

Rachael Hushon Statement

Community Speedwatch : BNES Cabinet 15th December 2021

I have joined you this evening to talk about the work of Community Speedwatch Volunteers across our city and to ask for a city wide 20mph limit

I represent a Group of Speedwatch volunteers from the Lower Lansdown Area of Bath, but recently I have had the privilege to join with other Schemes across the BNES area

As a combined Group we number 21 schemes operating at multiple sites with over a 150 volunteers who have together given up more than 1000 hours of time over the last year.

I can assure you that we don't do this for fun, or for our uniform, we don't like the cold and we don't like the abuse or bullying that motorists give us. We give up our time because:

- We live on roads where motorists regularly ignore the 20mph speed limits
- Many live on roads which are residential but now suffer from cut through traffic creating dangerously high congestion at peaks.
- We want to live next to calmer roads
- We want to walk, cycle or ride on them safely
- We want children, elderly and less able bodied to use the streets and feel safe
- We want cleaner air which an enforced 20mph can contribute to

If our commitment isn't persuasive enough:

If a person is hit at 20mph they have a 2.5% chance of being fatally wounded at 30mph this becomes a 20% chance of being fatally wounded

In 2019 in the UK 91,153 people were injured, 20,885 people were injured seriously, 817 people killed through vehicle collision

20mph has been proven to reduce acceleration and deceleration and so reduces a vehicle's emissions

20mph has been shown to improve traffic flows avoiding bunching at junctions which actually means journey times are often not slowed.

A recent study by Surrey University revealed that the single most important factor in encouraging cycling is if the prevailing traffic speeds are 20mph.

And a city wide 20mph approach can save money too. London is estimated to be saving £20million per year in crash prevention.

So what are we asking for?

- We want a cross party commitment to put people not cars at the heart of traffic planning in our city.
- To make Bath an exemplar , a culture shift with zero tolerance for the bullying that some motorists assert over other people who share and live on our roads.
- Rather than seeing roads as a "network" see them from a human perspective like Sadiq Khan has done in London. View our roads and streets as places which are shared by people, not networks dominated by cars. Remember Residents live on them, and people walk and cycle on them.
- Finally we want all political parties, the Police and our Highways Officers in BNES to shift how they really view Bath's roads to recognise that a truly people centred approach is to adopt a city wide enforced 20mph zone and address the dominance of the car in our city.

Thank you for your time

Rachael Hushon

Lower Lansdown Community Speedwatch