

Selection of supportive comments on 20mph schemes

HAWICK

I applaud the bold decision to implement it and I hope that you will stick to your guns. It's a great idea and I hope it will be successful.

It is fantastic that the Borders is taking the lead in this. More initiatives to encourage active travel and public transport would be great. More dedicated cycle/walking lanes and routes, especially linking the Borders towns and some enforcement measures for speed limits in built up areas.

KELSO

A healthier, safer environment for the cost of a few tens of seconds on journey times by car. People need to be encouraged away from the overuse of cars.

PEEBLES

It makes pebbles feel safer and more welcoming for users other than cars. However, as noted, there is a problem with enforcement. I would also like to ask the council to continue to act on evidence of the safety advantages of the scheme rather than pander to the car lobby (who will no doubt make their voices strongly heard in this consultation).

KELSO

Driving is a privilege not a God given right. Some folks just need to get out and walk off some cherished fat.

SMAILHOLM

I do feel the slower speed makes our village and our local towns feel as though the streets are for people again and I hope they stay. In Smailholm particularly we could really do with enforcement though.

PEEBLES

It's been excellent. Walking and cycling to town vehicles are slower and more predictable, everywhere, but particularly in busy and congested places, feel safer to walk, cycle AND drive.

It's fantastic. I'm proud it's happening in the Borders and hope it continues.

WHITSOME

My daily commute takes me through Greenlaw. One morning on my way to work a child who was cycling to school rode straight into the road from behind a parked van. If I had been doing the old speed limit of 30mph there is absolutely no way I could have stopped. The 20mph limit is 100% the reason there wasn't a horrible accident that morning. If it's stopped just one accident it's been completely justified.

BLAINSLIE

It's been great, being able to comfortably walk/cycle around my area and in other communities has been so much more enjoyable and has improved my mental health. I feel much more relaxed as I am not having to worry too much about cars coming up behind too fast. I have noticed less people driving, and that has been beneficial in terms of less pollution and pollution more generally. We should continue this scheme as we should be encouraging people to walk, cycle and take part in more active travel.

DARNICK

I and my friends/ neighbours play on the street and they also have young siblings so it makes us feel much safer. We also cross the road every day for school and it is a main road so with the 20 mph speed limit it makes me feel much safer.

EARLSTON

I would like to see the 20mph limit remain across Earlston as the slower traffic on the main roads (High St and help make the whole town accessible in respect to giving me confidence to take my children out on their bike cross/ride along these roads. As a driver, a 10mph difference in speed does not negatively impact me in any driving along these newly designated 20mph limits. This has been a great exercise (along with reducing speed along roads such as the one between Earlston-Blainslie-Lauder) and I hope that SBC continue to look at ways our roads more accessible for cyclists and pedestrians. The links with cycle tourism and the opportunities to our roads for users other than motorists are immense for the local economy.

CARDRONA

My grandchildren live on the outskirts of Innerleithen just within the new speed zone and I notice a big difference the 20mph limit. Walking them to school definitely feels a lot safer. Also, there is a fairly hidden junction into Caerlee Estate where they live and the new speed limit makes that junction a lot safer to exit.

CARLOPS

I think the 20mph implementation is EXCELLENT. The best bit of legislation in years. There is a wonderful calm effect when those drivers that comply pass by. I feel respected and less assaulted by noise, draught and spray. Life is too hectic and aggressive - we need to calm everything down. Thank you. Please don't reverse the decision to please those that want to travel as fast as possible.

INNERLEITHEN

We have a straight fast road and while few people stay at 20mph, it's better than before. I love the 20mph and roads feel much safer. Recently on a trip to Fife, it felt odd driving at 30mph and also felt too fast.

INNERLEITHEN

The pavement we walk our children along to school is close to the road and near the start of the speed limit as we come into the town. It feels much safer walking the kids to school now that the speed limit has reduced and we are travelling significantly slower. This has also increased my confidence to walk to/from school if we have grandchildren with us (e.g. friends). When our kids are a bit older I think I will feel much happier cycling along the road with them. We live close to the road and have additionally noticed a significant reduction in road noise which has increased our ability to enjoy our garden and quality of life significantly.

