

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

9 December 2014

Final Report of the 20 mph Policy Task Group

Purpose

1. To present the conclusions and recommendations of the 20 mph Policy Task Group for endorsement.

Background

2. The draft policy and consultation report was considered by the Environment Select Committee on 10 December 2013. Four members of the public on behalf of their respective community campaigns addressed the Committee and expressed concerns about the level of consultation that had taken place and to what extent community opinions had been taken into account when creating the draft policy. The main concern that was highlighted was that the Policy did not fully reflect the Department for Transport Guidance on 20mph limits issued in circular 'Setting Local Speed Limits' (01/2013). There were also concerns that the requirements for the creation of a 20mph limit or zone were too restrictive.
3. The trend towards an ageing and more vulnerable society was also highlighted, and whether increased frequency of 20mph zones would be of positive benefit, as well as other options such as shared space schemes. Shared space is an urban design approach which seeks to minimise demarcations between vehicle traffic and pedestrians, often by removing features such as curbs, road surface markings, traffic signs, and regulations. This approach has been used as part of living streets in residential areas in a bid to create uncertainty in drivers to reduce speeds and collisions.
4. The Committee resolved to set up the Task Group to review and help develop the policy as it was enacted.

Methodology

5. The Task Group comprised the following membership:

Cllr Peter Edge (Chairman)

Cllr Rosemary Brown

Cllr Bill Douglas

Cllr Mollie Groom
Cllr Jose Green
Cllr Magnus MacDonald

6. It should be noted that the remit of the Task Group was not to debate the efficacy of 20 mph restrictions but to review the current Policy as enacted. From the outset, the Task Group sought to work towards the following outcomes:
 - I. To explore the adequacy of the current policy with reference to a range of research and witness accounts;
 - II. To review the policy as it was enacted in terms of whether it will enable the delivery of reduced numbers of casualties and increased general road safety; and
 - III. To report back to the Environment Select Committee with recommendations for endorsement.

7. The Task Group met on four occasions and received written and/or verbal evidence from the following witnesses:
 - Cabinet member for Highways, Streetscene and Broadband
 - Associate Director for Highways
 - Traffic Engineering Manager
 - Principal Traffic Engineer
 - Representatives from the Bradford on Avon 20s Plenty Group
 - Rod King MBE, 20s Plenty National Campaign
 - Representative from the Devizes Community Area Partnership
 - Wiltshire Police
 - Shrewton Parish Council
 - Salisbury City Council

8. The Task Group considered a variety of research in order to test the efficacy and basis of the testimonies that they had heard. A list of research considered is available in **Appendix 1**.

Research

The following briefly summarises some of the findings of the topical research that the Task Group considered.

Reduction in the number and severity of road casualties

9. The percentage of pedestrians killed when hit by a car reduces as vehicle speed is reduced. One study found that at 20mph there was a 2.5% chance of being fatally injured, compared to a 20% chance at 30mph. However, there is no evidence to suggest that any reductions in the number of collisions are directly attributable to 20 mph schemes. In one case study in Portsmouth the number of collisions actually increased, serious injuries increased by 57% in 2011 compared to 2010. Serious casualties on 20 mph roads increased from

18 to 21 and on 30 mph roads from 56 to 94. Oxfordshire also experienced increased serious injuries in each of the two years following 20mph implementation. It is suggested that the reason for this is that pedestrians are lulled into feeling safer and are thus more likely to take less care.

Social Implications and Public Health

10. Research demonstrated that social interactions correlate with traffic levels, in that where the volume of traffic is lower and travelling at slower speeds communities were more able to interact socially. This has also been found to be the case in terms of providing increased opportunities for children to play in their neighbourhoods where a fear of speeding traffic was previously an issue.
11. Reducing traffic speeds has been demonstrated to encourage people to walk and cycle more for local trips in urban areas, with the associated benefits of tackling obesity through physical activity with up to 20% increase in take-up due to the schemes. However the trials in Wiltshire were inconclusive in this point (Delivering soft measure to support signs only 20 mph limits' – A report on research findings by the University of the West of England).

Air Quality

12. The Department for Transport acknowledge that 20mph schemes should contribute to reduced emissions by enabling a smoother driving style. Results suggest imposing a 20mph speed limit would have mixed effects on emissions from a single vehicle, and it can be supposed, ambient air quality. (Delivering soft measure to support signs only 20 mph limits' – A report on research findings by the University of the West of England). The evidence from 20mph studies is that the changes in emissions are complex. Estimated NO_x (mono nitrogen oxides) is increased for petrol vehicle and decreased for diesel (with the expectation of a negligible increase for large diesels). Large vehicles exhibit an increase in emissions, but not a substantial one. The inefficiencies in fuel consumption of travelling at lower speeds are demonstrated by the trend in CO₂ emission factors. In general it is concluded that it is incorrect to state that a 20mph speed restriction will lead to greater pollutant emissions for vehicles
13. The most significant benefits would arise if the introduction of 20mph can encourage more people to leave their cars at home for local trips (An evaluation of the estimated impacts on vehicle emissions of a 20mph speed restriction in central London, Transport and Environmental analysis group, Imperial College London, April 2013).

Traffic Noise

14. Driving at 20mph has been found to reduce traffic noise; the benefit of a signs-only scheme is that drivers can adopt a smoother driving style than if they were driving through a calmed zone with engineering features. However, in Bristol it was found that the small reductions in noise (- 0.5dB maximum) were likely to be imperceptible to residents but that the overall perception gathered from household surveys is that there is a decrease in noise levels (Delivering soft measure to support signs only 20 mph limits' – A report on research findings by the University of the West of England).

Trials conducted in Wiltshire

15. In recognition of the increasing number of requests for 20mph limits resulting from the publishing of revised guidance from the Department for Transport in the 'Setting Local Speed Limits' (01/2013); it was accepted that clear, evidence based guidance should be produced to establish Wiltshire's own local policy framework suitable for its rural and urban communities alike. In order to ensure the adopted policy is predominantly 'evidence led' trials of 20mph limits were conducted at a number of selected village locations during the 2010/11 financial year.
16. A two-stage assessment process was undertaken to select the villages to be used, these were as follows: Great Cheverell, Limpley Stoke, Great Bedwyn, Westwood and Biddestone.
17. The key objective of the trial was to measure the impact of 20mph limits in rural village environments through the signs alone and without the use of traffic calming features typified by urban 20mph Zones such as road humps or chicanes etc. It should be noted that each site was consulted on the specific approach to be taken.
18. At each trial site a number of monitoring 'stations' were established to collect automatic traffic count data both before and after the implementation of the 20mph limit. The 'stations' were located at regular intervals throughout the study area with a focus on the main through-routes to traffic. The agreed number for each village depended on its overall size and length of roads within the new restriction.

Other Scrutiny Panels

19. The Task Group considered a summary of the findings of a selection of scrutiny panels at other Local Authorities (**Appendix 2**) and looked at some example reports, such as Portsmouth City Council and Gloucestershire County Council (listed in **Appendix 1**) to seek guidance on their methodology.

Police Perspective

20. The Police submitted written evidence (**Appendix 3**) to the Task Group which demonstrated their support for schemes whereby the restriction is appropriate for the location, has a proven need, clear and that motorists have the ability to comply. It was highlighted that it is rare for 20mph schemes to be implemented in areas where there is a Killed and Serious Injury risk. The Task Group noted that Wiltshire does not have a large number of roads that meet these criteria and that those that do would not be appropriate for a 20mph scheme. Due to this it was acknowledged that the schemes are only one part of a whole toolkit that the Council may use to improve road safety.
21. It should be noted that Wiltshire Police cannot currently enforce 20 limits/zones by way of fixed penalty notices, any offences have to be dealt with by way of summons to court (as confirmed by the Wiltshire Justice Traffic Office). The current position in Wiltshire is that only education for Careless Driving offences is offered, speed awareness workshops are not operated, therefore referrals to that process is not possible. There are trial schemes in Devon and Cornwall where they are able to use a Fixed Penalty Notice but time scales for these schemes are not currently known.
22. Where applied, a 20mph limit should be largely self-enforcing and evidence be provided for the proposed location that this is likely to be the case prior to implementation as the police are unable to provide additional resource to enforce a 20 mph limit. Where 20 mph limits do not achieve broad compliance, the police consider the location to be unsuitable for such a limit.

