



St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter November 2019

The 20mph speed limit in our neighbourhood – some questions answered

At our AGM on October 23rd a number of questions were asked about the trial of a 20mph limit in St Helens and Dalgarno wards.

The pilot scheme will remain in force for up to 18 months, while the Council monitors the impact. Responses have been provided by RBKC to our questions and these are below:

1. Is it correct that the Council has no powers to enforce, only the Police? **Yes**
2. Have the police locally said whether they will enforce (I understand many forces across England will not take enforcement action on 20mph limits). **No**, the police have indicated that they do not have the resources for any enforcement above that which they already carry out. However, we will work with the local police safer neighbourhood teams on some targeted speed-gun enforcement using the Junior Roadwatch (tailored for school children) and potentially Community Roadwatch initiatives (see below). The Mayor of London's Vision Zero Action Plan (<http://content.tfl.gov.uk/vision-zero-action-plan.pdf>) makes some positive noises about increased police enforcement, reviewing the criteria for installing speed cameras and increased use of 'mobile speed enforcement technology by the police', though boroughs are yet to see any changes. TfL has promised some action in this area next year.
3. Is there a reason why the 20mph signs are so small? The signs at the entry to the 20 mph Area are the larger signs, the smaller ones are repeater signs throughout the area to remind drivers of the 20 mph limit. The initial designs were based on erecting the minimum number of signs with one eye on the streetscape. However, as this is an experimental scheme we are happy to react to the feedback we receive and will review the number and size of signs and road markings in each pilot 20 mph street or area to try and find the best combination to encourage compliance.

4. Signs informing drivers of their speed are needed for the scheme to have any impact. Other Boroughs install these. (There was one for a time on St Quintin Avenue, known locally as a 'race track' for cars and construction HGVs, but this seems to have vanished). We have a limited stock of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). We find that whilst they can initially have a positive impact on speeds, the effect wears off over a few months and drivers become accustomed to them. We therefore rotate them between sites every few months. Once we have reviewed the signs and markings in the pilot streets and areas we are open to installing some SIDs at key locations to monitor their impact on compliance

with the pilot 20 mph speed limits.

5. Signs which also take the number of a vehicle are used elsewhere and are much more effective, especially if it becomes known that several infringements will lead to enforcement. Our Speed Indicator Devices flash up the drivers' speed and a message to 'Slow Down' if the speed is recorded as over the limit. We do not have any 'registration plate' signs and have no plans to use them in the borough.

6. What can local residents do to help on enforcement? Can selected residents be trained in the use of speed guns and provided with them (as happens in rural areas). See above regarding police enforcement. Once we have reviewed the signing and markings we can put you in touch with the local police neighbourhood team to see if this initiative, known as Community Roadwatch, is something they can resource - <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/safety-and-security/road-safety/community-roadwatch>.

7. Are there (or will there be) any speed cameras installed for the purpose of the trial? **No** - speed cameras are installed and operated by Transport for London and the Police. Strict road casualty criteria need to be met before they would consider installing a speed camera. Thankfully our residential streets do not meet such criteria.

Any views on these responses would be welcome, and will be fed back to the Council. From the discussion at the last meeting initial thoughts would be:

- we need Speed Indicator Devices in St Quintin Avenue and Barlby Road for the remaining duration of the pilot scheme.
- we need at least a few larger signs as 'repeaters' within the area
- we are not clear why RBKC does not use 'registration plate' signs as do some other Boroughs?

Shops in North Pole Road

There are new tenants taking up occupation of several of the vacant shops, but will these survive and will they add to the uses in to the street? Will a new version of North Pole Food and Wine prove more successful than the previous version, when opposite Tesco?

A dry cleaners is promised at No.8. Better than a shuttered shop, but there are already two dry cleaners in St Helens Gardens.

At No.18 a further application for a café/restaurant has been submitted, following one (withdrawn) for a hot food takeaway. Neighbouring shops have worries that the unit is too small for a viable café, and will in practice become a third takeaway in the street.