

**Suggestion for Scrutiny Work Programme Form
(To be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

Suggestion from:

Cllr Diane Hind and Cllr Julia Wakelam

What would you like to suggest for investigation / review?

This request is for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a review of 20 mile per hour zones and their signage and possibly request that Suffolk County Council arrange for 20 mile per hour zones (or limits) to be extended, adequately signed, and enforced.

Why do we need a 20mph limit?

- The higher the speed that traffic is going, the more likelihood there is of acceleration and deceleration, along with idling traffic, all of which is a major cause of air pollution. This is all less likely if traffic is going at an appropriate speed.
- Evidence shows that if a pedestrian is hit by traffic travelling at 20 mph or 30mph, the likelihood of them being killed by the latter, for example, 30mph, is 8 times greater than by the former, 20mph, because, obviously, the impact is greater.
- If the public are educated over a period of time that speeding traffic affects not only safety but also air quality and health, they are much more likely to follow the rules as they did with the smoking ban and the importance of covid vaccination. 20mph limits are not a quick fix and take time to be habit forming but evidence shows that they work.
- Drivers need to know that a 20mph limit exists. If they can hardly see the 20mph repeater signs on the road because they have faded so much, or if there is insufficient roadside signage how can they be expected to keep to the rules.
- This subject is of great concern to residents in Bury St Edmunds particularly in the Town Centre. The Association of Residents Association of all residents groups across the Parish of Bury St Edmunds are very keen that this be pursued as they perceive this to be a factor in improving Air Quality as well as keeping people safer.

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

What are the main issues / concerns to be considered?

NOTES

- This is not an argument for a blanket 20mph limit throughout the District but only for those Towns or areas where residents have called for them, or where accidents due to speeding have occurred, or where there is a large pedestrian presence.
- In Cambridge the whole of Cherry Hinton area is 20 mph, and in Paris the Mayor has just extended the coverage.
- Also, I thought it might be worth mentioning the differences between a 20 zone and a 20 limit as per information from Suffolk constabulary

20mph – Zone

This is a section of road that is set at 20mph, it must be accompanied by sufficient traffic calming measures to force the traffic to slow to this level. This may be in road design with chicanes, speed humps, strategic parking, or other obstacles. 20 zones generally do not carry a traffic regulation order that gives police powers to enforce. Without repeater “20” signs, the zone is legally unenforceable, but the measures in place should generally prevent speeding.

20mph – Limit

This section of road must be accompanied by 20mph repeater signs throughout the whole stretch. These limits do not require traffic calming measures but must look and feel like a 20. It is not acceptable to simply change 30mph signs to 20’s without other road modifications, signage or landscaping.

The issue with any 20 is that the police will not routinely enforce these. As a very general rule, people tend not to exceed limits by more than 10mph, so this would mean that a marked 20, people will generally not exceed 30. This may therefore have the desired effect of reducing speeds from a marked 30 where people may go up to 40.

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Who is responsible for providing this service, or tackling the issue in question?

Suffolk County Council have the responsibility and I’m sure would consider if the District Council made a request. Obviously to make such a request a review such as the one I’m recommending would need to be carried out and then the Committee could ask for the Portfolio Holder at Suffolk County Council to take action if that was what the committee decided.

Have you spoken to them, and if so, what was the response?

Not applicable as a different council (Suffolk County Council).

What is the Portfolio Holders view on this issue?	
Not applicable at this stage, as above.	
What would be the likely benefits and outcomes of carrying out this investigation / review?	
Improved Air quality, improved health and fewer serious accidents	
Estimated Committee and officer resource implications (eg research group, one-off report, dedicated meeting etc)	
Research Group.	
Suggested witnesses, documentation and consultation	
Residents Associations., Business Groups	
Will this investigation / review contribute to one or more of the Council's Strategic Priorities? If so, which (please tick)	
Growth in West Suffolk's economy for the benefit of all our residents and UK plc	
Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active.	X
Increased and improved provision of appropriate housing in West Suffolk in both our towns and rural areas.	
Will this investigation / review contribute to the achievement of one or more of the commitments within the Council's West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-2024 Priorities? If so, which (please tick)	
Growth in West Suffolk's economy for the benefit of all our residents and UK plc.	
1. Encourage economic growth in West Suffolk that benefits our local economy, our workforce, our families and communities and our global and local environments in particular by tackling climate change.	
2. Secure improve infrastructure and facilities to support new and existing communities.	
3. Invest in our towns, villages and countryside areas by building their unique strengths	
Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active:	
1. Support communities to fulfil their ambitions so as to improve the lives of residents and the local environment.	X
2. Work with partners to build resilience in families and communities, so that problems can be prevented at the earliest opportunity.	
3. Use our community, leisure public open space, countryside and heritage assets so that they give maximum benefit to West Suffolk communities.	X

Increased and improved provision of appropriate housing in West Suffolk in both our towns and rural areas:	
1. Ensure a variety of new housing is provided in appropriate locations, that meets the needs of current and future generations.	
2. Improve the quality of housing and the local environment for our residents.	
3. Support people to access suitable housing, including by working in partnership to addresses their wider needs.	

Will this investigation hit one of the essential elements of a scrutiny review when analysing potential scrutiny reviews? If so, which (please tick)	
Public Interest: The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen by overview and scrutiny.	X
Impact (Value): Priority should be given to issues that make the biggest difference to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area, and which have the potential to make recommendations which could lead to real improvements. The outcome must also be proportionate to the cost of carrying out the review in terms of staff and councillor time.	X
Relevance: Overview and scrutiny must be satisfied that an issue identified for review is relevant and does not duplicate existing work being undertaken elsewhere by various Working Groups, Cabinet, partners etc.	X
Partnership working or external scrutiny: The focus of scrutiny is moving towards joint action and community leadership, so anything which offers this opportunity should be given serious consideration.	X

Would you like to be involved in the investigation / review?	
Yes	
Date of request: 25/7/21	Signed Diane Hind

Please return this form to the:

Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), West Suffolk Council, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7EY

Email: Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Update: February 2018 (Revised West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2018-2020)

Update: 1 April 2019 (New Logo – West Suffolk Council)

Update: February 2020 (Revised West Suffolk Strategic Framework 2020-2024)