



## **CoHSAT Address to Transport Delegated Decisions Meeting 5 September 2024 20mph Speed limits for Appleford and other villages**

We are delighted to see 22 proposals for 20mph speed limits coming for decision today. We resist the temptation to address each one as they have common features.

The benefits of 20mph speed limits are well documented. A meta-analysis published in May analysed 70 studies of 40 city-wide schemes<sup>1</sup> and found averages of:

- 23% reduction in crashes
- 37% reduction in fatalities
- 38% reduction in injuries
- 18% reduction in emissions, repudiating a lot of myths
- 2.5 decibels reduction in noise, almost halving
- 2% reduction in traffic congestion due to smoother flows

In Oxfordshire, where 42% of people killed or seriously injured on the roads are in 20 or 30mph speed limits, it is essential we reduce this toll. The ratio of fatalities to serious injuries in 20 limits is one-quarter that in 30s.

On the 22 proposals coming forward today, we have reviewed them all, and note that they all fit the criteria of being brought forward by their locally elected councils, and being designed to have 20 where people live, work and go to school. In consultations aimed to identify any substantive problems with the schemes, three-quarters saw more support than objections and overall supporters were about double the number of objectors.

We'll talk about the 3 out of the 22 that had net objections:

- Berinsfield, with 2 public objections and one from the bus company. We note the analysis that on the loop proposed for 20, buses hardly exceed 20, and this short loop passes a school, shops, houses and a playing field.
- Ducklington, with 7 objectors and 5 in support. We note that the proposal covers only the route through the village, and not the parallel A415.
- Freeland, which saw 176 responses with 52% objecting, mostly on the grounds that the road through the village is straight and wide so 30mph is easy. That, Councillor, is exactly the situation that leads to casualties and calls for a speed reduction as officers rightly identify.

*Robin Tucker, Co-Chair, CoHSAT*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/11/4382>, Yannis & Michelaraki, Sustainability2024, 16(11), 4382