

Lib Dem Conference Supports 20mph Limits

A 20's Plenty for Us Press Release Sep 2012

The Liberal Democrat Party Conference has overwhelmingly supported residential 20mph limits. 20's plenty where people live is now policy for a Coalition party in UK Government.

20's Plenty



Where People Live

Councillor Sarah Osborne from Lewes put a motion to conference called **20 Is Plenty – Saving Lives on the Roads**. The motion passed on 24

September said: "Conference believes:

- a) Speed limits on residential roads are currently too high and, in particular, the normal speed limit on residential roads should be reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph.
- b) Lower speed limits will make the streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists and car users alike and will encourage more people to walk and cycle with consequential benefits for health and quality of life.

Conference calls for:

1. All roads in new residential developments to have a speed limit of 20 mph.
2. Local authorities to give active consideration to introducing 20 mph limits in existing residential and other suitable roads over the next few years, with schemes to be designed in consultation with local residents.
3. The government to give appropriate financial support to local authorities to ensure that upfront costs of conversion are no barrier to changing speed limits.
4. A minister in the Department for Transport to be responsible for working with the relevant local authorities on the conversion to 20 mph limits in residential areas and to report at least annually on progress toward this goal."

In debate, Lib Dem politicians agreed that the evidence on better safety, health, environment and quality of life benefits is conclusive. 20's Plenty for young and old, for disabled and able. Speeding needs to be recognised as as antisocial as drink driving is now regarded.

Norman Baker MP, Lib Dem Minister for Transport was recognised for maintaining progress towards 20mph limits through local authorities. Costs of implementing schemes have fallen as a result of government announcements. Norman Baker voted for 20mph limits. He said

"I am very pleased that more and more councils are judiciously using 20mph limits and zones which help to improve road safety and civilise our residential streets. I have taken steps to make it easier for councils to implement 20mph, not just in terms of traffic calming features, but also by providing a support fund for their implementation through the £600million Local Sustainable Transport Fund. With this week's motion passing, the Lib Dems have shown we are right at the forefront of this issue."

A jubilant Cllr Sarah Osborne said

"Lib Dems around the country will now be campaigning for 20mph limits. The motion includes a commitment to funding from central government. This certainly helps local authorities to make 20mph limits a reality where people live".

Rod King, Founder of the National 20's Plenty for Us Campaign said

"We are delighted with the overwhelming support of conference delegates for 20mph limits. This reflects a growing community, political and professional consensus that 30mph limits are no longer appropriate for residential streets and that 20mph limits should be widely implemented. It also recognises the efforts of our 150+ 20's Plenty local community campaigns around the country."

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**20's Plenty For Us campaigns for a
20mph default speed limit in residential
streets without physical calming.
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To find out more please contact us**

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