

# Press Release

**20's Plenty For Us welcomes expected 20's Plenty For UK**

20's Plenty

**....but notes "knee-jerk" reaction from some of the motoring lobby.**



Where People Live

**20's Plenty For Us is delighted that the government will be increasing its commitment towards residential streets and schools having a 20 mph speed limit when Jim Fitzpatrick makes an expected announcement of Tuesday.**

20 mph is the default speed limit for residential roads in most Northern European countries where walking and cycling is twice as safe as the UK.<sup>1</sup>

Whilst many local councils (Portsmouth, Leicester, Newcastle, Norwich, Oxford, Warrington and Islington) either have made or are planning authority-wide implementations of 20 mph speed limits for residential roads, this new announcement is expected to support and widen this practice and would make a huge difference in the safety, amenity and public sharing of our streets and roads.

Whilst 75% of the public and 72% of drivers support 20 mph for residential streets<sup>2</sup>, local authorities have been unclear of the support from central government for implementing such schemes.

Lower speeds in residential streets makes everyone's life more pleasant and makes very little difference to driver journey times which, in our crowded roads, are usually dictated by how **long you are stopped** and not how **fast you go**.

But 20's Plenty For Us has already noticed the "knee-jerk" reaction from organisations such as SafeSpeed with their fixation on speed only being a minority "cause" of accidents. The facts are that lower speeds both provide more time and ability to avoid accidents when things go wrong, and reduces the consequences when an accident cannot be avoided. Hence for each 1 mph reduction in speed then a 5% reduction in accidents and injury is the norm.

Rod King, founder of 20's Plenty For Us said :-

*"Communities continue to demonstrate that they are in favour of 20 mph as the correct speed limit for residential streets. It is great to see that the government is responding to those initiatives and is bringing us more into line with the levels of urban amenity and, walking and cycling safety that exist in Northern Europe. We look forward to the announcement on Tuesday."*

Editor's Note

**20's Plenty For Us is the national organisation that supports local 20's Plenty campaigns for 20mph default speed limits in residential streets.**

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<sup>1</sup> TRL, Swedish National Road Research Institute, Netherlands Institute for Road Safety, *SUNflower: A comparative study of the development of road safety in Sweden, UK and the Netherlands*, 2002

<sup>2</sup> National Centre for Social Research, *British Social Attitudes: 22<sup>nd</sup> Report*, 2005