Local Perspectives

Bradford on Avon 20s Plenty Group, Rod King MBE 20s Plenty National Campaign and Devizes Community Area Transport Group

23. The Task Group heard from representatives of the Bradford on Avon 20s Plenty Group, Rod King MBE of the 20s Plenty National Campaign and a representative of the Devizes Community Area Transport Group. A number of key messages were provided which are also contained in **Appendices 2 and 3** respectively. In relation to the Wiltshire Council Policy it was suggested that:
 - i. Main roads with strategic function should be considered for 20 mph limits where there are community benefits.
 - ii. Pedestrian and cycle movements should not have to be 'demonstrated' to enable and 20 mph limit.
 - iii. 20mph limits should be able to be applied to areas with average speed limits above 24mph.
24. The Task Group heard that 20 mph schemes have been done best whereby they are implemented community wide on a default basis with justified exceptions. It was highlighted that an understanding of the pros and cons of the limit was important.

25. It was noted that the community schemes are not about traffic engineering but focussed on adjusting social norm, making driving at 20 mph acceptable and expected in the presence of communities and in particular vulnerable people. It was felt that with the right education and raising awareness of the wider implications, that this is achievable. The importance of the perception of the communities impacted was held to be a priority over what statistics show. It was highlighted that communities often feel that any reduction in speed is beneficial, even where full compliance to a 20 mph speed restriction is not achieved; for each 1 mph reduction in speed results in a 5% reduction in collisions or the chance of a collision occurring.
26. The wider implications of utilising 20 mph schemes were deemed to include improvements to public health in the form of encouraging and allowing increased numbers of people walking and cycling thus promoting active travel and tackling obesity. This would also promote a rebalance in favour of non-motorised transport and communities; and engage motorists in taking responsibility for all road users' safety. However, it was felt that a range of methods to educate and raise the awareness of the public are required to facilitate the right environment. Further benefits such as improved air quality where speeds are slower and more consistent; and social interaction were highlighted.
27. Wiltshire has lower numbers of casualties and 'black spots' than other counties but it was held that a wider intervention tool was required to tackle the number of casualties which occur outside of black spots or clusters, the solution being 20 mph restrictions.
28. It was noted that the Bradford on Avon Town Council supports the work of the 20s Plenty Group and that work has been done to prioritise and map out the key routes that would benefit from a 20 mph scheme.
29. It was advocated that 20 mph restrictions should be employed where possible and in particular where vulnerable road users may be present. It was highlighted that alternative and additional funding for schemes may be acquired through bodies such as Public Health and should be actively sought.

Salisbury City Council

30. The Task Group received a letter from Salisbury City Council (**Appendix 4**) expressing concerns that the C.A.T.G. was unable to take effective decisions over which schemes should be implemented year on year as the case for each are not heard at the same time at the beginning of each year; input from a Wiltshire Council Highways officer would be beneficial to allow decisions to be more evidence based regarding their selection and prioritisation. It was also highlighted that such resource would add more

value if utilised earlier in the process rather than only at the stage whereby the C.A.T.G. (Community Area Transport Group) is involved.

31. It was also raised that the current piecemeal approach to implementation is unproductive and does not send a clear message which is necessary for success.
32. It was raised that the current piecemeal approach is not ideal and that more complete roll-outs across residential areas would send a clearer message about the priority which should be given to pedestrians and cyclists, thus aiding the overall improvement of road safety.

Shrewton Parish Council

33. The Task Group received a letter from the Parish Council (**Appendix 5**) expressing grave concern over the use of the village as a 'rat run' and the impacts on the community, also that the public perception of the problem is not being adequately taken into account. This was raised in particular relation to the need of the community to feel safe when walking or cycling in the village; health (air quality) or environmental (noise pollution) issues. It was noted that there seems to be no process for assessing the real damage that inappropriate traffic speed does to communities and that the Parish Council would like to see a lot more positive, proactive engagement.

Chippenham 'No Need for Speed' Campaign

34. It was reported that in canvassing local residents' opinions on 20 mph restrictions and installing signage for the 'No Need for Speed' campaign it became apparent that there was a lack of community support and buy-in. Furthermore, no impact by way of speed reductions was registered. It was also noted that many newer residential estates are designed to facilitate lower speeds.

Alternative examples of speed and road safety management

35. The Task Group considered the use of 'Shared Space' schemes as an alternative method of managing speed and road safety. Although this type of scheme was of great interest to the Task Group and was deemed to facilitate the reduction of speed and improved road safety more efficiently than 20 mph schemes, the provision of alternatives lies outside of the Task Group's remit.
36. The Task Group heard that in other European countries, some cities have created areas that are 'anti-car' by promoting public transport, increasing the amount of pedestrianised areas and making places more cycle-friendly. These schemes were put in place in order to discourage the use of cars due to the difficult driving conditions and the readily available alternative transport options.

37. In many other counties traffic signal lights have also been used as a tool for managing speed in terms of enabling them to measure speed and stop vehicles that exceed the speed limit and hold them for several minutes. This has been used to discourage speeding and teach drivers that they gaining nothing from doing so.

Findings

38. The trials showed an average speed reduction across all sites of 1.6mph. With the exception of a single monitoring station, the biggest reductions were witnessed shortly after implementation. Thereafter the figures remained largely static with only minor variations in 'mean' speeds as drivers became accustomed to the limit.

39. Collision data was also reviewed and it was concluded that it is impracticable to identify any obvious trend relating to casualty reduction resulting from the introduction of 20mph limits. It should be noted that near misses are not recorded due to the difficulty in recording them and ensuring the accuracy of the records. Area Boards and C.A.T.G.s are authorised to facilitate the collection of such data and have been invited to do so, however there has been a lack of take up on this.

40. Approximately 12 months after the trials were completed community views were canvassed via household surveys with a 58% response rate. Overall, residents perceived vehicle speeds prior to the introduction of the 20mph limit to be high with some 85% of respondents feeling that speeds were either 'very high' or 'sometimes high' in their respective villages. Nearly 53% of respondents across all sites reported that speeds had 'decreased a little', which supports the evidence from the recorded 'after' data. Across all sites, an average of 29.6% felt the reduced limit had made no difference to vehicle speed.

41. In terms of overall satisfaction with the 20mph limit, some 56% of respondents were either 'satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' compared to 21% shown as 'fairly dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'. Despite this, there seemed to be a relatively even split between those making positive comments and those making negative ones.

42. The effect of the 20mph limit on qualitative community benefits appeared to be modest, with the majority of respondents reporting little change on issues such as 'less through traffic', 'increases in pedestrian/cycle activity', greater on-street social interaction and 'improved community environment'. On the question of whether or not the 20mph limit had contributed to a 'safer environment' 45% of respondents either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed'. This, together with the overall feedback of communities is demonstrative of the mixed views on the effectiveness of the schemes. Full details of the trials and community responses can be found [here](#).

43. A key issue raised by the public was in relation to Council engagement with communities and communication particularly in relation to where a scheme is refused; the Task Group was informed that a full and timely explanation as to why this is the case will be provided.
44. In terms of the suggested amendments from the Bradford on Avon 20s Plenty Group, it should be noted that the current Policy already allows for roads with a strategic function to be considered for a 20 mph scheme where clear community benefits would be achieved and this is in keeping with paragraph 84 of the Department for Transport Guidance Circular (01/2013). Furthermore, the current policy does allow for the consideration of roads which have an average speed of 24 mph or marginally above, whereby 'lighter touch' engineering measures may be effectively deployed in conjunction with the limit to encourage broad compliance. This provision is further emphasised in paragraph 85, which states that: "successful 20mph limits and zones are generally self-enforcing i.e. existing traffic conditions of the road together with other measures such as traffic calming or signing publicity and information as part of the scheme lead to mean traffic speed compliance with the speed limit."
45. Clearly for sites in which average speeds are well in excess of 24mph, compliance could only realistically be achieved by utilising robust engineering measures such as chicanes, humps etc. or a reliance on regular Police enforcement and this clearly goes against the ethos of 'sign only' 20mph limits and the guidance outlined in Circular 01/13.
46. Whilst paragraph 84 states that '*20mph limits can be considered on major streets where there are - or could be- significant numbers of journeys on foot or by cycle*', it is not unreasonable for the highway authority to determine the level of suppressed demand in this regard in order to distinguish between sites where the greatest benefit would be accrued and prioritise accordingly.
47. It must be noted that the Policy is open to evolution in light of new evidence. The Department for Transport has commissioned a research report on the successes and failures of 20mph schemes so far and how limits may be best used. This is due in 2017. Amendments are also due to The Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions in 2015 which may result in a reduction in the cost of implementing new 20mph schemes.

