



## It is smart for national governments to set national urban/village default speed limits of 20mph or 30km/h.

**Local governments in towns, cities and villages around the world are rejecting nationally set 30mph or 50km/h speed limits as no longer “fit for purpose” in meeting the needs of citizens and society. 20mph or 30km/h is now seen as the maximum safe speed limit where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists unless there are adequate segregated and crossing provisions. National governments should set 20mph or 30km/h as their national default urban/village speed limit.**

Most countries have nationally set default speed limits for urban/village roads. The 30mph or 50km/h default speed limit had no science behind it and most were adopted many decades ago when motor vehicle usage was much lower. Since then, the challenges in society to protect vulnerable road users, advance active travel, increase public health, increase equality, reduce emissions and the sheer numbers of motorised vehicles now require a re-think of what should be the maximum speed where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists.

In the UK a third of people live in places where local authorities have rejected the national 30mph limit. Whilst central governments may well say this is “localism in action” it is clearly also reflecting the “national inaction” by central governments. In doing so, local 20mph or 30km/h implementations have huge extra costs because they are not the national norm.

Some countries have already recognised that their current national 30mph or 50km/h limits are no longer fit for purpose. **Wales**<sup>1</sup> is in the process of setting a national 20mph urban/village limit and **Spain** a similar national 30km/h limit.

At global level the **UN, WHO** and **road safety NGOs** are calling for 20mph or 30km/h to be the urban/village default. It is the sole focus of the **UN Global Road Safety Week**<sup>2</sup> **#StreetsforLife** and seen as foundational for the UN's 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade of Action on Road Safety.



Smart governments are setting 20mph or 30km/h as a national norm with local authorities creating exceptions where higher speeds are safe. We call upon national governments to set their default urban/village limits at 20mph or 30km/h. The focus on this during **UN Global Road Safety Week, May 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>** is an ideal opportunity for national governments to commit to act on setting default national 20mph or 30km/h urban/village limits to make their streets fit for the liveability that society requires.

Email your MP to call for the UK government to #ActOn20mph at [www.20splenty.org/ungrsw-UKMP](http://www.20splenty.org/ungrsw-UKMP)

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.20splenty.org/ungrsw\\_wales](https://www.20splenty.org/ungrsw_wales)

<sup>2</sup> [www.unroadsafetyweek.org](http://www.unroadsafetyweek.org)

“National politicians can no longer brush off calls from local authorities to set the right 20mph or 30km/h as the national speed limits that preserve human life and liveability. It is illogical to have a national limit that is 50% or higher than global best practice or local communities demand. National government inaction is killing people and reducing the quality of life in our cities, town and villages by not setting the national standard of 20mph or 30km/h and not endorsing the limits that they know should be the norm.”

**Rod King MBE**, Founder and Campaign Director for **20's Plenty for Us** commented

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