

FAO: [county] County Council Cabinet Member for [Transport...]

CC: local County, District, Borough or City Councillors.

Healthier, cleaner, safer: Setting a 20mph default speed limit

[xxxx] Parish Council requests [county] County Council to adopt 20mph as the default speed limit for urban and village roads in the county. A higher limit can be set as an exception, where there is evidence that it will be safe for pedestrians and cyclists. Regarded as global best practice, the UK government committed itself to 20mph speed limits by signing the 2020 Stockholm Declaration.

The benefits of 20mph are clear: better for children, elderly, pedestrians, cyclists and for the disabled. 20mph reduces road casualties and emissions, makes it more likely that people will walk or cycle and has almost no effect on journey times for those in motor vehicles.

20mph is popular. In survey after survey, around 7 in 10 people say they support 20mph speed limits. 28m people in the UK live in local authorities that have committed to a 20mph speed limit on most urban and village roads. As a Highway Authority, [county] is rapidly becoming an outlier by endorsing speeds of 50% higher on most built-up roads.

Even where [county] County Council considers a 20mph scheme, its current policy often requires high-cost engineering solutions, which effectively prevent many Parish Councils from implementing 20mph. A signed-only wide-area scheme combined with education is better, easier and more cost-effective for all.

We ask that you work with other decision makers and officers in [county] to set an authority-wide default 20mph limit for urban and rural community roads and make it easier for communities like ours to secure a speed limit of 20mph.

We also call on [county] County Council to write to the UK National Government and request that 20mph be made the national default speed on restricted roads, with 30mph as the exception where warranted.

Please keep me informed of your progress.

Signed:

For xxx Parish Council