

Press Release

20's Plenty For us welcomes government moves towards making 20mph the default speed limit for urban and residential roads.



In a recent announcement, Norman Baker, the Transport Minister proposes a 20 mph speed limit on urban roads to reduce deaths and reclaim the streets for pedestrians and cyclists.

Norman Baker said :-

"We've gone through a period over the last 100 years when those not in motorised vehicles have felt that the ownership of the streets in urban areas has been taken away from them. I want to move to a situation where the ownership is shared between motorists, cyclists and pedestrians."

The proposals are very much based on the experience in towns such as Portsmouth, Oxford and Newcastle which have all introduced 20mph speed limits on all residential roads throughout their towns without the use of speed bumps. The community based initiatives reflect the growing realisation that the 30 mph limit may have been appropriate in 1934, when it was first introduced with less than 2m motor vehicles on the roads, but is "unfit for purpose" in today's streets with over 30m vehicles and our aspirations for more active travel for ourselves and our children.

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

"It is good to see the government recognising that the spaces between our houses, which we call streets, should be available for every citizen to walk or cycle on without the fear of high speed motor vehicles. Portsmouth has shown that communities can change their behaviour and sensibly embark on a 20's Plenty Where People Live initiative that delivers real benefits to every road user. More and more towns, cities and villages are following this trend to put citizenship back into the way we drive and share our roads.

Perhaps the move towards a "bigger society" is already happening with communities deciding that making a lifestyle decision to simply slow down in the vicinity of people is a sensible and life enhancing move. Whilst physical traffic calming has its place, far better is the action of communities to share their streets more equitably through restraint."

In Portsmouth results over the first year showed that speeds on faster roads were reduced by 7 mph with an initiative that is 50 times cheaper than conventional road humps. The key was the ownership by the community and that most drivers now themselves live on a 20 mph street and therefore also "own" the benefits.

20's Plenty For Us campaigns for a 20mph speed limits in communities and local authorities for all residential streets.

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