

CRANBROOK 20 IS PLENTY CAMPAIGN

Introduction

The Cranbrook Road Safety Campaign group have been approaching the Council to request support for their campaign which includes the proposal to introduce a blanket 20mph speed limit across Cranbrook.

Introduction of 20mph Speed Limit

The Cranbrook ward members met with the campaign group on 1 June 2023 and discussed, among other topics, the “20’s Plenty” proposal for a 20mph speed limit for Cranbrook. Included in the discussion was Cllr Henry Gent as one of the Devon County Councillors representing Cranbrook and it was agreed to ask for this matter to be put to the Town Council as follows:

Speeding on some roads remains a problem in Cranbrook, as it does everywhere. We know that, by and large, most drivers obey the speed limit in town, currently 30mph, but there is an irresponsible and antisocial minority who ignore the limit and we have all seen examples of vehicles of all descriptions being driven dangerously quickly.

We accept that Cranbrook’s roads have been designed in a way to reduce the actual road speed for most drivers to 20mph and in many side roads this is effective. However, it is not the case for the main local route (MLR) and some side roads. This needs to be addressed.

In addition, it is now clear that the B3174 will, as Cranbrook develops into the expansion areas (whether the expansions are within Cranbrook parish or an adjacent parish), have lengths of road which are subject to 30mph and 20mph zones, and it will be an obvious inconsistency that the main road through the town will have 20mph zones while the residential streets do not.

There is also concern that the “No Lining No Signing” policy applied by the local planning authority and highway authority has led to a situation in which pedestrians and cyclists are being put into dangerous circumstances because there are no safe, legally enforceable crossing points in the town, save for two future crossings by the Education Campus, and those pedestrians/cyclists need more time to make safe road crossings.

As Cranbrook is designed to a 20mph maximum road speed, it makes sense to formalise it with a blanket enforceable (and enforced) 20mph speed limit in the whole town, and we should apply to the highway authority to have this order made. It will mean the installation of 20mph signs on every road at a recurring distance of 40 metres which won’t be aesthetically pleasing, but it now seems a necessary step.

In May 2023, Devon County Council chose six communities in which new 20mph schemes would be implemented. A [Devon County Council article](#) on the subject states that “In January we asked our local county councillors to talk to the communities they represented and submit ‘expressions of interest’ for a new scheme”. The Devon County Councillors representing Cranbrook, Cllrs Sara Randall Johnson and Henry Gent, confirmed that they did not fulfil the County Council’s request for them to talk to the communities they represent and submit ‘expressions of interest’ for a new scheme and provided no reasons for not doing so. Cllr Sara Randall Johnson indicated that new expansions of interest will be invited “later in the year” and as soon as there is further information, she will let the Town Council know.

Because Cranbrook was not given the same opportunity as other local councils in Devon, the Town Council asked whether an exception can be made and Cranbrook can be considered without awaiting the next round. The County Council has confirmed that there is no way to introduce and expression of interest until the scheme is reopened, despite Cranbrook having been deprived of the opportunity at the beginning of 2023.

Sky Park, owned by Devon County Council, features a 15mph speed limit and double yellow lines on roads throughout the development and Devon County Council could also be invited to explain the differences in approaches in the two neighbouring localities.

Purchase of 20's Plenty Wheelie Bin Stickers

The Cranbrook Road Safety Campaign group have also requested that the Council fund an order of 200 20's Plenty wheelie bin stickers to help raise awareness of the campaign. The idea would be for the Council to fund the stickers and residents could collect one per household from the Younghayes Centre. The cost would be £180.00.

Recommendation

- a) To apply to the highway authority Devon County Council to impose a 20mph blanket speed limit to all roads in Cranbrook, including those not yet constructed in the expansion areas.
- b) To purchase 200 20's Plenty wheelie bin stickers at a cost of £180.00 and to make those available to Cranbrook households.