Conclusions

Having considered the evidence, the task group concluded the following:

48. Based on the limited results and benefits seen from the trials and research, discussions with witnesses and officers; the Task Group concluded that in many areas 20 mph limits would not be justified, particularly in light of the probability that the initial impact of a scheme is likely to be relatively short lived and the longer term benefits inconclusive.

It was also concluded that whilst area wide 20mph limits in Wiltshire should not be completely ruled out, the use of blanket 20 mph limits should only be considered where there is robust supporting evidence as to their likely success. Where individual needs are evidenced and justified, 20 mph limits can be a useful tool and this can be catered for under the current policy and existing methods for selection via C.A.T.G.s and Area Boards.

49. The Task Group recognises the importance of the perception of communities and that residents in locations suffering from excessive speed and associated issues may be best placed to determine how the problem can be dealt with. However, the task group is concerned that implementing schemes in locations where it is evident that broad compliance will not be achieved, could lead to community and/ or driver apathy and potentially lead to a general disregard for speed limits in the area. It was also raised that where speed limits do not achieve broad compliance, that this is a waste of valuable funding which could be spent on schemes that are well evidenced and indicate a good chance of success. There was also concern that giving priority to community perception above statistical evidence that a 20 mph scheme will improve road safety and reduce speed significantly may create unrealistically high expectations.
50. Although statistics do not show a significant reduction in speed in some areas, the public perception is often that even a small reduction is a success. However, research shows that even in these circumstances the effectiveness of schemes can be limited to the first three months; is highly dependent on the specific location of the scheme and that public perception overall may be inadvertently damaged if the location is incorrect. This demonstrates the polarity of views and the interpretations of the evidence presented to the Task Group. It must be noted that whilst the Task Group valued highly the witness testimonies, which demonstrated that public perception of success is not reliant on tangible results and statistics, scrutiny is necessarily based on substantive evidence.
51. It was accepted that the Council's policy is to use funding in a targeted manner to tackle specific issues and that this is the correct approach in the current economic climate. The Council's overall aim is to reduce road collisions, which largely occur on rural roads; and at bends or junctions, therefore funding for measures that achieve this, such as appropriately located 20mph limits, are prioritised based on accident statistics. It must be noted that overall, Wiltshire has a lower level of injury collisions than many neighbouring authorities and that the budget available should remain focused on those areas that have a high collision rate in order to reduce the overall number of casualties on the network. The village trials of 20mph speed limits demonstrated no impact on reducing the number of collisions or casualties.
52. The Task Group concludes that the Policy, whilst being a cautious interpretation of the Department for Transport guidance, is compliant, fit for

purpose and allows for local discretion. It has been demonstrated that where schemes have been unsuccessful it is damaging to public perception and frustrating for those communities that the schemes are intended to serve. It is therefore prudent to ensure funding is only allocated to those schemes that meet the requirements of the Policy and where evidence demonstrates overall compliance to a 20mph limit is likely to be achieved.

53. Local discretion could potentially be increased by allowing C.A.T.G.s and Area Boards to facilitate any number of schemes, provided that they do so within the confines of the current funding, rather than prescribing that only 2 schemes per year may be implemented. This would allow for multiple smaller schemes or one large scheme as per the needs of the community. It should be noted that the Task Group considers that the allowance of only 2 schemes per year does carry the benefit of ensuring that they are carried out thoroughly in terms of adequate resourcing and advice; resulting in controlled implementations which stand more chance of success.
54. It was deemed that 20 mph schemes are only one part of a whole tool kit at communities' disposal to improve road safety and reduce speeds, as these issues are multi-faceted. The Task Group concluded that communities should therefore be encouraged to investigate alternative methods of addressing their concerns prior to seeking a 20 mph limit and take advice from Council officers as to which method may best address the specific problems faced in their locality. Alternative methods may include: protected pedestrian paths, additional footways or cycle paths. An important factor that cannot be addressed by 20 mph limits alone is the attitudes of drivers; improving driver attitudes towards 20 mph limits, other road users and appropriate driving styles in residential areas is paramount to resolving the problem, additional promotional activities are required for scheme success. The outcome sought by interest groups was supported by the Task Group, only the method of achieving it was disputed. It should be noted that the Task Group felt that whilst interest groups are members and representatives of their communities, they do not necessarily represent the views of whole communities. As seen in the responses to the trials not all community members supported the limits.
55. A report on the use of 20 mph restriction outside of schools is also due to be available shortly, this should be considered as an additional tool for addressing feelings of unease with regard to vulnerable road users such as children.
56. The Task Group concluded that the current Policy is fit for purpose and does not require any amendments at this stage; however the interpretation and application of it should be as wide and flexible as possible. It is held that the Policy supports the Council's vision of 'creating stronger and more resilient communities' whereby 'people work together, solve problems locally and participate in decisions that affect them'. This may be promoted further by encouraging a more flexible approach to interpretation of the

Policy by the Council, C.A.T.Gs and Area Boards when considering applications.

Recommendations

Having considered the evidence, the Task Group recommends that:

1. Local road safety initiatives, are pursued by communities with the support of C.A.T.Gs and Area Boards;
2. Communities are encouraged to pursue alternative funding, including undertaking their own fundraising to implement schemes that are unable to be catered for by C.A.T.G.s and Area Boards and increasing their precept;
3. The report on 20 mph limits outside of schools comes to the Environment Select Committee and be progressed;
4. To allow C.A.T.G.s and Area Boards to facilitate any number of schemes that they believe suits the needs of their communities and makes best use of the existing funds allocated;
5. That the Task Group reconvenes in 2017 to review the Policy in light of the research commissioned by the Department for Transport and the impact of amendments to Traffic Regulation Orders which may decrease the cost of implementation.

Next Steps

The recommendations of this Task Group, if approved by the Environment Select Committee, will be provided to the Cabinet member for Highways, Streetscene and Broadband for consideration. The Task Group shall receive the Executive's response and update the Committee accordingly.

20 mph Policy Task Group

Peter Edge, Chairman of the 20 mph Policy Task Group and Environment Select

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Appendix 1

Speakers at the Environment Select Committee on 10 December 2013

Anne Henshaw, Calne Community Area Partnership,
Ashley Halls Ph.D., Winsley and Turleigh 20s Plenty and Turleigh Traffic Action
Group,
Gill Anlezark, Cycling Opportunities Salisbury,
Alex Machin, 20s Plenty Bradford on Avon.

