

13 February 2023

To whom it may concern

Dear Parish Council,

I appreciate the support of the "20's Plenty" campaign led by Worcestershire CALC and I am writing to you as the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport.

I would like to express my concerns regarding the implementation of a blanket 20mph speed limit across Worcestershire. A study conducted by the Department for Transport has revealed that 20mph zones may not effectively reduce accidents among vulnerable road users. In fact, there is evidence of a scheme being removed in Wales due to its ineffectiveness.

Blanket 20 mph zones, while well-intentioned to make roads safer, can sometimes have unintended consequences. For instance, drivers may view the zones as arbitrary and ignore them, leading to low compliance and reduced effectiveness. Furthermore, slow speed limits can lead to frustration among drivers and an increase in dangerous driving behaviours. Some research even suggests that blanket 20 mph zones can increase the risk of accidents by creating confusion for drivers who cannot accurately judge their speed or the speed of other vehicles. The success of blanket 20 mph zones depends on various factors, including the area's characteristics, enforcement efforts, and public education.

Moreover, driving at 20mph for extended periods of time can result in increased distractions, higher emissions, fuel consumption, and longer journey times. These factors should be considered before making a decision on implementing a widespread 20mph speed limit.

I recommend that each area be evaluated individually to determine the most appropriate speed limit. This will take into account road safety and road user convenience to ensure that all factors are considered. In cases where the request for consideration is made by an external body, such as a Parish Council, without supporting evidence, a financial contribution towards the County Council's costs may be expected.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Best regards,



Mike Rouse
Cabinet Member with
Responsibility for
Highways and
Transport

Electoral Division
Redditch South
(shared)

c/o County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Mob: 07935 702567

Email
mrouse@
worcestershire.gov.uk