



Press Release Stafford & Stone Green Party

"20's Plenty" say Stafford Greens

To coincide with National Road Safety Week [1], which started on Monday 23rd November, the Green Party in Stafford is calling for reductions in speed limits. Responding to reports [2] that the government will be reducing speed limits in residential areas and around schools, Stafford and Stone Green Party has called for the measures to go even further.

"Twenty's plenty," says local Green Party campaigner Tom Harris "especially in built-up areas like most of Stafford's residential streets."

"We welcome progress on measures to cut accidents, and Green councillors around the country have long been pushing hard for this. But if the government is serious it should go further."

"Lower speed limits outside schools are essential, but we are calling for full-blown Safe Routes to School programmes everywhere, which involves a more comprehensive approach to keeping school children safe."

The Safe Routes to School package involves a joined-up approach, assessing the most appropriate measures for a given school, ranging from rearranging junctions and crossings to ensuring the best possible provision for cycling and walking.

"You can implement a package like this for as little as £60,000 per school. If you do it for several neighbouring schools at once, the benefits reinforce one another. If we did this everywhere we'd make school travel safer and cut morning peak-hour traffic by 10%."

But the Green Party's demands for lowering the speed limits also extend to other areas.

"Where I live in Castletown, the streets are often used as a rat-run. Impatient motorists race through our area, just to save a few seconds on their commute. Residents here are overwhelmingly in support of a 20mph limit as it is seen as a way of saving lives, preventing injuries, and making our streets more pleasant to live on."

Green successes

Residential speed restrictions have been an area of success for Greens in local authorities around the country:

Green Party councillors Matt Follett and Rupert Read proposed the motions that initiated the 20 mph schemes in Leicester and Norwich respectively. In April 2008, Green Party councillor Mischa Boris steered a motion through Hackney Council committing it to making 20mph the standard speed on all roads under Hackney Council control, residential or not.

Councillor Katy Dawson played a leading role for the Green Party on Islington council (3)

The strong Green Party group on Brighton & Hove City Council has had similar successes

Charlie Bolton, Green Party councillor for Southville in Bristol, where pilot 20mph zones were mooted in January 2009, said: "Residents like them, the streets become friendlier, and accident rates drop. I'm especially pleased that my own ward has been nominated for this trial, and I'd like to see it spread quickly across Bristol."

Greens on the London Assembly are currently pushing for 20 mph zones. Jenny Jones AM commented today: "20mph is largely accepted already as a way of saving lives, preventing injuries, and making our streets more pleasant to live on."

Further examples are below. A local elections briefing note, spelling out the case for 20 mph zones, can be found at: <http://www.greenparty.org.uk/reports>.

Other Success Stories From Around The Country

20 mph Yes vote in York

"A ballot of some 250 households in a group of York streets has produced a clear majority of 70.5% in favour of a 20mph speed limit for Grange St, Grange Garth, Rosedale St, Levisham St, Hartoft St, Farndale St and Lastingham Terrace. An amazing 49% response rate was achieved, as a result of close involvement of the local Green Party councillors and door knocking by local residents to remind occupants to return their forms by the deadline. This return was in spite of many households being student houses, suggesting that the majority of families in the area voted. 25.9% voted No and 3.6% said they didn't know."

Cllr Andy D'Agorne, York Green Party

... and Maidstone

"We had a similar response in Maidstone, with 70% out of 400 households wanted 20mph. We are launching our "20mph Maidstone" next Saturday (25th April) with a couple of large 20mph signs and car stickers / leaflets to hand out, and an online petition.". "We have set up: <http://www.20mphmaidstone.org.uk> as our campaign site."

Stuart Jeffery, Green parliamentary candidate for Maidstone

Safer Journeys in Essex

"20mph near all schools has been an Essex Green Party policy for many years, written into our county manifesto. Green Councillors in the Witham area have helped set up, implement and secure funding for Safer Journeys schemes."

Cllr James Abbott, Witham & Braintree Green Party

Borough-wide scheme in Lewisham

"Here in Lewisham we got the Mayor of Lewisham to support our proposals for a borough-wide 20mph zone, and to push to be one of the London pilots, but unfortunately we got a change of London Mayor that scuppered our plans somewhat:

<http://lewisham.greenparty.org.uk/localsites/lewisham/news/mayor-joins-20mph-lewisham-lobby.html>

<http://lewisham.greenparty.org.uk/localsites/lewisham/news/london-mayor-does-not-support-lewishams-bid-to-become-first-20mph-borough..html>

Cllr Sue Luxton, Lewisham Green Party

Links:

1. <http://www.roadsafetyweek.org/theme>
2. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5176593/20mph-limit-to-cut-road-deaths.html>.
3. <http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/content/islington/gazette/news/story.aspx?brand=ISLGOnline&category=news&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newsislg&itemid=WeED11%20Mar%202009%2016%3A08%3A27%3A723>.

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Message Ends

Enclosed: N/A