Summary of evidence taken into account

- Written evidence from Wiltshire Police
- Verbal evidence from representatives of the Bradford on Avon 20s Plenty Group, Devizes Community Area Partnership and Rod King MBE, 20s Plenty National Campaign
- Written evidence from Shrewton Parish Council and Salisbury City Council

Documents

Title	Organisation/ Author	Date
Wiltshire Council Policy on 20 mph speed limits and zones	Wiltshire Council	2013
20 mph Speed Restriction Policy: Report on consultation	Wiltshire Council	November 2013
Delivering soft measures to support signs only 20 mph limits	University of the West of England	June 2012
20 mph speed limits for cars in residential areas, by shops and schools	Danny Dorling	
Area-wide 20mph neighbourhoods: a win, win, win for local authorities	Local Government Information Unit	
An evaluation of the estimated impacts on vehicle emissions of a 20mph speed restriction in central London	Imperial College London	April 2013
Scrutiny Task Group Report	Devon County Council	November 2008
Slower speeds are better for health	Danny Dorling	March 2014
Scrutiny has proven 20mph limits	20's Plenty For Us Briefing	August 2012
Scrutiny Task Group Report	Gloucestershire County Council	
Towards a standard limit of 20 mph in all residential areas of towns in Hertfordshire – a briefing	Hertfordshire County Council	2013

note		
20 mph Policy Task Group: A community perspective (Appendix 3)	Devizes C.A.T.G.	20 May 2014
Scrutiny of Policy 20 mph limits and zones in Wiltshire (Appendix 2)	Statement: Alex Machin and Rosie Meachin– 20s Plenty Bradford on Avon.	20 May 2014
Public Health Gains from 20 mph Limits	20's Plenty for Us Briefing	November 2012
Impact Assessment	Bristol City Council	July 2012
Review of 20 mph Zone and Limit Implementation in England	Department for Transport	2009
Setting Local Speed Limits	Department for Transport Circular 01/2013	2013
Interim Evaluation of the Implementation of 20 mph Speed Limits in Portsmouth	Department for Transport	2010

Appendix 2

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee – Task Group

20th May 2014

Scrutiny of Policy 20 mph limits and zones in Wiltshire

Statement: Alex Machin and Rosie Meachin– 20s Plenty Bradford on Avon.

1. Intro

1.1 Thank you for inviting us here today:

- We are representing the community of BoA who want 20mph limits throughout town.
- We have full Town Council support for this aim and
- We sit on the Town Council task group working towards implementation of this aim.

1.2 20s Plenty Bradford on Avon continues to have serious concerns with regard to the content of this draft. The draft policy still remains out of kilter with government guidance and best practice approach currently being implemented by many other Local Authorities. We believe the policy falls short in many places and is stifling community aspirations for safer streets.

1.3 We are delighted that this task group is investigating whether the current policy is robust in delivery of the intentions of DfT circular and current best practice. We hope that this task group will take this opportunity to make clear recommendations to the committee and Cllr Thompson of how this policy should be improved.

2. What is the situation with Wiltshire policy and how does it impact on our proposed scheme?

2.1 The speed and volume of traffic in Bradford on Avon has long been one of the main concerns expressed by local residents. Similarly the speed of traffic is often quoted as one of the main safety factors which people see as a barrier to travelling around the communities on foot or by bicycle or to letting children travel

independently. This is affecting the quality of life of the community.

2.2 The aims of 20mph limit in Bradford on Avon are to:

- Encourage more people to walk and cycle;
- Improve road safety and to
- Help create more pleasant and shared community space

2.3 We believe by making BoA safer and more attractive, a greater number of people will be encouraged to walk, cycle and spend time in their local community. This will have far wider physical and mental health benefits.

2.4 We have mapped out in BOA the priority routes that would benefit from a 20mph limit. As part of the process we highlighted the schools, town amenities, recreation areas, transport hubs, elderly homes to identify these Major Community Routes for Vulnerable users through town.

2.5 We have chosen these routes as our priority for 20mph limits on these roads as we believe:

- **They bring the most benefit to a large number of users;**
- **Provide a safer environment for children walking and scooting to school;**
- **Assist the elderly and wider community accessing key town services and amenities safely;**

2.6 However under the current Wiltshire policy, these roads **cannot be considered** for a 20mph limit and are **precluded** from the scheme. The Wiltshire policy on 20 mph speed limits and zones states in 5.2 that 20mph limits can only be considered:

- *On Roads that do not have a strategic function or where the movement of motor vehicles is not the primary function and in those areas where significant pedestrian and cycle movements are demonstrated to take place.*

- *Where mean 'before speeds are at or below 24mph and in those locations where the mean speeds are just above 24 mph and the use of lighter touch engineering methods are likely to result in after mean speeds below 24mph.*

2.7 This position is surprising and in conflict with recent Government guidance (DfT **Circular 1/2013 Setting Local Speed limits**). The section on 20mph limits (Para 81-88) **Para 84** states:

“Based on this positive effect on road safety and generally favorable reception from local residents, traffic authorities are able to use their power to introduce 20mph road limits or zones on:

- *Major streets where there are - or could be – significant numbers of journeys on foot, and/or where pedal cycle movements are an important consideration, and this outweighs the disadvantage of longer journey times for motorized traffic.*

This is in addition to

Residential streets in cities and towns and villages, particularly where the streets are being used by people on foot and on bicycles, there is community support and the characteristics of the street are suitable.”

Paragraph 78 discusses this a bit further:

“In many urban centres, main traffic routes often have a mixture of shopping, commercial and residential functions. These mixed priority routes are complex and difficult to treat, but the most successful measures have included speed management to keep speed at the most appropriate levels in the context of both 20 and 30 mph limits and reassignment of space to different functions, taking into account the needs of people on foot or on bikes. Sometimes a decision about a road’s primary or most important function needs to be taken.”

2.8 Similarly DfT 2013 does NOT suggest that 20 mph limits should “only” be considered for use on roads where mean speeds are already 24 mph or less. It actually states that:-

*“97. The Implementation of 20 mph limits over a larger number of roads, which the previous Speed Limit Circular (01/2006) advised against, **should** be considered, where mean speed at or below 24 mph are already achieved over a number of roads. Traffic authorities are already free to use additional measures in 20 mph limits to achieve compliance, such as some traffic calming measures and vehicles activated signs, or safety cameras. Average speed cameras may provide a useful tool for enforcing compliance with urban speed limits.”*

2.9 Whilst this may only be considered a subtle difference, it is important that the DfT guidance is accurately reflected. Rather than guiding against a 20 mph limit in such circumstances it actually suggests the need to use methods to gain compliance.

2.10 Portsmouth e.g.

2.11 The DfT guidance is being applied successfully in other authorities. Bristol identified the need to have a 20mph speed limit on streets with shops, schools and leisure facilities as well as residential roads. These are the locations with high levels of pedestrian activity. Pedestrian and cycling activity may also be artificially suppressed by high average car speeds. A road that appears as just a through route for someone driving may be a busy 'high street' for local people- this is the case in BoA.

2.12 Bristol have included main routes under the 20mph limits e.g. Whiteladies Road. Unlike Wiltshire, they took a different approach, introducing a default 20mph limit unless there was a good reason for exemption.

2.13 In the heart of the city main routes are 20, however on the outskirts with less community function and wider roads and pavements, it resumes to 30. Edinburgh are following this approach.

2.14 There are lots of examples of where 20 mph limits are being applied to main routes through community areas:

- Thorsk A61 has 20 mph limits through the centre of the town,
- Southwark London A215 has a 20mph limit in the north and John Ruskin St in the south;
- Petersham A307 Petersham Rd and Sandpit Rd have 20 limits
- Oxford the A420 has a 20 mph limit through the High Street

2.15 We request that the task group recommends that 5.2 be re-drafted to reflect current government guidance and best practice to the following effect:

1. Main roads with strategic function can be considered for 20 mph limits where there are community benefits.
2. Pedestrian and cycle movements do not have to be 'demonstrated' to enable a 20 mph limit. Guidance states it is where these movements "are or could be" Para 84 DfT Circular 1.2013.

3. 20mph limits can be applied to areas with average speed limits above 24mph.

2.16 As elected reps we call on you to use your power to make recommendations from this scrutiny to change this policy in a way which will enable your local communities to implement these schemes successfully.

2.17 It is key to remember that the aim of 20 mph is to save lives. Reducing speed on 30mph roads is much more effective at saving lives than rather than the approach of confirming an already low average speed.

Appendix 3



TRANSPORT GROUP

20 mph Policy Task Group: A community perspective, Devizes CATG 20 May 2014

Thank you for inviting me to the Environment and Scrutiny Committee's session about Wiltshire's policy on 20 mph and for your interest in the early stages of implementation in Devizes through CATG.

My attendance is at your initiative to report on the experience with the intention to assist with policy areas that could be strengthened. The comments are my personal understanding of what has transpired at Devizes CATG.

