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Proposed 20mph Speed limit Area

Dear Occupant,

The City Council is proposing to change the speed limit to 20mph in Earl Marshall. The attached plan shows where the proposed 20mph speed limit will be. The plan is intended to only show the boundary, not any detail of signing locations. If you struggle to read the plan, you can find it on our website, the link is at the top of this letter, alternatively please get in touch.

Why are we doing this and what will it look like?

Lower speeds will help make neighbourhoods safer, more pleasant places for all, particularly our children.

- Lower speeds reduce the severity of injuries for anyone involved in a collision
- Some collisions will be avoided all together
- People are more likely to feel safe when walking and cycling

New 20mph limits will be indicated by traffic signs and road markings only. This is less expensive, which allows us to reduce speeds in more residential areas in order to make our neighbourhoods safer places. Speed limit signs will mark the entrances to each 20mph area, additional smaller signs will be fixed to lamp posts to remind drivers of the new speed limit.

Speed reductions in 'sign-only' 20mph areas can be small to start with but we are committed to working with the community to spread the message that lower speeds will make the area safer for residents. Every driver that slows down helps to make the area safer.

There are some common questions on the last page of this letter with answers and these will hopefully help inform your feedback about the scheme.

What happens next?

We plan to introduce the new speed limit in late 2024, but this will depend on the response we receive to this letter. Any objections will need to be presented to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee for them to decide whether the scheme can proceed or not.

If you would like to register your support for the proposal or object, please write to us by e-mail or letter, details below.

Email: 20mphAreas@sheffield.gov.uk

Or write to:

Strategic Transport, Howden House, 5th Floor South, 1 Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2SH

Formal objections must be received by 13th June 2024 and must accompany the ground for the objection.

Kind regards

Strategic Transport, Sustainability, and Infrastructure

Frequently Asked Questions

Do 20mph speed limits increase congestion and affect bus services?

Due to current average speeds on these roads, it is unlikely that the lowering of speed limits from 30mph to 20mph will change existing journey times during the day. During off-peak periods, including overnight, some people may experience a slight increase in journey times, however research into the impacts of 20mph by Steer Davies Gleave suggests that introducing 20mph speed limits has a negligible impact on journey times, given that overall journey times are largely dictated by junction delays and not vehicle speeds.

The bus operators are one of the Council's required statutory consulted and have raised no concern/ objection to any of the 20mph schemes. They offered the following response when the council was consulting on the 2012 Speed Limit Strategy:

"20mph in residential areas does not cause any problems for bus services. Buses should not, and would actually struggle, to achieve more than 20mph on residential roads and in practice are much slower than this. As long as any physical measures placed on bus routes are appropriate i.e. cushions or junction plateaus rather than humps then the PTE and bus operators support reducing vehicle speeds in residential areas to appropriate levels. Buses actually assist in reducing vehicle speeds by slowing traffic and also stopping traffic whilst boarding and alighting and thus act as traffic calming".

Do 20mph speed limits affect air quality?

A study by Imperial College London into the impact of 20mph speed limits suggested that they have no net negative impact on exhaust emissions. Results indicate clear benefits to driving style and associated particulate emissions. The research found that vehicles moved more smoothly, with fewer accelerations and decelerations, than in 30mph zones. Also, the Department for Transport's 20mph Research Study (November 2018) found that although empirical evidence is weak, inconclusive or complex, sign only 20mph limits have the potential to positively affect vehicle emissions, air quality and noise levels, through:

- a reduction in average speed and top percentile speeds;
- smoother, more consistent driving speeds;
- small-scale displacement of traffic; and
- a modal shift away from the car.

This suggests that the introduction of 20mph limits is unlikely to have had a negative impact on air quality.

How will the scheme be enforced?

The police are the only ones that can enforce speed limits and we consult with them before we install any new speed limit. They have indicated that these schemes will not routinely be monitored as they understandably use their limited resource on other matters.

The key to realising substantially lower speeds on our residential roads lies in affecting a fundamental shift in driver attitude. The aim, therefore, is to build a community acceptance that 20mph is the appropriate maximum speed to travel at in residential areas. The 20mph Speed Limit Strategy is an attempt to change the driving culture in residential areas and to reduce the impact of traffic on our neighbourhoods. The Council does, however, continue to invest in accident saving schemes and in road safety education, training and publicity targeted primarily at areas with the highest number of accidents.

Community concerns about speeding issues and requests for short-term enforcement at a particular location (for instance outside a school) should be reported to South Yorkshire Police's Local Policing Teams (formally the Safer Neighbourhoods teams) by ringing their non-emergency 101 number.

Why isn't the money being spent on other issues in my area such as potholes and repairs?

Most of these schemes are funded from Central Government from a budget given to Local Authorities to use on **new** highway schemes. Sheffield has a Private Finance Initiation (PFI) with Amey for their Highway Maintenance and the two funding streams deliver separate things.

Are 20mph schemes a waste of money?

The type of 20mph schemes that we are installing as part of this programme are "sign only" schemes. This means that there will be no traffic calming installed on roads, just signs and some 20mph road markings. This is a more cost-effective way of reducing speeds and this means that we can install schemes in a greater number of areas within Sheffield.

Where are details of the accidents that have led to this 20mph scheme being proposed?

Accident data is used to prioritise which schemes we take forward each year using the funding allocated for these schemes. As it is our intention to install 20mph on all suitable residential roads in Sheffield (subject to consultation and Committee approval), as we work down this priority list we will inevitably reach zones that have very few accidents but these will still be subject to a 20mph speed limit. If you would like to see accident statistics in your area, the Crash Map website will have this information.

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