

Proposed 20 mph Speed Limit in Kington Langley

The Proposal

A police-able 20mph limit across the commons, outside the school, church bend and down Church Road. The proposal includes placing "Pedestrian with Children" signs down Church Road where currently there is no protection for them. The proposals are based entirely on the recommendation of the Wiltshire Senior Traffic Engineer, Martin Rose, who discussed the issue with village representatives (Maurice Dixon observing) at a meeting on 18 December 2018. The Parish Council "Resolved" to apply for a 20mph limit at their January 2019 meeting. That application has already gone forward to the relevant Wiltshire Council committee.

The Case for

Traffic speed outside the school is expected to increase due to the new parking arrangements, and a 20mph limit with signage and subject to Police enforcement, will go some way towards dealing with the danger it poses.

There is an important distinction between a **limit** & a **zone**. A 20mph limit can be enforced by the Police if it is at least 600m long (so their laser device works) and also monitored by Community Speed Watch. A zone on the other hand requires yellow flashing lights, large signs on the common and only lasts for specified hours. It cannot be enforced in the same way as a limit.

The Case against

The proposal is not supported by the evidence and the local community has not been consulted widely enough to support the introduction of a 20 mph limit.

The national policy statement says that "Research into signed-only 20 mph speed limits shows that they generally lead to only small reductions in traffic speeds."

In Dec 2017 Bath & North East Somerset conducted a study of 13 20 mph limit schemes. In all 4 rural schemes the number of accidents had risen significantly. The Bath study suggests that this trend may be due to such schemes making people feel safer, and therefore less careful, whilst the reality is the introduction of a 20 mph limit has only a very limited effect on speed.

If it is not already the intent, the scheme to create off-road school parking should be limited to sufficient for the staff alone. This ensures the physical barrier to traffic flow and speed is retained when children are going to and from school. The retention of this barrier was recommended by the police. The existing 30 mph speed limit through the village should be maintained.