Past involvement in policy development

DCAP responded to Wiltshire's consultation on its draft policy. However our Group's response was not considered because it arrived a few days after your deadline. As I explained to the Portfolio holder, this was anticipated due to the consultation period being held during August and our first DCAP meeting did not permit a timely response. Our points should be considered by this Task Group (see Appendix A).

Our position is to support 20mph as a default for all residential streets with exceptions being made on a case by case basis. This supports the Devizes Transport Strategy (2012) policy T1.

Process in practice to date

- 1) Parish Councils in the community area had been asked to consider 20mph speed limit reviews and had been told that CATGs could only afford two schemes. The interest generated by the CATG letter was limited and the minutes for 20th March state that "in future years, greater dissemination of this information would be helpful. However a decision needs to be taken in Apr 2014 as to which schemes to put forward." 7 requests were received: 2 in Devizes, 3 in Market Lavington, 1 in Bishops Cannings and 1 in Etchilhampton. Potterne Parish Council was also going to request a 20mph area but this had not yet been received.

At the meeting I proposed that all residential roads around the whole of the Brickley Lane residential area should be considered to remove the anomaly of new neighbouring estate that had the benefit of

20mph. This was carried forward.

- 2) The initial assessment of the schemes presented to CATG 28th April are summarised in Appendix B. Potterne Parish Council's late request for a 20mph limit from an existing 30mph would be carried forward to 2014/15. The two locations selected to be put forward to the Area Board were:
 - a. Brickley Lane including Longcroft Road, Brickstead Avenue, Roseland Avenue et al. These met the criteria and where speed might be higher than the policy interventions would be considered.
 - b. Western End of Urchfont which was largely well within the 24mph limit but it was recognised that Blackboard Lane (near a school entrance) would be helped by a 20mph limit/zone.

Comments on prioritisation of some requests

- No budget for any scheme was revealed because of the unknown actions that 20mph implementation would entail in each case, such as speed calming known after investigation.
- The criteria given to the parish councils might have been confusing. For instance, the two of the three schemes for Market Lavington could have been submitted as part of a single area wide scheme but the parish council considered their chances to be higher if they selected three danger spots, two of which were adjacent to their High Street where traffic flow was generally below the threshold due to regular congestion of parked cars. Whilst these two proposals met the criteria, the assessment suggested a wider scheme should be proposed for consistency.

The danger was, apparently, perceived road danger and Highways had not recorded sufficient collisions to prompt further action.

- A further scheme in Bishops Cannings, adjacent to the primary school and met the criteria, was given lower priority because there was a chance that the implementation cost could be borne by a future developer rather than CATG. It also emerged that there is no 20mph policy for schools.
- Selection of Urchfont raised an interesting question about the necessity of the criteria adopted to apply where village streets there were very slow in any case. "We are ticking a box," was the comment.

Questions and issues that I found limiting

- TWO PER CATG: Why is each CATG told that it could only 'afford' two schemes when neither a budget nor costs were explicit? How could such an arbitrary system result in coherent decisions?

I am not convinced about expensive interventions as a limitation. The 20mph signage alone has been shown to have a worthwhile affect on speed of traffic and is cheap. The wider the area the more consistency and possibility of greater understanding by drivers.

- ENFORCEMENT: We were told by the highways engineer that all schemes must be self monitoring because police enforcement must not be required for a 20mph limited road.

First, this misinterprets Circular 01/2013 para 85 which states that *'Successful 20 mph zones and 20 mph limits are generally self-enforcing [...]. To achieve compliance there should be no expectation on the police to provide additional enforcement beyond their routine activity, unless this has been explicitly agreed.'*

Second, this statement is at odds with the Policy Commissioners enthusiasm for Community Speedwatch which has been extended to 20mph schemes and reported by the police to the Area Board.

- VILLAGE SPEED TESTS: When querying the effectiveness of an exemplar 20mph in our Community Area (Great Cheverell) this was held up as an exception and that the results of other village tests revealed a small reduction at higher speeds from 29mph down to 26mph.

I do not understand this statement since I have now seen the results of the five Trial Villages (Appendix C) which show that the mean speeds were very positive where pre-mean speeds were highest. Perhaps this is reporting 85th percentile speeds.

General points and conclusions

- 1) I was impressed with my daughter's experience of 20mph where she lives in Bristol. She has not noticed much change in speeds in her street due to parking congestion along her road, but she has felt a positive difference on other streets.

As a motorist she is relieved that it is legitimate that she can drive at 20mph without pressure from other drivers who may wish to break the limit. Drivers on the other hand, tend to be more aware of her as a pedestrian and cyclist in areas where 20mph is signed and she feels less stressed. As a mother, reducing her stress levels, and those of other road users, is a tremendous outcome.

The single intervention that she appreciates is the digital speed warning signs in a nearby 20mph street.

- 2) The current CATG procedures seem very cumbersome. And yet, a 20mph policy across all residential streets in Wiltshire seems to me to be one of the single most effective interventions that can protect the health and wellbeing of the public.

There appears to be an instinctive resistance to a simple, uncomplicated 20mph policy, and too much reliance on testing and water tight empirical evidence before taking the very action that residents know will give them a powerful tool to improve the liveability of their street. It is a puzzle that listening to the experience and hopes of local residents is insufficient.

Kate Freeman
DCAP, Transport Group

Appendix A



TRANSPORT GROUP September 2013

Wiltshire Policy on 20mph speed limits and zones

The DCAP Transport Group is a main focus for transport interests and concerns in the Devizes area. Our numerous transport events have given us unique insight into the community's views on all transport modes affected by road speeds. In addition DCAP has been instrumental in promoting cycling through its newly formed Cycle Devizes! group, which now advises on the Cycle Network at CATG. It is this strong engagement that not only informs our response but also points to the importance of our role in future local implementation of a 20mph speed limit policy.

Default position

Devizes has developed a Transport Strategy as part of Wiltshire's Core Strategy. This has been driven in part by LTP3 but also by exceedences in pollution leading to an Air Quality Management Area for Devizes being declared by DEFRA. Working with a small group of Wiltshire Council officers and their consultants, DCAP were key players in the development of the Devizes Transport Strategy (2012). This Strategy includes a policy of 20mph (Policy T1, page 28):

"T1 – Implement measures to manage movement and to slow traffic in residential areas

Slower traffic supports road safety and sustainable transport objectives by making roads better for all road users. In residential areas, measures such as 20 mph limits will be considered to reduce vehicle speeds and the extent of the 30 mph limits will be reviewed."

We would like to see Wiltshire adopt enthusiastically a position where 20mph becomes the *default* for all residential streets with *exceptions* being made on a case by case basis, rather than the other way around, which is what seems to be proposed. This approach has been adopted by numerous local authorities and prioritises the liveability and safety of our residential streets at the top of their agenda.

Wider points and concerns

We are grateful to Rod King, Director of 20s Plenty and respected expert on road safety, for his critique. It gives us the benefit of his considerable experience and compares Wiltshire's proposed policy with the Department for Transport guidance (Circular 01/2013). Mr King draws our attention to disparities and a more inflexible approach proposed by Wiltshire's policy compared to that advocated by the DfT's Guidance. We agree with the points that:

- The way repeater signs and carriageway roundels can be used in schemes in addition to physical features should be fully explained (para 2.1), particularly since these are inexpensive.
- Paragraphs 2.4 onwards down play the value of speed reductions achieved, and seem to suggest the 24mph mean speed is too rigidly adhered to. Wiltshire's proposal suggests that evidence so far shows that the fall in road casualties is not particularly significant and that because outcomes are not yet well established pursuing a blanket approach to 20mph is not to be pursued energetically.
- Wiltshire's own experience through a small sample of villages (para 2.7) has not drawn conclusions about the degree of effectiveness, but surely the important point to report from these examples are the communities' views about their improvements to their quality of life, their health, a more pleasant street environment, and the effect on vulnerable road users, all of which are tremendously valuable and desirable outcomes that need to be rolled out.
- Criteria set out in section 5 are very restrictive, and as Mr King suggests, they impose conditions that "*put the convenience of drivers well above the safety of pedestrians and cyclists*".

For these reasons, we would appreciate having sight of Wiltshire's full response to Mr King's points and his case for a revised policy.

