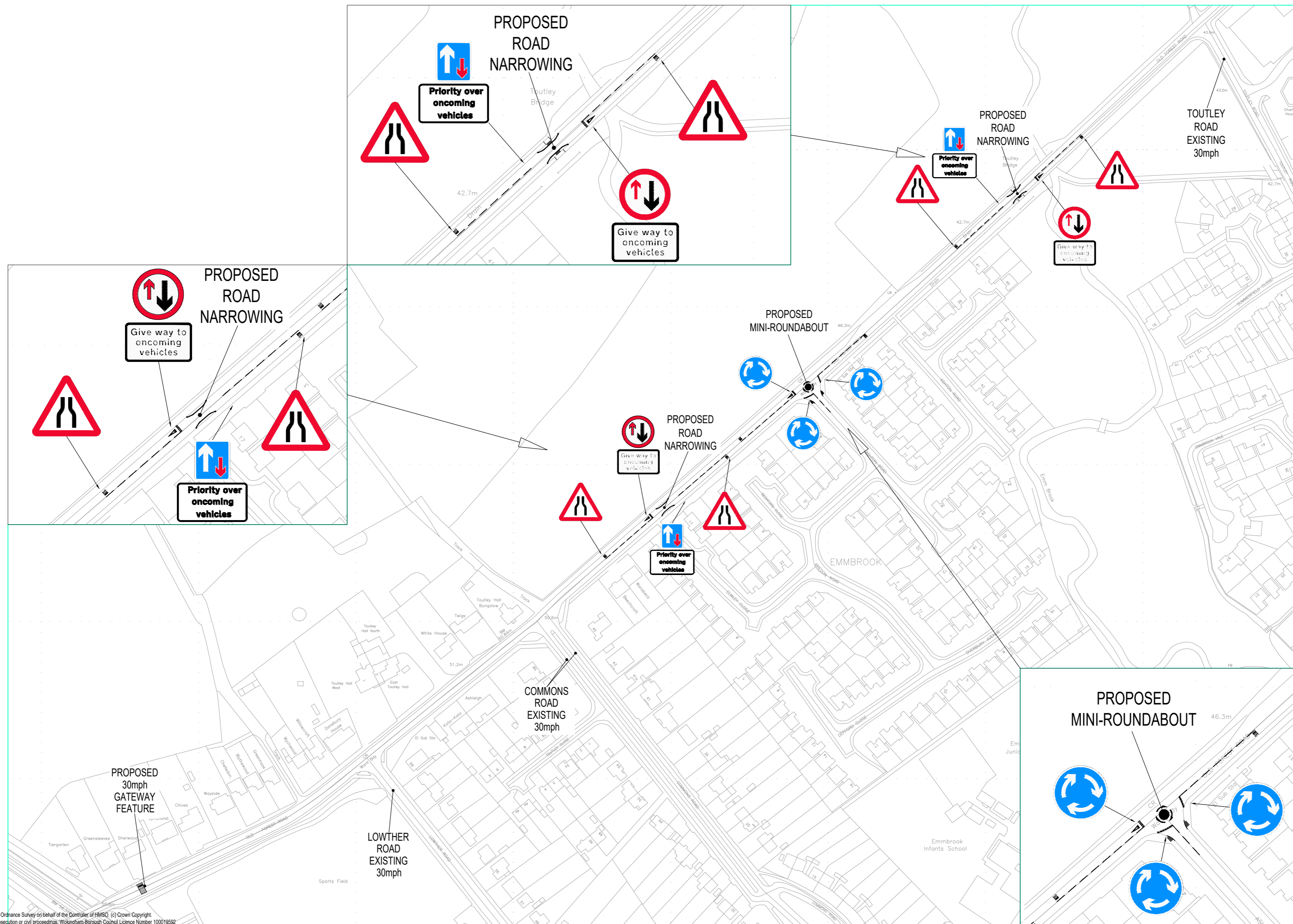
|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>For Highways use only</b>    |               |
| <b>Town and Parish Councils</b> |               |
| Wokingham Town Council          | None received |
| Winnersh Parish Council         | None received |
|                                 |               |
| <b>Local Ward Members</b>       |               |
| Emmbrook                        |               |
| Winnersh                        |               |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b> |
| N/A   |

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>List of Background Papers</b> |
| Appendix 1                       |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Contact</b> Sara Allman             | <b>Service</b> Customer and Localities    |
| <b>Telephone No</b> Tel: 0118 974 6856 | <b>Email</b> sara.allman@wokingham.gov.uk |





The map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. (c) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Wokingham Borough Council Licence Number 100019592

| REV             | DATE | BY | DESCRIPTION | CHK | APD |
|-----------------|------|----|-------------|-----|-----|
|                 |      |    |             |     |     |
| DRAWING STATUS: |      |    |             |     |     |

**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1BN  
Tel: (0118) 974 6000 Web: www.wokingham.gov.uk

|   |
|---|
| CLIENT:<br><b>WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL</b> |
| ARCHITECT:                                  |

|   |
|---|
| PROJECT:<br><b>OLD FOREST ROAD (ASHTON ROAD)<br/>WOKINGHAM</b>  |
| TITLE:<br><b>CAPITAL SCHEME 2018/19<br/>GENERAL ARRANGEMENT</b> |

|                                    |                              |                       |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SCALE @ A2:<br>NTS                 | CHECKED:<br>TRA              | APPROVED:<br>SG       |
| CAD FILE:<br>FOREST_GA_002 NH EDIT | DESIGN-DRAWN:<br>JM          | DATE:<br>October 2018 |
| PROJECT No:<br>5049                | DRAWING No:<br>FOREST/GA/002 | REV:                  |

This page is intentionally left blank