

Good evening everyone. My name is Rachel Stokes and I represent the Keynsham Road Safety Campaign. Our petition calls for an extension of the proposed 30mph section of the Wellsway up to the 'Keynsham' sign, and the installation of a pavement to connect properties at Uplands with the pavement at Courtenay Road.

For those of you not familiar with Wellsway, it is the only 1 of 5 major routes into Keynsham that is not currently 30 mph. The section we are concerned with is only 700 metres long but contains a dangerous blind bend with 11 residential properties to either side of the road. Reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on this section would vastly increase the safety of all road users, but, would only add 13 seconds to each journey.

The Highways department claim this section should remain 40mph because it is 'rural'.

- If Uplands is 'rural', why do we pay a precept to Keynsham Town Council of around £100 per year?
- Although there is no up to date information, a traffic study in 2018 of this 'rural' road found that it was used by around 11,000 vehicles a day.
- One field (less than 300m long) separates the Uplands residential area from the rest of Keynsham.

Highways officers have been using the guidance for Rural Speed Management when considering this road; the official designation given by the Office for National Statistics for this section of road is C1 - **Urban: City and Town**.

The guidance for C1: Urban City and Town speed limits is very clear. It says that 30mph is the standard speed limit for urban areas.

The guidance says: For a 40mph limit to be appropriate, the road must be of **good width with buildings set back from the road** – at the Uplands junction there is a building less than 150cm from the road.

The guidance says: roads suitable for 40mph **must cater for the needs of non-motorised road users**. Cyclists on this stretch of road regularly take their lives in their hands and it is only a matter of time before we see another serious incident. **'Pulling out of Uplands Junction is quite a challenge' said Andy Wait – 13th March 2021.**

The guidance says: roads suitable for 40mph **must have adequate footways and crossing places**. There is no footway along this section, and not a single crossing.

The Highways department claim there is 'limited activity' to either side of the road. Every day there are around 50 residents who have to pull out onto a blind bend and hope for the best. Every day, farm traffic, B&B customers, delivery vehicles, cyclists, off-road motorcycles and 4 x 4 enthusiasts pull out onto a blind bend and hope for the best. It is, quite obviously, only a matter of time before there is a major incident

resulting in a fatality at this junction. One of this council's core policies is to promote a major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce emissions. At 30mph, with a pavement, this road would be perfect for pedestrians, hikers and horse riders. Instead of Bathnes having to pay for these residents to use the Safer Routes to School scheme, they could walk their children to the local school less than a mile away.

If a planning application was submitted for the junction of Uplands and Wellsway it would be rejected. The Highways Department would say that at 40mph, oncoming traffic does not have enough distance to stop. At 30mph, with longer stopping distances and less chance of death upon impact, the junction would be deemed safe enough for the application to be approved. For the sake of 13 additional seconds, Wellsway road users are subjected to an unacceptable level of risk. It is worth bearing in mind this quote from the Think! Campaign from 2009: "...if you hit a child at 30mph they have an 80% chance of living, but if you hit them at 40mph they have an 80% chance of dying."

Despite our repeated requests for meetings on site, the decision makers have not visited the road. The decision on the speed limits on Wellsway was not, by their own admission, informed by any data on composition of road users, average speeds, or accidents. The 700 people who have signed our petition see it and use it all the time and know it to be extremely fast, extremely busy, and extremely hazardous for all road users. They say: 'I feel I am taking my life in my hands trying to pull into this road', 'If no action is taken we will see serious injury or death'. Government guidance and common sense say that 'fear of traffic can affect peoples' quality of life'. This council's motto is 'Improving People's Lives' – please don't ignore this opportunity to improve the lives of Wellsway road users.

Over two years ago, 53 of your constituents made their concerns and wishes abundantly clear – they voted unanimously for this section of Wellsway to be reduced from 40mph to 30mph. Now, nearly 700 of your constituents have made their concerns and wishes abundantly clear. How long can the council, for the sake of only 700 metres, for the sake of only 13 seconds, ignore the legitimate concerns of these constituents and the evidence presented by this campaign?

Thank you for listening.