

20mph for Human Rights to Freedom of Movement

A 20's Plenty for Us Briefing March 2015

www.20splentyforus.org.uk/Briefings/humanrights.pdf

20mph limits support our universal rights to freedom of movement, clean air and freedom from intimidation. Authorities who civilise roads with 20mph limits care about public health and child protection. 20mph supports fairness and public sector equality duties.

20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

Slower speeds limits on roads and streets used by us all are increasingly being seen as a fundamental human right. Like universal health care, clean water, air quality and vaccination, it is a public policy that benefits nearly all of us in our communities. Common values are promoted by community-wide 20mph – a default speed policy which enjoys popular support (75% in consultations), has public health backing¹ and is extremely cost effective at a one-off spend of £3 per head. Arterial roads can be exempted where appropriate.

Streets and pavements form around 95% of public open space in built up areas. It's where we meet, enjoy fresh air, movement, exercise and more. 20mph speed limits in built-up areas help us to enjoy life, feel safe and get about locally on foot or by bicycle. 20mph/30kmh is the foundation of active travel and economic policies in so many places across the world (eg Zurich, Paris, Barcelona, Munich, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Milan) and the UK (eg Cambridge, Oxford, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh) along with complementary interventions for walkers and cyclists. Without these policies our towns and cities get choked with cars and everyone loses.



We all deserve, and have rights to, a high quality of life. 20mph benefits the young and old, able and disabled. Calmer driving styles where people live raises people's quality of life to a civilised, fairer standard.

20mph upholds rights to freedom of movement and accessibility as a pedestrian or cyclist and to protection from intimidation by motor vehicles. It brings healthier lifestyles. Research proves that introducing 20mph speed limits increases physical activity and brings with it sustained behaviour change benefits.

20mph limits improve air quality. Less fuel is used as people drive more smoothly². Environmental campaigns support 20mph limits; along with its traffic reduction effects, people walk and cycle more in 20mph areas.

Public Health professionals endorse 20mph limits for child protection and for tackling obesity through encouraging active travel. These are key issues as Britain has the highest rates of child mortality and obesity in Western Europe.

People talk to neighbours more on quieter streets. 20mph halves the noise and makes places friendlier, raising our mental health. The elderly feel much more part of a community that cares.

Anna Semlyen, Campaign Manager of 20's Plenty for Us and mother to Rosie (pictured above) said
"Return when the street lights come on was the rule for kids as I grew up. Do children enjoy this freedom now? Edinburgh's 20mph trial saw parental permission to play out double - from 31% to 66%. Too many children are imprisoned indoors or in cars because of road safety fears. 20mph is a healthy foundation for a return to us all using our public spaces more. It helps everyone roam free-range again!"

¹ http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk/BriefingSheets/PH_Profs_Call_for_20.pdf

² <http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk/BriefingSheets/pollutionbriefing.pdf>

20's Plenty For Us campaigns for a 20mph default speed limit in residential streets without physical calming.

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