

14 November 2018

Dear Residents

We are writing to you following the launch of the Council's consultation on introducing a borough-wide 20mph limit in Richmond upon Thames.

As with anything new, people are bound to have questions and want to better understand the rationale for the scheme and what impact the potential changes will have on them, their families and their communities. We understand this.

We believe in the positive change the introduction of a borough-wide 20mph limit will have on our communities. However, this is a consultation, nothing has been decided. We want to hear from you and we want you to know you are being listened to.

We have been asked by some to explain the rationale behind the proposals. In other London Boroughs such as Southwark, Camden, Islington and Wandsworth 20mph limits have not only become established but are providing demonstrable benefits to the local population.

In Southwark, average speeds dropped 1.8mph with the introduction of 20mph limits and the proportion of drivers travelling over 30mph reduced by 6%. In Brighton and Hove, the first year of 20mph limits saw traffic speeds reduced on 74% of roads, collisions were also 12% down with zero fatalities.

In addition, lower vehicle speeds are likely to create streets where crossing movement is easier, vehicle noise is less prominent and the general dominance of traffic is reduced – all factors which create environments which are more conducive to walking and cycling and lead to an overall improvement in the liveability of communities. We would be hopeful that an introduction of a borough-wide 20mph limit would lead to a positive cultural shift in travel behaviour.

Research shows that introducing a 20mph limit would make our roads safer for other road users such as cyclists and pedestrians.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) reported that if a pedestrian is hit by a vehicle travelling at 20mph there is a 2.5% chance that they will be fatally injured, compared to a 20% chance at 30mph. In a study from the University of Westminster, risk of injury to cyclists reduced by 21% through the introduction of a 20mph limit alone.

In Edinburgh the impact of those has been a three-fold increase in children cycling to school, following the introduction of a trial 20mph limit.

As part of this consultation we have received questions about the impact of 20mph on air quality. It's worth considering that even if we assumed that there was no impact on exhaust emissions from the move to 20mph, the lower speed limit can of itself improve air quality; by encouraging people to switch from cars to cycling and walking.

More than that, according to Public Health Wales, a 20mph limit which reduces average speeds from 31mph to 19mph reduces harmful gasses by 32 per cent. That is not to mention the fact that slower speeds result in steadier flow of traffic and less acceleration and braking, which should reduce the amount of brake and tyre particulates (PM 2.5) in our air.

We believe in this change and we believe the facts are on our side. Ultimately though, you will decide on whether a 20mph limit is good for you, your family, your community and this borough.

We are committed to making sure that Richmond Council doesn't just make decisions on behalf of local people without meaningful consultation and engagement. We want to hear your views.

The consultation is open until 21 December 2018 and we urge you to take part.

Whether you complete the consultation form online, at one of the Council's community conversations events, or on a paper form from your local Library, please have your say.

Kind Regards

**Sir Vince Cable**  
**MP for Twickenham**

**Zac Goldsmith**  
**MP for Richmond Park and North Kingston**

**Cllr Gareth Roberts**  
**Leader of Richmond Council Liberal Democrat Group**

**Cllr Paul Hodgins**  
**Leader of Richmond Council Conservatives Group**

**Cllr Richard Bennett**  
**Leader of the Richmond Green Party Group**

**Cllr Alexander Ehmann**  
**Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Transport, Streetscene and Air Quality**

**Cllr Gareth Richards**  
**Richmond Council Cycling and Walking Champion**

**Joshua Harris**  
**Director of Campaigns, Brake**

**Richmond 20s Plenty For Us**