Local application

Current local practice for managing speed in residential roads is to apply 20mph in new developments whilst leaving neighbouring streets at 30mph. A local example is the 30mph speed limit for Meadow Drive off Brickley Lane, leading to the new Spitalcroft Road estate which has an area wide 20mph zone. Up until now the reason for this rests with the funding opportunity for physical traffic calming on new estates rather than retro-fitting 20mph on existing roads.

The new Department for Transport guidance is therefore heartening for its flexible and more enlightened use of signage, public engagement and promotion. However this does not appear to be emphasised in Wiltshire's proposed 20mph policy. Whilst we are pleased that roads subject to an existing 30mph speed restriction could be considered (5.3), we were dismayed to learn that the 20mph speed limit now adopted for Gt Cheverell would not comply with the new stringent conditions proposed. This can neither be the policy outcome intended nor is this an outcome that we support for our other villages.

There are other anomalies: within the town centre where traffic calming and crossings exist such as Monday Market Street, Sidmouth Street, Maryport Street and Sheep Street there are 30mph speed limits. DCAP has found support for the whole of the Devizes town centre coterminous with the Air Quality Management Area. Residential roads off the town centre that have become rat runs such as Brickley Lane, Station Road and Wick Lane also need to be included and strongly promoted.

Process and forward planning

The process advocated in Appendix A is no different to the process currently undertaken by Devizes CATG. CATG already prioritises two roads for speed review and receives requests from the town and parish councils for prioritised action against a very slender budget.

Rationing 20mph schemes to two per year per community area (6.1/6.2) neither reflects the community's appetite for 20mph nor does it fulfil the local authority's statutory responsibility to set appropriate speed limits. If more than two roads are deemed appropriate candidates for 20mph, and our evidence found suggests that two is but a fraction of what is appropriate, these should be put forward into an area wide plan and funds found from all sources, not merely CATG's budget, to implement this programme.

At the rate of 2 schemes per year the work outline above could take until a whole generation has grown up and left Devizes! The task is far too large to fit with the process and is strategically inappropriate. The process must be reviewed, and the scale of the task ahead properly considered to reflect the spirit of the DfT guidance which has widespread and cross party support. The draft policy does not convey a proper understanding that the 20mph guidance is as much about quality of life, as it is about 'proven' reduction in casualties.

Consultation

The 20mph policy affects the health and well being of the whole population of Wiltshire and should not have been a delegated cabinet member decision.

We have already made our views known about the consultation period and its introduction on 1st August during the holiday period. This has barely left three effective weeks to consult internally and respond. This is unreasonable and we have passed on our complaint to the Compact Board.

Appendix B

<u>Location</u>	<u>Original Request</u>	<u>Officer Comments</u>
Long Street, Devizes	Devizes Town Council ask CATG to investigate the possible implementation of a 20mph zone between Southgate Roundabout and Wadworth's Roundabout	Location fails the criteria as it's an A class road. However an exception would be made given the substantial number of vulnerable roads users within the area, subject to detailed investigation in to existing vehicle speeds and the ability to ensure these remain at or below 24mph. This may require the introduction of features which assist in reducing speed outside of peak times. Would suggest the area is extended to include the Market Place and surrounding streets to ensure a consistent limit for motorists. If a 20mph limit is approved, I would also suggest that the 20mph zone is altered to provide a consistent type of restriction (although the features would remain).
Avon Terrace, Devizes	Devizes Town Council ask CATG to investigate the possible implementation of a 20mph zone between from Rotherstone (from it junction with Northgate Street/The Nursery) past the cemetery	Classification 4B Would meet the criteria set out for a 20mph restriction (either limit or zone), subject to the assessment of vehicle speed.
Northbrook, Market Lavington	Northbrook (SN10 4AN) - for its entire length – this is a narrow dead-end village road with limited pavements. It has a blind bend and steep gradients throughout its length. It is well used by children accessing the local school, and other pedestrians.	Classification 4B Would meet the criteria set out for a 20mph restriction (either limit or zone), subject to the assessment of vehicle speed.
Fiddington Clay, Market Lavington	Around the junction with Southcliffe Road – This road is located within the Fiddington Clay Estate, however at this bend in the road there are 2 well used paths which also end at this location, making this a particularly awkward and potentially dangerous section of road.	Classification 4B Would meet the criteria set out for a 20mph restriction (either limit or zone), subject to the assessment of vehicle speed. Would suggest consideration is given to the entire Fiddington Clay Estate to ensure consistency
King Road, Market Lavington	From the junction with Spin Hill to the Parish Boundary – This is a particularly narrow village road, with no footpaths whatsoever, which currently has the national speed limit restriction applied.	Does not meet the criteria for consideration of a 20mph limit. Does not meet the criteria of a village... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In rural areas where the location, in addition to the above conditions, also meet the definition of a village as set out in Traffic Advisory Leaflet '01/04 - Village Speed Limits'</i>
Bourton Road,	Bourton Road east of the crossroad	Classification 4B

Bishops Cannings	<p>junction with the C50, together with 'The Street'. Both of these are no-through routes adjacent to Bishop's Cannings Primary School. It is believed that a lower speed limit in this area will add to the safety of the virtual footpath proposed from the village hall car park to the school - this is a measure the council are currently working on in conjunction with Wiltshire Council in order to reduce the severe parking congestion in the vicinity of the school. In seeking to encourage pedestrian use of the Bourton Road, which has no footway, a lower speed limit for vehicles will increase driver awareness and increase pedestrian confidence.</p>	<p>Would meet the criteria set out for a 20mph restriction (either limit or zone), subject to the assessment of vehicle speed.</p>
Brickley Lane, Devizes (inc. Longcroft Road, Brickstead Avenue, Roseland Avenue etc...)	<p>Request made at meeting for inclusion of Brickley Lane & associated side roads.</p>	<p>Classifications 4A & 4B</p> <p>Would meet the criteria set out for a 20mph restriction (either limit or zone), subject to the assessment of vehicle speed.</p>
Urchfont	<p>At the western end of the village core</p> <p>Blackboard Lane and Crookwood Lane both merge by the village school. There are already discussions about road and pedestrian access to the school, so the proposed 20mph signage should ensure that from north to south, all entrances to the school for pupils, parents, teachers, vehicles and visitors are protected by a 20mph maximum speed limit.</p> <p>At the eastern end of the village core</p> <p>The Triangle forms the junction with</p>	<p>A 20mph restriction could be considered for all roads within the village other than the B3098 as this has a strategic function – these have the classification 4B</p> <p>Further determination would be required form Blackboard Lane, due to its classification / strategic function and also the level of development frontage development.</p> <p>Would be subject to the assessment of existing vehicle speed.</p>

	<p>the B3098. North of this point, the High Street passes the village pond, which is populated by ducks who can roam across the road. The High Street then turns sharply left around a blind bend which also has a junction with the road leading to the Village Hall (which is heavily used by many differing organisations). Heading west towards The Green, the narrow High Street passes the Village Community Shop and Post Office. Both of these village amenities are used by people of all ages - including senior citizens with mobility difficulties. The shop/post office is located on the south side of High Street. The only pavement along the High Street is located on the north side of the road. There is therefore a great deal of pedestrian footfall crossing the road near the shop, and these people should be protected by a 20mph limit.</p>	
<p>Low Road, Little Cheverell</p>	<p>From the B3098 to Cheverell Road</p>	<p>Maintenance Class 4B</p> <p>Would meet the criteria set out for a 20mph restriction (either limit or zone), subject to the assessment of vehicle speed.</p>

Appendix C

20MPH TRIAL IN WILTSHIRE - RESULTS SUMMARY (September 2012)

	PRE-Mean Average (mph)	POST-Mean Average (mph)	Mean Average (mph) Change
Great Cheverell	26.1	23.7	-2.4
Great Bedwyn	23.4	21.8	-1.6
Westwood	27.7	25.4	-2.3
Limpley Stoke	21.5	21.3	-0.2
Biddestone	24.4	22.9	-1.5

Table 1 – Change in Mean Average Speeds by Village

Scrutiny Has Proven 20mph Limits

A 20's Plenty for Us Briefing Aug 2012

An extensive list of Council Scrutiny Committee reports have concluded 20's Plenty Where People Live. Enough sources cite 20mph as a "Best Value Policy".

