

20's Plenty



Where People Live

20mph Limit for Buckden Village

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Why 20s Plenty for Buckden – Myth Buster & Info Sheet

20mph won't make it safer

- 20mph is nearly fatality free, at 30mph pedestrians are likely to be severely hurt and at 40mph they are more likely to be killed.
- More than 80% of child road casualties occur on 30mph streets.
- Lowering urban and residential speed limits to 20mph has been found to decrease child pedestrian accidents by up to 70%.
- Much fewer accidents as everyone has time to avoid a crash.
- Evidence on vision shows that children can't reliably judge speeds above 20mph.
- The Government has recommended local authorities consider 20mph on residential streets and those with lots of pedestrians/cyclists.
- 20mph is supported by Inst of Paediatrics, NICE and Public Health England because it makes roads safer

People won't change their behaviour/it won't be enforced

- The community is already showing its support that they will observe the limit and we can do more to publicise before implementation
- Police can enforce the limit, and do elsewhere.
- Signs would be put up to reinforce the 20mph limit.
- If there are persistent problem areas, further speed reduction measures could still be introduced.
- Average road speeds, and the fastest road speeds have reduced where these limits have been introduced elsewhere (eg Portsmouth faster roads speeds decreased by 6-7mph). Even 1mph matters. Every 1mph less reduces casualties and severities by 6%.

Which roads would be 20mph?

We are asking that 20mph be the default limit through the Village. It will be for the County Council to decide which, if any, roads would be at different speeds. No additional speed humps/physical calming measures are required, so it is a change of signage, and some additional signing to make it clear for drivers.

20mph is OK around the School but not needed elsewhere

Children walking to School use all the Village's streets, and a zone just round the School would only help them for a very small part of their journey. It would not help other residents who feel that traffic is too fast on their roads, and particularly for the elderly in the Village who are slower at crossing, and more vulnerable if hit than any other age group. If you just have a zone around the School, drivers are encouraged to speed back up, even though still on the streets where people are living and walking around the village so its sending a confusing message.

Not all roads are the same, so don't have a default 20mph

The Highways Code says the speed limit is the absolute maximum and does not mean it is safe to drive at that speed irrespective of conditions, and it would be the same at 20mph. There are lots of parts of the Village where people would not be driving any faster than 20mph already, because of existing road conditions. This proposal would help to reduce top speeds on the Village's streets.

20mph encourages walking and cycling

- 20mph limit is advocated by Public Health England as a way to raise exercise levels as children can walk and cycle much more safely.
- Children need fewer escorted trips and can have more local playmates
- In Edinburgh, children cycling to school after 20mph limit was trialled rose from 4 to 12%. Children allowed to play out on the street rose from 31% to 66%.

20mph will increase journey time

On a wide road with no other traffic it would, but the main speed limiting factors through the Village are the junctions, or where you have to give way where the roads narrow, so 20mph won't make any significant difference.

20mph increased fuel use/pollution

Reduced braking and accelerating, and a more constant smooth speed has been shown by the AA to result in lower fuel use and reduced pollution and noise. Compared to 30mph, 20mph means 3 decibels less traffic noise.

20mph feels really slow

Change does take time to get used to. It felt odd when people started to wear seat belts, but now they are second nature, and this would be so too. Feeling a bit slow is a small price to pay for the health and lifestyle improvements we could enjoy with 20mph.

www.buckden.20splentyforus.org.uk