

P-06-1183 Implement a 20MPH speed limit 100 metres either side of the new pedestrian crossing in Glan Conwy

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 4 October 2021
Petitions Committee | 4 Hydref 2021

Reference: SR21/0634-2

Petition Number: P-06-1183

Petition title: Implement a 20MPH speed limit 100 metres either side of the new pedestrian crossing in Glan Conwy

Text of petition: Thanks to the Minister for Transport, Glan Conwy now has a much needed pedestrian crossing and recent road improvements have increased visibility, however, many residents are concerned about the speed of vehicles which over a 2 week period were recorded by North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTA) averaging 32.8 MPH. The crossing is used by school children and adults to reach a bus stop and local sporting facilities as well as part of a cycle route. There have been many media reports of near misses and vehicles failing to stop.

A particular worry is that children might believe they are safe and step or run out on to the crossing without looking. The busy summer tourist season will increase the peril as visitors will be unfamiliar with the road as well as possibly being distracted admiring local scenery.



In conclusion the petitioners wish to make the case that 30MPH is too fast for the prevailing road conditions and request that the Minister considers lowering the speed limit to 20MPH in proximity to the crossing.

Collision with a pedestrian at 30MPH has a 25% chance of a fatality and 2.5% at 20MPH or 10 times safer!

A 200 metre length at 20MPH would only add a few seconds to a traveller's journey time whilst dramatically improving safety and importantly help remove parents' anxieties.

1. Background

The Welsh Government is the highway authority and traffic authority responsible for the Welsh trunk road and motorway network. Local authorities are responsible for local roads. The A470 forms part of the Welsh trunk road network.

The Welsh Government works with two trunk road agents, the South Wales Trunk Road Agent (SWTRA) and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA), to manage, maintain and improve the network.

The Welsh Government is responsible for setting speed limits on trunk roads in line with its current guidance. This was issued in 2009 and states that “20mph speed limits may be used on trunk roads in exceptional circumstances, generally over short lengths and for limited times of the day”.

In early 2021 works took place on a pedestrian crossing on a stretch of the A470 at Glan Conwy. The speed limit on this stretch of the A470 is currently 30mph, the petitioners are calling for it to be reduced to 20mph 100 metres either side of the crossing.

2. Welsh Government action

In a letter to the Chair dated 6 September, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change outlines that following a review of this section of the A470 NMWTRA has

undertaken work to highlight the approach to the crossing to drivers. He also highlights Welsh Government plans for 20mph speed limits.

In 2019 the Welsh Government set up a task and finish group to consider whether 20mph should become the default speed limit in residential areas. The group reported in July 2020. The Welsh Government accepted the group's recommendations, including that the default speed limit on restricted roads (those with a system of street lighting placed no more than 200 yards apart) should be reduced from 30mph to 20mph.

The first phase of introducing a default 20mph limit has begun through pilots in 8 communities across Wales to gather data before a proposed full rollout in 2023. In September 2021 the Deputy Minister announced continued funding for these pilots.

The Welsh Government also recently consulted on the proposals.

3. Welsh Parliament action

Prior to installation of the pedestrian crossing on this stretch of the A470, the issue was raised in a June 2018 written question from Janet Finch-Saunders MS.

In July 2020 the Senedd debated the introduction of default 20mph speed limits.

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