GALA

As I have learned to drive within the last 9 months, learning in a 20mph has made it much easier to learn how to drive. It has allowed more time at junctions on pulling off and roundabouts are far easier to use. I have also been able to drive more safely and been more alert to what is going on around me. Thank you and please keep the 20mph within the town.

MELROSE

I have really appreciated the 20mph trial. I actually bought a bike and cycled for the first time in nearly thirty years. I only felt safe enough to do that because of the 20mph limit. I figured if I did get hit, there was at least a chance I would survive it.

GALA

The scheme has perhaps made people more aware of the fact that they are driving through somebody's neighbourhood and more respectful of that. It will also have made the streets quieter. I have noticed that some 20mph areas have been rolled back already: was that due to complaints from motorists? If so, I am angered that it has taken years of work and a global pandemic to get speeds down to 20mph and that could all be reversed by a minority of motorists who don't even live in the areas affected. As a regular cyclist it has not made much difference to my cycle use but in the earlier stages when the roads were quieter and the speed limit was enforced it was good to get more people out on bikes: I fear that with the return of the traffic and the undeniable fact that a lot of motorists are ignoring the new rules the amount of new cyclists will decrease. As a motorist I am doggedly sticking to the rules (that won't surprise you) so I often have impatient (dangerous) drivers trying to bully me down the road. I have heard some people saying that the new limits are making people less safe: same old rubbish because we know that injuries and fatalities reduce as speed goes down. I am really interested in how many people have been prosecuted for speeding in the new zones and what the plans are for preserving them and enforcing the limits properly. This was a good move by the council and I hope the commitment to road safety will continue.

MELROSE

- First of all, I thought this was a bold experiment, and that such trials are to be encouraged. We need to get back to roads that are owned by cars at the expense of other road users, especially those doing active travel. I'd actually like car-free Sundays here (especially in the better weather months).
- It's a pity this trial took place over the colder darker months, when people would be out less. I assume this will be taken into account in the road usage statistics.
- Not everyone appeared to obey the new rules, but enough did for the roads to feel significantly safer within the trial area. Social distancing often obliges pedestrians to leave the safety of the pavement and step into the roadway, so the trial was welcomed especially at this time. There are some roads where 20mph felt unjustifiably slow (eg. the main road in Melrose since changed), but in most places it felt fine to me and significantly safer, both as a motorist and a cyclist and as a pedestrian. 20mph stopping distance must be much reduced. Until we have autonomous vehicles, that has to be a good thing.
- Such measures are presumably an attraction for active holidaymakers to the region. Melrose now has two bus routes, and quieter (or traffic-free?) roads are sure to be a significant attraction.
- The health benefits of discouraging elective driving and encouraging active travel are well-known.
- I was trying to find out whether the lower speeds fed through into fewer accidents, but the Pedestrian and Cyclist Accident Data from the Traffic Speed and Volume Dashboard only appears to give data up to 2019. Do accident figures bear out the trial? Have there been fewer accidents? Have been safer?

GALA

The 20 mph speed limit provides a feeling of security in walking along the street. The fact that surrounding roads are restricted to 20 mph makes crossing the roads on foot, or when driving, finding it easier to calculate the distance to cross out into a traffic lane. I do feel the roads in and around Galashiels should remain at 20 mph, and also in all the villages in the Borders, they too have benefitted from the slower traffic regime.

GALA

It's a life saver.

It's fuel saver

It's an environment saver.

Please keep all the current 20mph areas intact.

Gala

With the volume and size of vehicles on Melrose road it has always been intimidating to walk, cycle and drive three children that need to walk to school the navigation of the busy Galashiels road systems (some of the bus even compared to trunk road volumes) was always a worry as parents. The 20mph makes it easier to navigate able to cycle with your children. Even as a driver the 20mph makes you feel like you could react better to an occurrence on the road with increased reactionary times. The only problem at the moment is the scheme is run by the police

KELSO

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