

open letter to the transport and environment committee

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Dear Chairman Clarke and members of the Transport and Environment Committee,

I am local, West Bridgford resident (and parent of three school-aged children). After witnessing a near miss accident with some parents and seeing people speed down our local street, I decided to start campaigning to make West Bridgford a more pedestrian and bike friendly place in general.

There has been an increasing sense, on our street, in chats with fellow parents at school pickups and drop-offs that the 30mph default is not working.

Some more organised canvassing of opinions more widely in our neighbourhood (and various follow ups in some blog posts) have been very instructive. <https://bit.ly/make-wb-20mph>. My take-away is that there is a real appetite for a 20mph on residential roads across WB and the whole of Nottinghamshire.

I realise that there has been some resistance to this idea in some quarters (various reasons are presented), but one particular one is enforcement and compliance. My reading of various studies (2018 Atkins report + responses to it, RoSPA study, United Nations call for 20mph where people and cars mix, etc) is that even though compliance is not 100%, the net effect is a clear reduction of the number and severity of accidents when speeds are lower; not to speak of the environmental benefits and perceived quality of life improvements.

The organisation Twenty is Plenty For Us has also produced a Calculator / modelling that shows that the benefits of introducing 20mph very quickly outweigh the financial costs (https://www.20splenty.org/cost_benefit_calculator). One important aspect of this is surely that a reduced # of accidents leads to a reduced workload for that specific responsibility of the local police force.

I realise that your next committee meeting is now scheduled for the new calendar year (05 January 2022), but I was wondering whether this is a topic that your committee will be discussing?

Given that the idea of a 20mph limit seems so popular across the whole area, it should be a (non-)political slam-dunk, but the fact that 20mph has not been introduced for so many years here, indicates that I might be missing an important piece of the puzzle.

I'd very much appreciate your view (and, hopefully, support!)

With best wishes

Denis Schluppeck