



Address to Highways Decision Meeting, 14 December 2023 re 20mph Speed Limits – Robin Tucker, Co-Chair, CoHSAT

At CoHSAT we are pleased to see another set of communities requesting a reduction in local speed limits and these being brought to decision today.

Some people seem to accept of the dangers of traffic, but we do not think it ethically acceptable to just ignore the hundreds of people being killed thousands injured on our roads as a by product of our current transport system.

Reducing speed limits is a proven effective intervention for reducing casualties. We accept that without enforcement it doesn't bring every driver's speed down from 30mph down to 20mph, but data from many locations shows that speeds are reduced, they are reduced more where they were faster to start with, and casualties can be reduced by about 20%.

This is good news for the people of Oxfordshire, even though we'll probably never know the names of those who have been saved from injury or death.

The lower speed limits also support people who want to walk, wheel or cycle, by making it safer to use or cross the roads. This reduces pollution and congestion, improves physical and mental health, and because these modes don't require spending thousands of pounds each year on a car they are good for equity too.

Overall this is a low cost policy with multiple benefits and we urge you to approve these speed limit reductions.

Robin Tucker
Co-Chair
CoHSAT