

# **EU citizens begin an initiative to petition for a 20mph urban speed limit**

**Press Release Nov 2012**

**20mph speed limits have been accepted as a European Citizens Initiative. Gathering 1 million petition signatures will require serious consideration of this by the EU Commission. 55,000 names are needed from the UK**



The EU Parliament has already endorsed its Road Safety Strategy that “strongly recommends 20mph limits for urban roads where no separate facilities exist for cyclists”

20's Plenty for Us are using the new European Citizen's Initiative (ECI)<sup>1</sup> **"30kmh – making streets liveable!"** to ask that 20mph/30kmh speed limits become the norm for all urban and residential roads. The EU Commission must consider this initiative seriously when 1 million signatures are submitted.

The aim is for 20mph/30kmh limits to be accepted where people live with local authorities able to make exceptions where pedestrian and cyclist safety has been alternatively provided for.

20's Plenty for Us are on a pan-European “citizen's committee” who have one year to gain a minimum of 1m signatures (on paper or on-line) across at least 7 EU countries, including a minimum of 54,750 in the UK.

8.3m people in some of the UK's most iconic cities already live in communities adopting this policy. 30mph limits are deemed inappropriate for most of their roads<sup>2</sup>. With nearly 200 local campaign branches around the UK, 20's Plenty for Us works with many community, health, transport and safety organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors.

This comes in time for Road Safety Week 2012 - 19-26 November with its Go20 campaign in support of 20mph limits. Our aim is for 1m signatures by Road Safety Week 2013.

Rod King, Founder of 20's Plenty for Us said:-

*“We are delighted that the EU has accepted this European Citizen's Initiative. We are already mobilising supporters to sign up. We are collecting petition signatures from our members and coordinating the UK response. The aim is to help other organisations wanting 20mph limits for its benefits to public health, the environment and quality of life to sign and demonstrate support”*

Anna Semlyen, 20's Plenty for Us Campaign Manager said:-

*“It's exciting that citizens can petition this initiative to make their communities better places to be. We are telling everyone that a safer, cleaner, quieter urban environment can be theirs by showing support for this change. Our 20mph message is becoming viral – we'll be asking everyone to help, by linking to the [www.20mph4.eu](http://www.20mph4.eu) site and putting it in their newsletters and social media”*

**Sign the petition via our webpage at [www.20mph4.eu](http://www.20mph4.eu) or download a form to sign.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.30kmh.eu/the-initiative/the-european-citizens%c2%b4-initiative-in-a-nutshell/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk/Press\\_Releases/30mph\\_not\\_fit\\_for\\_purpose.pdf](http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk/Press_Releases/30mph_not_fit_for_purpose.pdf)

Anna Semlyen  
Campaign Manager  
20's Plenty for Us  
[anna.s@20splentyforus.org.uk](mailto:anna.s@20splentyforus.org.uk)  
07572 120439

**20's Plenty For Us campaigns for a  
20mph default speed limit in residential  
streets without physical calming.  
[www.20splentyforus.org.uk](http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk) @20splentyforus  
To find out more then please contact us**

Rod King  
Founder & Campaign Director  
20's Plenty for Us  
[rod.k@20splentyforus.org.uk](mailto:rod.k@20splentyforus.org.uk)  
07973 639781