Implementing road danger reduction need not be delayed by duplicating further scrutiny.

20's Plenty



Where People Live

Scrutiny (a.k.a Task & Finish/Best Value Review) is a committee of cross-party, back-bench councillors researching policy recommendations. They look at options to "compare", "challenge", "consult" and "compete". Many scrutinies have had the topic of community wide 20mph limits without humps:

Greenwich ¹ April 2012	Recommended "Subject to consultation, the phased implementation of a "boroughwide 20 mph scheme" for all currently untreated residential roads that do not form part of the "principal" road network".
Brighton & Hove ² May 2010	"20 mph speed limits should be introduced on all residential roads, on roads where there are high numbers of vulnerable road users, and on roads where average speeds are 24mph or less. "Where average speeds on residential roads and in high pedestrian and cyclist use areas are higher than 24 mph, then speed reduction initiatives should be supported by traffic calming measures, although speed bumps and humps should ideally not be used".
Gloucester ³ April 2011	"Subject to capital funding being available the task group recommend that the Cabinet develop a programme of work to roll out blanket 20mph limits and zones across the county."
Islington ⁴ Feb & 24 Nov 2011	Executive response to scrutiny was "To approve the inclusion of the Borough Principal and Strategic Road Network under Islington's control into the Borough Wide 20mph scheme where funding is available."
Richmond Upon Thames ⁵ Mar 2010	"Working closely with Transport for London, the Council should work towards introducing 20mph speed limits, including 20mph zones, on its residential and unclassified roads."
Haringey ⁶ Mar 2011	"The Council undertake a borough wide consultation process on the proposal to establish a borough wide default 20 mph speed limit for all side roads and the establishment, in consultation with TfL, of a pilot 20 mph speed limit in a suitable town centre".
Manchester ⁷ Mar 2012	The Executive is recommended "To investigate potential funding mechanisms to implement 20mph speed limits on all C and U classed roads in Manchester with a view to installing the proposed speed limits, subject to public consultation".
Darlington ⁸ Jan 2012	"Darlington Borough Council continues to support the introduction of 20 mph zones or limits where appropriate and continues to deliver schemes based on evidence within the available resources."

Ditto for Hartlepool and Warrington. How many Scrutiny reports does it take to agree a community wide 20mph road speed? Enough already. As with trials/pilots of small area 20mph limits, 20's Plenty for Us say, given the extensive evidence base, scrutiny need not be duplicated as the wheel need not be re-invented. Bristol found of its 20mph limits, using a mean of a 23% increase in walking and a 20.5% increase in cycling that for each £ spent the return on investment for walking is £24.72 and cycling is £7.47⁹. The DfT states that any schemes giving a return on investment of more than £2 for every pound spent give high value. **Councils can now get on with implementing 20mph limits and raising Britain's public health and quality of life knowing it is great value for money.**

¹ <http://committees.greenwich.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=2524&T=10> para 1.2 pg 21

² http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/democracy/Microsoft_Word_-_Item_8_Speed_Reduction_Review.pdf Paras 2.20-21

³ <http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=3678> sect 7

⁴ Islington, Executive Member for Planning Regeneration & Transport Report 24 Nov 2011, para 2.2

⁵ http://www.richmond.gov.uk/road_safety_-_20mph_task_group_-_final.doc recommendation 2 pg 8.

⁶ <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=21784> recommendation 1 pg 5

⁷ http://www.manchester.gov.uk/egov_downloads/7_20mph_speed_limit_report.pdf

⁸ <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/PublicMinutes/Place%20Scrutiny%20Committee/January%202012/Item%203.pdf> 12(a) pg 7

⁹ https://www.bristol.gov.uk/committee/2012/ua/ua000/0726_7.pdf

Appendix 3

20mph Limit / Zone Briefing Paper

13th May 2013

To prepare this report, advice has been obtained from Department for Transport (Dft) & from the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) Committee.

Limits/Zones

The DfT produced a circular dated 18th January 2013 providing updated guidance unveiled by Stephen Hammond, Road Safety Minister; this paper is intended to help Local Councils implement more consistent speed limits on local roads.

National Speed Limits on street lit roads remains 30mph, however Traffic Authorities can, over time, introduce 20mph limits or zones on:

- Major streets where there are – or could be – significant numbers of journeys on foot, and / or where pedal cycle movements are an important consideration, and this outweighs the disadvantage of longer journey times of motorised traffic.

This is in addition to:

- Residential streets in cities, towns and villages, particularly where the streets are being used by people on foot and on bicycles, there is community support and the characteristics of the street are suitable.

Where they do so, general compliance needs to be achieved without excessive reliance on enforcement.

Evidence from successful 20mph schemes show that the introduction of 20mph (engineered) Zones generally reduces mean traffic speed by more than is the case where a 'signed only' 20mph limit is introduced.

It has always been the view that it should not be possible to exceed the speed limit within a 20mph zone; to drive at excess speed in this area identifies a failing with the engineering solutions.

Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

If speed limits are to be legally implemented and enforceable, Traffic Orders must be made. Part VI of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984 deals specifically with speed limits and includes the powers under which Traffic Authorities may make speed limit orders.

Devon & Cornwall Police and County Councils are currently facing appeals and complaints regarding a high number of 20mph limits that have been found to be non-enforceable. The advice from Devon & Cornwall Police is prior to any consideration of enforcement; the local authority should physically measure the signs and frequency to ensure that they comply with the law. Enforcing a 20mph limit that is found to be non-compliant results in reputational damage, damage to community confidence and high costs in repaying fines/court costs etc.

Enforcement

Enforcement is reactive and should not be seen as a preventative measure, prevention relying on public support and compliance by the majority. It is also expensive; is both time and resource intensive and competes with other important policing issues of public concern.

Speed restrictions must be clear, appropriate, with the need for compliance obvious to all road users. Where there is non-compliance, the police will investigate specific offenders who ignore the posted speed limit. Mass defiance identifies questionable limits in inappropriate areas rather than a need for high levels of enforcement and prosecution, which possibly has the potential to lose public support. It is these principles that inform any police decision to undertake enforcement.

The enforcement of traffic law by the police should be guided by the principles of proportionality in applying the law and securing compliance; consistency of approach; and transparency about what enforcement action is undertaken, and why; and recognition that effective partnerships with other organisations are essential.

To achieve compliance there should be no expectation on the police to provide additional enforcement beyond their routine activity, unless this has been explicitly agreed.

Targeting Offending Drivers

20mph zones are predominantly introduced in residential areas where road safety has been raised as an issue by those who live locally. The approach of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in every community is built around ensuring that local crime and disorder issues and concerns are identified, so that a police force delivers an appropriate policing response. This applies to enforcement of 20mph zones as to any other area of policing.

ACPO speed enforcement guidelines include thresholds for enforcement across all speed limits, intended to underpin a consistent policing approach. Within that framework local police forces will take a responsible and proportionate approach to enforcement of 20mph limits based on their assessment of risk to individuals, property and the seriousness of any breach. Where drivers are regularly and wilfully breaking the law we would expect that officers will enforce the limit and prosecute offenders.

Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams therefore can conduct routine speed enforcement within 20 mph limits/zones where deemed appropriate.

Prosecution Options

Options are currently limited for enforcing 20mph Limits/Zones. The reason for this is that 20mph limits and zones were introduced for a specific road safety danger; compliance is the aim, not enforcement. For these reasons it is not currently considered suitable to issue Fixed Penalty Notices or offer 'Driver Improvement' scheme options for 20mph offenders.

I have provided a comparison below with a 30mph limit to demonstrate the difficulties in enforcing 20mph offences. *Taken from National Guidelines*

Speed Limit	Fixed Penalty Notice	Driver Improvement	Summons
20mph	FPN not issued	No Speed Awareness Course applies	35mph
30mph	35mph & above (10% +2)	Speed Awareness 35mph – 42mph (only in counties that operate educational packages)	50mph

Discretion can be used allowing officers to summons lower than the speeds in the above table, therefore it is possible to summons at 24mph, however this would be inappropriate as the volume of offences would result in high costs for the Courts and prosecution system.

