

## 20mph petition presented to cabinet 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**PETITION: We the undersigned wish to show support for a 20pmh speed limit on Wells Road.**

It our belief that the reduction in the speed limit will significantly improve road safety along this route, improve the environment for the community and ensure that pedestrians walking up and down and across the Wells Road can do so with massively reduced risk.

Firstly I would like to say that I, together with most Wells Road residents, are very supportive of the general introduction of 20mph across Bath – slower speeds mean safer communities.

Having lived on the Wells Road for over 8 years, I have always been disturbed by the speed of traffic whilst walking on narrow pavements with my young child and dog. My Zone 4 residential parking bay is on the other side of the road opposite my house. When I suggested to the council that it is moved to the same side of the road so that I and other residents do not have to dodge traffic to get to our vehicles, I was advised that it acted as a chicane to slow down traffic.

I have been an active member of Widcombe Speed watch since its inception in February 2010. Wells Road was included in the patrols because the police have long been aware that people drive up and down the road at speeds greatly exceeding the 30mph speed limit. We have monitored up to 6% of vehicles driving over 36 miles per hour, this is whilst seeing us wearing high-vis jackets and carrying speed monitoring equipment. I believe that speeds are even more excessive when we are not out on patrol.

As a parent representative of Hayesfield School Travel Group I have been actively lobbying the council to improve the walking environment around the school, including upgrading the pedestrian island on Wells Road to a zebra or pelican crossing. Most mornings I assist my daughter, who is now 13 years old, cross the road outside our house, since at the pedestrian island further up the road there is a constant stream of rush-hour traffic, cars do not stop to let her cross and often speed around the corner.

Islington, which was the first London borough to introduce 20mph speed limits, is so happy with its residential limits that it is extending 20mph to arterial roads. Most pedestrian accidents occur on arterial roads, not residential and of course 2 people have died on Wells Road in the last 10 years.

I together with over 80 residents of Wells Road who have signed this petition, believe that our residential road should **not** be excluded from the 20mph limit. Why should people on the Wells Road not have the same right to a safer community as those living round the corner? If the speed was reduced not only would we be able to cross the Wells Road more safely but it could also reduce noise and pollution, improve our local environment and encourage more people to walk.