

Extract from letter received from Cheshire East

Date: 22 December 2015

RE: SCHOOL 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Dear Sir/Madam,

Cheshire East Council has recently committed to a programme to improve road safety for vulnerable road users by providing advisory 20mph speed limits outside all its school sites.

This scheme has been developed in response to feedback provided to a local community road safety consultation carried out by the Council earlier this year, which highlighted a significant level of public concern relating to vehicle speeds outside schools.

Evidence shows that decreased traffic speeds reduce the frequency and severity of collisions. For pedestrians involved in a crash, the speed at which they are hit is critical:

Collision Speed	Chance of being Killed	Chance of survival
20 mph	1 in 40	97%
30 mph	1 in 5	80%
35 mph	1 in 2	50%
40 mph	9 in 10	10

It is appreciated school sites vary in terms of their geographical environment and as such the suitability for placing an advisory 20mph speed limit at each location will need to be developed on an individual basis in partnership with each participating school.

I am pleased to inform you that your school has been selected for the introduction of an advisory 20mph speed limit during the first year of the three year programme. A collection of frequently asked questions relating to this scheme is also attached.

Frequently Asked Questions

School 20mph Speed Limits

Q. What measures will be placed outside the school to notify passing motorists of the 20mph speed limit?

A. Signs and flashing lights (as attached) will be placed at all start points of the speed limit and will operate for approximately 1 hour during school start and finishing times.

Q. Apart from signs, will there be any other measures put in place to reduce vehicle speeds?

A. Due to the individual characteristics of each school location at this stage it cannot be determined if additional measures would be required and if so what those measures should be. As a result it is therefore only intended to introduce the speed limit supported with traffic signs to enable the road safety benefits to be evaluated, although these engineering measures will be supported by an accompanying road safety education package, which will be provided through Cheshire Fire Service.

Q. How soon can the speed limit be put in place?

A. Once it has been determined which schools want to participate in the scheme it is expected work on installing the signs would be completed within the following 3/4 months.

Q. Will the speed limit be applied for the same distance outside every school?

A. The position and length of each speed limit will be designed to suit the individual characteristics of each school location. The final design will be produced in partnership with the school representative.

Q. Will the speed limit operate for the whole length of the school day?

A. The speed limit will operate for a period of approximately 1 hour at the start and end of the school day when the level of child pedestrian activity around the school site is at its highest.

Q. How will it be determined if the advisory speed limit has reduced vehicle speeds?

A. Traffic monitoring equipment will be used at a sample of school sites to record vehicle speeds before and after the introduction of the speed limits. This will enable any resulting change in vehicle speeds to be identified.

Q. Can motorists be prosecuted by the Police for exceeding the 20mph speed limit?

A. At this stage the speed limits will be introduced on an advisory basis with the aim of making motorists aware they are in a school environment where it is likely there will be a high level of child pedestrian activity. The speed limits will be monitored to determine how effective they are in terms

of influencing motorist behaviour and if it is demonstrated they are successful in reducing vehicle speeds, further consideration may be given to making them enforceable by the Police.

Q. The school has other traffic concerns will you be able to address those as part of this scheme?

A. Unfortunately it won't be possible to address those concerns as part of this scheme it is possible however to forward details of those concerns to the relevant Area Highways Group.