

LETTER ACCOMPANYING OUR PETITION REQUESTING 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ZONES OUTSIDE BROMLEY SCHOOLS AND IN PLACES OF NEED.

Dear Councillors,

Our petition is backed by research and by comments from residents in the Bromley Borough.

'Plan Zero For London' states that lowering speeds is one of the most important things that we can do to make our streets safer.

A person is about five times less likely to be fatally injured if hit at 20 mph than at 30mph, a fact which seemed common sense to the signatures.

Although statistically Bromley may have a low number of road accidents, this is most likely because residents are too scared to walk! We would like to see children walking to school, to start them off on a healthy lifestyle; this would also save NHS money in the future. More children walking to school would also decrease both congestion on the roads and cars parking dangerously near to school gates.

Although many residents would not advocate a 20 mph speed limit throughout the borough, at least 95% said it makes sense to have 20 mph speed limit zones outside all schools. Heads of various schools strongly supported this, as did all lollypop ladies/ men who we spoke to.

In boroughs which introduced 20 mph throughout, interestingly there has never been a campaign to bring speeds up again!

There is a comparatively small budget for road safety in Bromley; we feel health and safety should be a priority. Prevention is better than cure. New road surfacing has caused higher speeds, so we urge councillors to take more action on road safety, and particularly our petition which has been supported by so many residents. We appreciate that councillors have been in negotiation with some schools over road safety.

Lollypop ladies/men are no longer fully funded by the council, but receive a small grant which then needs to be supplemented; schools in more affluent areas of the borough raise money from the Parents/ Teachers Association-PTA. Some schools are lucky enough to gain a sponsor, but many no longer have the 'luxury' of a lollypop lady/man, which should be statutory, and fully funded by the council, money coming from council tax paid by residents.

Regarding pollution, Imperial College research shows that 20 mph decreases emissions. Changing from 20 to 30 mph involves little acceleration and no gear change.

PARTICULAR AREAS OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED BY RESIDENTS AND HEADTEACHERS WHO SIGNED THIS PETITION:-

Worsley Bridge Primary School -Comment written by head of school on petition paper "As headteacher and parent I would really like to see restrictions for the safety of my pupils and so that I can feel confident in letting my children walk around my local area. I would like to see more families walk to school but they are fearful of the traffic"

Raglan Primary school- First alerted to dangers around this school by many residents in the local park during half term. Cars are whizzing round from Southlands Rd into Raglan Rd, where children come out of their school gates. (See further comments on petition paper)

Marian Vian- Goddard Road

Balgowan Primary school- Signatures from parents with comments

Harris Primary Academy Kent House- signed by caretaker, PTA leader and parents

Farnborough Primary school-Farnborough Hill- 'cut through' road from A21

St Mary Cray Primary School * This school has a 20 mph zone, but only two speed signs at each end of zone, so cars emerging from cul de sacs onto main road would be unaware of speed limit. There are bus stops very close to school gates and zebra crossing is some distance from school, and parents pointed out that this crossing is in an unsuitable place as it is on a bend. Two or three 20 mph signs painted on the road would help. The Head of school signed the petition and wrote a comment.

Harris Primary Academy Shortlands- Signatures from parents requesting 20mph outside all Bromley Borough schools.

Churchfields Primary School-Their lollypop lady was in favour of a 20 mph zone, for the safety of both the children and herself. Many parents signed.

Schools such as Perry Hall Primary school which already have a 20 mph zone, speak highly of the safety benefits.

RESIDENTIAL ROADS:-

Beckenham Grove, Shortlands.

In spite of parked cars on both sides of the road, cars speed down this road which is also a bus route for the 367 bus. Frequent hooting can be heard! There are now a considerable number of children and elderly residents in this road; many cats have been killed by cars over the last few years. (See residents' comments on petition form)

Petts Wood Road in Petts Wood- comment from Rob

"This is a heavily used route connecting Orpington and Chislehurst to Bromley and living on the road I am only too aware of the frightening speeds at which cars travel on a regular basis. We noticed some traffic officers taking speed checks some weeks ago, but I am unaware of what came of this, if anything."

Thank you for accepting our petition and this accompanying letter.

We hope you will look carefully at comments on this paper petition and implement some/all of our requests, particularly for 20 mph speed limit zones outside Bromley Borough schools.

Best wishes,

Members of Bromley Green Party