

Newsflash to WLS Supporters

28 September 2015

Wandsworth Council will consult Residents borough-wide on whether we want 20mph on residential roads

Dear Wandsworth Living Streets Supporters

You may recall the previous Newsflash of 15 June in which we reported that Wandsworth Council's Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) accepted 11 petitions for 20mph in different parts of the Borough. And it also instructed Officers to re-examine the Council's current 20mph policy, particularly in relation to its consultation processes.

Last week, on 22 September, the OSC met again. It discussed the Officers' paper No. 15-356 on this subject. You can see it on the Council's website at

<https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/documents/s38864/15-356%2020%20mph%20speed%20limits.pdf>

Wandsworth Living Streets (WLS) had asked to address the Committee – which we did. We have always tried to persuade Councillors that, in the interests of Road Safety and reducing the number of people injured in collisions on our roads, the Council should consult all residents across the Borough whether they want to have a new lower speed limit of 20mph on most roads. This is what so many other local authorities in Inner London, and up and down the country, have done. You can see what we said to Councillors in the attachment.

The Council's decision

There was a careful and serious discussion by the 11 Councillors on the Committee, with several others also present. A bi-partisan spirit existed, and an amendment to the Officers' recommendation was accepted. The Committee took the following decision:

“Council to undertake a Borough-wide consultation for having a blanket 20mph restriction on all residential roads in the Borough, but not main traffic routes, and implement as soon as practicable, basing priorities on response rates and road safety concerns.”

This is a hugely important step forward. For the first time, Wandsworth Council, instead of the current procedure of waiting for residents to petition it in relation to a particular road or roads, will now put the issue to all residents in the Borough. And if a majority of residents want 20mph on their residential roads, it will then roll it out as speedily as funds and practicalities permit. These funds will come largely from Transport for London.

The Task ahead of all us in Wandsworth Living Streets

All of us who want to see slower, safer speeds on the roads where we live will need to play our part in persuading our neighbours, friends and local communities of the reasons why a 20mph speed limit is to be welcomed. And to allay the fears of those of us who also drive vehicles and persuade them that it will be to their advantage too. As soon as possible, Wandsworth Living Streets will be in touch with you to start planning what needs to be done.

In the meantime, congratulations to everyone in persuading and educating people on an issue that goes to the heart of the quality of life in our Borough.

Robert Molteno

Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets