

“20 is Plenty in Devon” campaign: reducing traffic speed throughout Devon's villages. A discussion paper.

The Ide community has clearly expressed in the past, and continues to express, its concerns about the impacts of speeding traffic on the residents of our village, particularly on vulnerable road-users (children, the elderly, cyclists, mobility scooter users, parents with prams/buggies/etc, dog walkers, horse riders, and so on).

Some roads in the village already have successful 20 mph limits, including Fore Street and High Street: the main roads through the village, which allow access to smaller roads and act as a throughfare for road users coming from villages beyond Ide. They are also residential roads in their own rights. The roads in the centre of the village are characterised by sections with single pavements on one side of the road or no pavement. Ide also has many stretches of lane beyond the centre of the village where there are no pavements and which are predominantly single width with limited passing points. These lanes have a number of residential properties, small businesses and farms located on them and the entrance and car parking for the planned village recreation ground is on the lower portion of Station Road. These are designated national speed limit roads, however, despite the fact that vehicles travelling at up to 60mph pose real dangers to pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists, and those on horseback.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) states: *A large number of evaluation studies have demonstrated a link between the introduction of 20mph zones and a subsequent reduction in casualties. The size of the reductions and the consistency of results over a wide number of areas are further evidence for this link... As well as road safety benefits, it is important to highlight the contribution that 20mph zones can have in encouraging more physical activity such as walking and cycling, by contributing towards a safer environment.* RoSPA also states: *20mph limits without traffic calming also reduce traffic speed... Their lower cost means that wider areas can be covered.*

In addition to concerns about road user safety, Ide Parish Council, like many others in Devon, has declared a Climate Emergency and is implementing or promoting a number of measures to help mitigate the effects of climate change and to support opportunities for improved health and wellbeing in the parish. A 20mph limit throughout Devon villages would be consistent with, and would underpin, these measures, for example by reducing vehicle carbon emissions.

In order, therefore, to: improve road safety; promote active travel options and healthy, outdoor lifestyles; help address climate challenges; and to meet the needs and expectations of residents I propose that:

Ide Parish Council supports the '20 is plenty' campaign alongside other villages across Devon. We see no reason why DCC would not want to actively support the '20 is plenty' initiative and do not believe there is advantage to be gained from another trial on this initiative and one in a town (Newton Abbot) whose characteristics bear little relation to those in villages.

As a PC we discuss the implications of asking DCC to extend the 20mph area in Ide to cover those lanes which have a number of residential properties and which are widely used for recreation by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, namely the lower section of Station Road, Halscombe Lane, Westown Road, Haynes Lane and College Lane.