

Lindfield and 20mph speed limit – application delayed

LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Lindfield Parish Council (LPC) is very disappointed to announce that it has not proved possible to apply to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for a 20mph speed limit by its 31st July 2025 deadline. This decision was reluctantly taken in the light of changing advice from WSCC. Following the latest advice received, the required level of consultation could not be completed within the available time. Serious consideration was given to submitting a partial or limited scope application but there was a risk that doing so might then preclude a subsequent fuller proposal. LPC concluded that it was best to apply for the most appropriate scheme with the required level of consultation, rather than rush into a substandard proposal simply to meet WSCC's 31st July 2025 deadline.

At this time, LPC would like to thank Chris Lee of Fairer World Lindfield for the petition that they organised in support of a 20mph speed limit, all the many residents who supported the petition, and the organisations and business who responded to LPC's subsequent email seeking their views.

LPC is putting a plan in place to allow a full application to be submitted to WSCC which will seek to address the level of consultation that WSCC's Officers have advised is required to give the application the best chance to succeed. However, there is no guarantee of success, as

WSCC receive around 60 applications a year under their Community Highways Scheme and generally only 10-12 of these are successful. It is understood that priority is given to schemes which are the most cost effective and are required to address significant issues, including evidence of inappropriate speeds and collisions.

LPC will continue to actively engage with WSCC and the campaign group 20's Plenty for Us (www.20splenty.org) to provide the strongest case for a 20mph speed limit across the village. LPC considers that a 20mph scheme is entirely appropriate for the village, especially recognising the summary of evidence detailed in the graphic below.

WSCC has adopted the widely used VisionZero strategy, which is intended to eliminate traffic related deaths and serious injuries. A further benefit of such an approach is its impact in supporting sustainable travel and healthy living. LPC strongly believes that WSCC should promote the wide adoption of 20mph speed limits in all areas where pedestrians and vehicle traffic are in close proximity, rather than await a level of collisions or speeding which forces it to act after the event. Over the coming months all households in the village will be asked for their views and these will be used to assess the issues that such a scheme may create and how best to address concerns raised.

Summary of evidence*

Slower speeds are a key part of our goal to create Healthy Streets. Reducing vehicle speeds makes the street feel safer and more relaxed, which is likely to attract more people to walk, cycle and socialise in the street. London's boroughs and Transport for London (TfL) have implemented 20 miles per hour (mph) limits and zones on more than half of the capital's roads. There is strong evidence to support the introduction of 20mph roads in London and across the country:

Collisions are less likely at 20mph

There has been a
25% ↓

reduction in road collisions on TfL's strategic roads since the introduction of 20mph limits, using data from 2020 to 2022



20mph limit helps to prevent the most severe injuries when collisions do occur

A person is
5x

more likely to be killed if hit by a vehicle travelling at 30mph, than at 20mph



Travelling at excess speed is one of the main causes of collisions

Around
half

of collisions identified speed as a contributory factor in fatal collisions in 2022



Children are safer



The number of children killed or seriously injured was reduced

by half

after 20mph schemes were introduced between 1986-2006

20mph limit does not increase journey times



Negligible impact on
journey times

as these are largely dictated by junction delays, not vehicle speeds

Residents are in favour of these changes



78%

agree that 20mph is the right speed for the area in which they live

20mph limit enables more active travel as people feel safer

There is an

increase

in walking and cycling where 20mph limits have been implemented



No adverse impact on air pollution

There has been

no net increase

in exhaust emissions on 20mph roads



Streets are quieter and driving style improves

There is

reduced noise

when car speeds decrease from 30mph to 20mph, and driving style is smoother with less braking in 20mph areas in London



*This infographic uses statistics from research into 20mph limits and 20mph zones by TfL, DfT, independent academics, city councils and transport consultancies