

What difference does 20mph make?

- **Safer Streets:** Lives saved. Fewer painful hospital stays for the injured. Less heartbreak over loved ones lost.
- **Less Fear:** As worries about the traffic fall, so more people walking, cycling, and being out and about.
- **More Peaceful Streets:** 34% of all Wandsworth residents see traffic noise and air pollution as a problem (2005 survey).
- **Cleaner Air:** London suffers heavily from air pollution. According to the Mayor, some 4,267 premature deaths in London in 2008 were attributable to long-term exposure to dangerous airborne particles. Most of this is due to motor vehicle emissions. Wandsworth's share of this death toll was about 150 premature deaths; this compares to one murder in 2010. As people switch to walking and cycling, and use cars less, London's air can begin to be cleaned up.
- **Better Health:** In 2008-09, 21% of children in reception classes in Wandsworth, and 35% in Year 6, were overweight or obese. Children can walk or cycle to school more as our streets become safer.
- **Local Streets as Pleasanter Places to be:** And not just places to drive along and rush through.
- **Local shops, cafes and restaurants getting more business:** as people feel confident about returning to the streets

Are there other 20mph towns?

All across the UK, local politicians, highway engineers and police authorities are scrambling to catch up with what more and more people now demand – *lower speeds on local roads*. Over 5 million people in the UK now live in areas where the speed limit has been brought down to 20mph permanently, or on a trial basis, or where their local council is awaiting County Council permission. They include Portsmouth, Oxford, Newcastle, Wirral, Bristol, Colchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh – as well as two boroughs in London. Portsmouth has found its scheme to be excellent value for money. And effective. -- average speeds on faster roads (24 to 29mph) dropped by 7mph. Casualties fell 22%.

The Dept of Transport's guidance (2009) encourages area-wide 20mph limits. It recognizes that lower speeds across whole towns increase safety and make our communities better places to live.

What Can I Do?

- Visit our Wandsworth Living Streets website: www.wandsworthlivingstreets.org.uk
- Join our campaign mailing list -- email us at robert.molteno@googlemail.com
- Sign our on-line petition to Wandsworth Council on our site.
- Tell your family, friends, and neighbours.
- Find out more; get a 20mph sticker. Visit www.20splentyforus.org.uk/

Produced by Wandsworth Living Streets, March 2011

20's Plenty for Wandsworth

Can Wandsworth be a better place to live?

- Are you fed up with speeding motorists ?
- Would you like your children to be able to get to school on their own?
- Do you want cleaner air and quieter traffic?
- Have you thought you might like to walk and cycle more – if it was safe?



Safer, quieter, more attractive streets. That's the vision. Here's how:

Make 20mph the speed limit on all residential and local shopping streets in Wandsworth. Main roads needn't be included except where they run through our town centres. No need for speed humps. Just putting up clear signage and the people of Wandsworth agreeing to make our part of London a safer, more pleasant place for everyone.

What is Wandsworth Council's attitude?

- The Council has put a 20mph speed limit on streets around many schools, but has not pressed the police to enforce it.
- In 2010, at the request of residents, they made the whole Shaftesbury Estate in Battersea a 20mph zone.
- The Council accepts the arguments in favour of 20mph. Cllr Guy Senior, Cabinet Member for Transportation at the time, said on 9 October 2009: 'the reduced speed limit [on the Shaftesbury Estate] will help discourage drivers from using these residential streets as a cut through.... It will also help to cut accidents, reduce air pollution and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.'
- BUT the Council is not willing to follow other towns and cities in making 20mph the speed limit on all local roads.
- And its latest *Transport in Wandsworth* draft plan (December 2010) makes no mention of lower speed limits to reduce road casualties or improve the quality of life.



20mph Shaftesbury Estate

What's wrong with 30mph or 40mph?

Just walking down many local streets in Wandsworth makes you know something is wrong. Residents often feel the speed of some vehicles is just too much.

What happens to pedestrians if hit by a speeding car?

- At 40mph, 85% of pedestrians are killed.
- At 30mph, 20% are killed.
- At 20mph, 3% are killed.

In Wandsworth, 56% of all those killed or seriously injured in 2009 were pedestrians and cyclists (car occupants were only 12%). No wonder fear of road danger stops people cycling (Wandsworth residents do 4% of journeys to work by bicycle; in Copenhagen, it's 37%).



In Wandsworth, 29% of the pedestrians killed or seriously injured were children under the age of sixteen (2005). No wonder parents fear letting children walk to school on their own.

Reducing traffic speeds to 20mph is the *single most effective way of making our local roads safer* for children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and pedestrians and cyclists generally. Wandsworth Council's own *Local Implementation Plan, 2006-2011* admits 'Lower speeds do not only reduce the seriousness of injury ... but can also reduce the likelihood of a crash.' It also admits:

'A range of measures such as 20 mph zones can be employed to help reduce speeds.' (p. 219)

Who Benefits from 20 mph limits in Wandsworth? EVERYONE!

- **Children:** Safer streets where they can walk, cycle and play (and better for parents who don't have to ferry them to school).
- **Elderly and Disabled:** quieter roads with slower traffic means it's easier to keep your independence and mobility, and with less worry.
- **Pedestrians:** Safer, quieter, less polluted streets are nicer places to shop in, chat to



neighbours, meet friends, and use local facilities. And 40% of households in Wandsworth do not own a car.

- **Cyclists:** Quieter streets with slower traffic make it easier for everyone to cycle.
- **Motorists:** More people cycling and walking means less congestion and less

pressure on parking. Slower speeds mean less aggressive driving behaviour and fewer crashes. And since a 20mph speed limit would not apply to main roads, it would have minimal effect on drivers' journey times. Not surprising, then, that **72% of drivers like slower speeds in residential areas** (National Centre for Social Research, 2005).

20's Plenty



Where People Live