

Spring Conference 2024

TOPICAL MOTION

20mph speed limit on roads across Wales

AGREED BY THE WELSH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONFERENCE

Conference notes:

- A. The widespread public backlash with the imposition of the default 20mph on restricted roads.
- B. Recent comments by Welsh Labour leadership candidates: Vaughan Gething on the 11/02/24 that Welsh Labour got its “communications” wrong and Jeremy Miles’ commitment to review policy implementation if he becomes leader.
- C. The long history of Liberal Democrats across Wales, along with politicians of all parties, supporting a 20mph speed limit in built-up areas with community support, recognising that it can be safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike.
- D. That other European countries are adopting, or have already adopted, similar lower speed limits to improve road safety.
- E. That local highway authorities retain the power to exempt roads in their jurisdiction from the 20mph limit, as well as introduce part time speed limits, where they deem these appropriate.

Conference believes:

- I. There was little meaningful consultation with local users of the roads before they were reduced to 20mph.
- II. A 20mph speed limit can have a positive impacts in our communities and that the principle of a 20mph speed limit in appropriate built-up areas, where motorists and active travellers are likely to mix, is sound.
- III. Decisions should be made at the lowest levels at which they are effective.
- IV. That just changing everything back to 30mph would have significant cost implications.

Conference calls for local authorities across Wales to rapidly review the impact of not applying an exemption to the 20mph limit on main roads and key arterial routes, in order to assess the impact of the 20mph limit - including on public transport - and consult with residents, in order to determine any exemptions from the 20 mph limit on a case-by-case basis..