

From: David Wilkinson, Dorchester resident.

I wholly support the introduction of a 20mph zone in Dorchester-on-Thames.

I have lived in the village for 16 years. I drive, and walk in the village every day where I observe driving behaviour including frequent near-misses caused by drivers going too fast for the road situation. I also worked on the Speedwatch project as a volunteer.

To give just three examples, a lower speed limit will improve safety in the following example situations:

1. Cars driving through the village where the way is narrowed by parked cars and visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and other drivers is hampered.
2. Cars driving on the bridge over the River Thame which has narrow pavements and a blind bend. 30 mph is too fast for this bridge including where it approaches the built-up area – this is where schoolchildren cross the road in the mornings and wait for school buses.
3. Cars driving on roads such as Bridge End, Watling Lane and Drayton Road, which do not have pavements and are very narrow for all or part of their length.

With traffic moving more slowly I will feel encouraged to walk and cycle more in the area.

There may be a small visual impact on the historic streetscape from the new signage. As a heritage professional I consider this manageable and a small price for the increased safety.

The difference in Nuneham Courtenay with drivers going more slowly since a 20mph zone was installed is already clear.

The Welsh Government have usefully summarised evidence in favour of 20mph limits, here, <https://www.gov.wales/introducing-20mph-speed-limits-frequently-asked-questions#74843>

showing that: 20mph zones reduce deaths and injuries, lower the average driving speed, and encourage walking and cycling; they do not increase air pollution as opponents have claimed.



David Wilkinson, 9-12-23