The Crown Prosecution Service and Courts would certainly not welcome this; therefore the realistic option would be police officers offering verbal warnings to offending drivers until the speeds or numbers of occasions warned justified issuing a summons. It must also be considered that "is it proportionate to place someone within the criminal justice system for travelling at 24mph?" This would not occur within a 30mph limit until the speeds reached 50mph.

In the future it may be possible to issue Fixed Penalty Notices or offer educational courses for 20mph offences, therefore albeit there are currently some restrictions this situation may improve in the coming months/years.

National Roads Policing 5 Year Strategy 2011-2015

The Road Policing Strategy 'Policing the Roads' has a vision of safer roads with habitual compliance. Officers are encouraged to enforce with education and engineering so as to affect and influence driver behaviour and achieve a reduction in road casualties and combat anti-social road use. There is a real

drive to encourage officer discretion as oppose to always issuing Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecuting lower end offences.

Conclusion

Speed limits are only one element of speed management; local speed limits should not be set in isolation. They should be part of a package with other measures to manage speeds including engineering, visible interventions and landscaping standards that raise awareness of the drivers environment. Simply altering a sign from a 30 to a 20 will risk high levels of offending with many drivers being unaware of their behaviour.

The ACPO Traffic Committee have highlighted that without the right level of engineering, the police would become the cheap option to achieve compliance. Guidelines have been provided that the police will not conduct routine speed enforcement in 20mph limits/zones unless they were in areas where:

- 24mph or above was the norm
- The limit/zone meets Dft guidelines by providing a form of engineering that would make it obvious to drivers that they were in this type of limit and should control their speed. *This applies to correct signage as much as traffic calming measures.*

Current Position – We will support all appropriate speed limits where:

- There is a proven need
- The limit is clear
- Motorists have the ability to comply.

We need to remember that we have many roads within our county that require enforcement; we must also consider those roads that pose the greatest risk, i.e. those with a Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) risk. It is rare for the 20mph limit/zone to be in areas where we have seen KSI collisions, albeit this cannot be discounted as a risk.

Therefore it must be decided on a case by case basis as to which roads are subject to routine police officer speed enforcement, clearly a Speed Management Strategy is applied to this to inform the correct decision, i.e. police enforcement as oppose to the council led initiatives of installing Speed Indicator Devices or implementing Community Speed Watch.



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Wiltshire Police
HQ Response - Head of Roads Policing

Appendix 4

Mr David Thomas
Democratic Services
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN
10 July 2014

Dear Mr Thomas,

Re: 20 mph Speed Restrictions

I write further to your letter of 11th June, and have some additional points to make now that the CATG meeting for the Salisbury Community Area has arrived at recommendations for this year's two schemes for further evaluation. This letter is also being copied to the Chair of the 20mph policy task group.

Firstly, we accept that the two requests per year limit applies at the community area level rather than for each parish. The confusion arose because in Salisbury the parish and community area have the same boundary, we appreciate this is the only community area in Wiltshire for which this is the case. This does however give some additional concerns regarding how the process works because there is only one parish council – namely Salisbury City Council – making recommendations to the Salisbury Area CATG. The CATG Chair quite reasonably inquired at the 17/6 meeting whether these had been prioritised by the City Council, however prioritisation was not possible this year for the following reasons:

- I. The schemes were raised as issues over a period of time and not all considered at the same meeting, so it was not possible to prioritise at the time how the decision to support the scheme was made.
- II. There was insufficient information available in respect of each scheme (e.g. accident rates, numbers of actual and potential pedestrians/cyclists, traffic speeds etc) to allow an informed decision on priorities to be taken.
- III. The City Council's position, as submitted in response to Wiltshire Council's proposed policy on 20mph speed limits, remains that '20mph should become the default speed throughout Salisbury other than on trunk roads'. Given this position Councillors are reluctant not to support schemes which have the backing of local residents.

There are some further points which perhaps apply more generally:

- I. The requests for 20mph areas were raised as 'issues' on the issue log. While not wishing to deter residents from raising their concerns it might be helpful to have a standard pro-forma – as is the case for yellow line requests – so that equivalent information is presented for each request (e.g. to provide

information re whether an area has pavements, whether on route to school, levels of local support etc).

- II. Local residents might well raise an issue simply in respect of their own road, without considering the bigger picture and whether a wider area could or should be included in the request. Some Highway officer input into the process – or perhaps a review of the request by ward councillors – might help to provide better defined areas for the implementation of 20mph limits.

The various points made above suggest that, within the constraints of the current policy, more effective selection of schemes could be made in Salisbury if all the proposals for a given year were presented to the City Council's Planning & Transportation Committee at the same time, and if some WC Highways officer support was provided to allow the City Council to make evidence based decisions regarding selection and prioritisation. Note that this officer time is required currently when the schemes are taken to the CATG, it just seems it would be more productive in Salisbury if this input could be provided earlier in the process so it benefit the decision making of the P&T committee as well as the CATG.

Whilst welcoming the tentative steps which Wiltshire Council are taking towards 20 mph areas we remain concerned that the piecemeal approach which has been adopted is far from ideal especially for a city such as Salisbury. The City already has the benefit of 20mph zones in the City Centre – as our response to the 20mph consultation pointed out this was demonstrated to have led to a saving of about 25 casualties a year in the three years after its introduction. There are also 20mph zones in other areas, such as Bishopdown. A programme to roll-out 20mph speed limits across all the residential areas of Salisbury other than trunk roads would send a clearer message about the priority which should be given to pedestrians and cyclists and help to make the city's roads safer for all.

Yours sincerely,

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Cllr John Lindley
Chair, Planning and Transport Committee
Salisbury City Council

Cc by email Cllr Peter Edge, Chair of 20 mph policy task group

Appendix 5

SHREWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Miss Marion Barton
Clerk to the Council

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4 Emwell Street
Warminster
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BA12 8JA
07851800509

27 July 2014

Mr Peter Edge and Ms Emma Dove
Sent by Email

Good Morning,

Following the unanimous support of residents in Shrewton at a public meeting in the village in March this year, the Parish Council is requesting that Wiltshire Council address the need to introduce 20mph in our community. Shrewton is not the only village to be under siege from increased traffic congestion and the need to reduce speed limits in the county must be considered urgently.

Since the closure of the A344 greater congestion on the A303 has caused drivers to find alternative routes, resulting in many using villages as a 'rat run'. Increased speed by frustrated drivers on village roads without footpaths for pedestrians is extremely dangerous. Whenever, and whatever, solution is decided upon for the A303, Shrewton will continue to see inappropriate numbers of cars, using roads not designed for the numbers using them. It is essential that some action is taken soon to help control levels of speed in the village.

The Amesbury C.A.T.G. considered the Shrewton proposal for 20mph but it was unsuccessful; the village being so close to A303 and the amount of traffic involved apparently making it a larger project than for the funding allowed. The next opportunity to apply is in 2015/16 financial period but given that the issues could be even greater, there would not seem to be any possibility of Shrewton being accepted.

It would appear the members of Wiltshire Council do not recognise the concerns of the community and the damage that the excessive traffic is causing to the villagers. There is no recognition of the need to feel safe when walking or cycling in the village nor the health (air quality) or environmental (noise pollution) issues. There seems to be no process for assessing the real damage that inappropriate traffic speed does to communities. The rare and occasional monitoring of average speeds takes no account of the misery caused by speeding traffic.

The Parish Council would like to see a lot more positive, proactive engagement. Wiltshire Council should be advising us as to how we can secure speed restrictions, and not leave the provision of advice to Councillors and volunteers.

Wiltshire Council and the Highways Department need to introduce ways of reducing the speed of traffic through Shrewton whilst discussions are taking place nationally on the way forward with the A303. Villagers are looking for action to make life more tolerable for them. Members of the Scrutiny Task Group would be welcome to visit the village and discuss proposals with the community. I look forward to hearing from you.
On behalf of the Shrewton Parish Council representing the villagers of Shrewton,

Yours sincerely,

Carole

Cllr Mrs Carole Slater
Chair