

PRESS RELEASE
21 January 2021

“Herts CC proposals are poor value” say 20’s Plenty for Herts Campaigners

Campaigners from **20’s Plenty for Hertfordshire** say that proposals in **Hertfordshire County Council’s** latest **Budget Plan** are not good value for tax payers.

The Plan states that it will be “providing £7m investment to move forward roll-out of 20mph speed limits, in line with the Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in December 2020”.

20’s Plenty for Hertfordshire spokesperson, Colin Hodges said,

“Of course we welcome the recognition at Herts County Council of the importance of providing more 20mph zones across the county and of earmarking funds to be able to do this. However, we think that the County Council’s proposals do not give good value to the tax payer, which is particularly galling at a time when so many of us are struggling to make ends meet because of the pandemic.”

*“The County Council plans to spend **£7m over 4 years** on **piecemeal 20mph schemes** dotted throughout the county, all enforced with engineered solutions like speed bumps”, continues **Colin Hodges**, “20mph zones which optimise the use of signage, road markings and driver education are proven to be at least 10 times less expensive than engineered schemes. They are also less disruptive to both residents and motorists. 20’s Plenty estimate that for a budget of just £3.3m it would be possible for 20mph limits to be introduced into **every town and village street** in Hertfordshire. That would mean, for example, that all children could make their journey to school in a safer, low speed environment, rather than just having a small 20mph zone around the school. **Streets would be friendlier places**, not dominated by speeding traffic, from which we would all benefit. Instead, the County Council is spending hard earned tax payer money on unpopular traffic calming schemes which bring no benefit to the majority of people in Hertfordshire.”*

Speed limits throughout Hertfordshire are decided in accordance with the **Hertfordshire Speed Management Plan** that was adopted by the **County Council** last month and indicates that speed limits are set which are appropriate for the environment and usage of the road to which they are applied so that they are generally self-enforcing.

Without additional traffic calming, 20mph limits, it suggests, should generally be limited to areas where the existing average speeds are already 24mph or lower, whereas **20’s Plenty campaigners** contest that **20mph** should be the **default speed limit** for town and village streets where vehicles and vulnerable road users share the same space.

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20's Plenty for Herts Petition attracted 647 signature

20's Plenty for Hertfordshire's **Petition** asking for the Speed Management Strategy to be amended to make the default speed limit on all residential and urban roads across Hertfordshire 20mph attracted **647 signatures in a 2 week** period, but a similarly-worded motion to the **Highways and Environment Cabinet's December meeting** was **defeated by 8 votes to 5.**

*“We know that piecemeal 20mph zones with traffic calming measures are unpopular and expensive”, said **20's Plenty Campaigner, Sue Nicholls.***
“Speed bumps and other engineered solutions are, deservedly, unpopular and cost £15k per km whereas our preferred option, signed limits, cost about £2k per km. We think that our option of changing the default limit for built up roads in Hertfordshire to 20mph would bring more clarity for drivers, more safety for vulnerable road users and better value for Hertfordshire tax payers.”

WHY 20MPH?

- **IT'S MUCH SAFER** – 20mph is seven times less likely to kill someone than 30mph.
- **CLEANER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** – less acceleration means less pollution and also more walking and cycling happens when people feel safer.
- **IT REDUCES NOISE POLLUTION** and doesn't significantly affect journey times. The cost is also a tiny fraction of total transport spending (average cost £3-£5 per head).
- **20MPH ENCOURAGES ECONOMIC RECOVERY** and supports active and sustainable travel as it enables more people to walk and cycle to local shops.

MORE ABOUT THE 20'S PLENTY FOR HERTFORDSHIRE CAMPAIGN

Our county-wide campaign incorporates a number of local groups representing different communities around Hertfordshire. Each local campaign has its own individual sets of circumstances, but what unites us is the growing concerns about road safety, particularly around vulnerable road users.

For further information visit our **20's Plenty for Hertfordshire website**
www.herts.20splentyforus.org.uk

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20's Plenty for Us National Campaign: www.20splenty.org