



20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

Hertfordshire

PRESS RELEASE

3 November 2020

20's Plenty for Hertfordshire are Blowing the Whistle on Herts County Council's Speed Management Consultation

The setting of speed limits should be based on the **needs and desires of people to live in and move around their communities safely**. At the present time, **Herts County Council (HCC)** sets speed limits by reference to the existing speed of traffic. **The Speed Management Strategy (SMS)** gives no consideration to the importance of **road safety, air quality or the boost to active transport** that **20mph** areas bring to communities.

HCC consulted on an update to the SMS over the summer. This was an opportunity for them to catch up with many other parts of the country in being a friend of 20mph areas.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE DRAFT SMS DOES NOTHING TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

Many commentators believe that, in its draft form, the document would make it **even more difficult** for any town or village in the county to benefit from safer, quieter, greener and healthier streets. **20's Plenty for Hertfordshire** are pointing out that **multiple omissions and misinterpretations mean that the SMS is a flawed document**.

THE SMS FAILED TO MENTION THAT:

- **MORE THAN 20 MILLION PEOPLE** in the UK already live in places where 20mph speeds are agreed as normal.
- **70% OF PEOPLE IN ENGLAND** think 20mph should be the speed for their road.¹
- **THE UK GOVERNMENT** has supported the Stockholm Declaration² which makes 20mph the global road safety best practice norm
- **THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION**³ says 20's Plenty

The SMS relies heavily on **misinterpretations of Department for Transport guidance**. It contends that this guidance makes the introduction of wide-area 20mph limits impossible without installing speed-humps and other expensive and unpopular engineered road changes.

Across the UK more than 40 local authorities, subject to the same DfT guidance, have been able to introduce 20mph limits for urban/village streets without the need for additional physical measures

SUE NICHOLLS from 20's Plenty for Hertfordshire said:

“Hertfordshire County Council's policies are wildly out of date, unfair and rejected as 'totally unfit for the third decade of the 21st Century. We have serious misgivings about the manner in which HCC is consulting on these policies.”

Sources:

¹ Government report on National Social Attitudes Survey - Speed Limits of 20mph in Residential Streets (2019)

² The Stockholm Declaration (Feb 2020) resolved to mandate a maximum road travel speed of 30 kmh [20mph] in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix in a frequent and planned manner, except where strong evidence exists that higher speeds are safe,

³ General Assembly of the United Nations on 31/8/20 - goal of reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent from 2021 to 2030.



20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

Hertfordshire

P R E S S R E L E A S E

3 November 2020

20's Plenty for Hertfordshire are calling for 20mph to become the normal speed limit* where people live, work, shop, learn and play across Hertfordshire

In a move following the closure of the consultation, **Herts County Councillor, JOHN HALE**, put forward a motion to the **Herts County Council Meeting** on 20 October calling to:

“Adopt a 20mph speed limit as the default speed limit in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix in a frequent and planned manner ... noting that efforts to reduce speed in general will have a beneficial impact on air quality and climate change as well as being vital to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries.”

20's Plenty for Hertfordshire urges County Councillors from ALL political parties to support this motion and introduce default 20mph limits across Hertfordshire

20'S PLENTY FOR HERTFORDSHIRE PETITION

20's Plenty for Hertfordshire is also calling on Hertfordshire residents, workers, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to sign their **online petition** calling on HCC to change its approach to 20mph limits and to give towns and villages in our county the same level of safety and general well-being that so many other communities in the UK already enjoy.

SIGN THE PETITION:

<https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?id=79>

WHY 20MPH?

- **IT'S MUCH SAFER** – 20mph is seven times less likely to kill someone than 30mph.
- **CLEANER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** – less acceleration means less pollution and also more walking and cycling happens when people feel safer.
- **IT REDUCES NOISE POLLUTION** and doesn't significantly affect journey times. The cost is also a tiny fraction of total transport spending (average cost £3-£5 per head).
- **20MPH ENCOURAGES ECONOMIC RECOVERY** and supports active and sustainable travel as it enables more people to walk and cycle to local shops.

More about the 20's Plenty for Hertfordshire Campaign

Our county-wide campaign incorporates a number of local groups representing different communities around Hertfordshire. Each local campaign has its own individual sets of circumstances, but what unites us is the growing concerns about road safety, particularly around vulnerable road users.

For further information contact: herts@20splentyforus.org.uk or **tel:** 01923 243856

20's Plenty for St Albans: www.stalbans.20splentyforus.org.uk **email:** stalbands@20splentyforus.org.uk

20's Plenty for Buntingford: www.buntingford.20splentyforus.org.uk **email:** buntingford@20splentyforus.org.uk

20's Plenty for Watford **email:** watford@20splentyforus.org.uk

20's Plenty for Digswell: www.digswell.20splentyforus.org.uk **email:** digswell@20splentyforus.org.uk

20's Plenty for Us National Campaign: www.20splenty.org

NB: copy web links into your browser

*with exceptions where they can be justified