

**Okehampton Town Council
Planning Committee Meeting 16th May 2022
Meeting Report**

Date:	9 th May 2022
Name:	Caroline Ellis

Nationwide Campaign “20 Plenty for Us”

**RESOLUTION BY EPC TO DCC TO NORMALISE THE 20MPH LIMIT THROUGHOUT
THE VILLAGE**

The Exminster community has clearly expressed in the past, and continues to express, its concerns about the impacts of speeding traffic on the residents of the village, particularly on vulnerable road-user activity (by children, the elderly, cyclists, mobility scooter users, parents with prams/buggies/etc, horse riders, and so on).

Exminster, particularly along Main Road through the centre of the village, is characterized by stretches of only single pavements on one side of the road. These often alternate at close intervals obliging pedestrians to cross the road to the pavement on the other side and there are no pedestrian crossings of any kind to enable them to do this safely. Exminster also has many stretches of lane, such as Days Pottles Lane, where there is no pavement at all where vehicles travelling at 30mph or more pose real dangers to pedestrians, cyclists, those on horseback or on mobility scooters.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) states: *A large number of evaluation studies have demonstrated a link between the introduction of 20mph zones and a subsequent reduction in casualties. The size of the reductions and the consistency of results over a wide number of areas are further evidence for this link... As well as road safety benefits, it is important to highlight the contribution that 20mph zones can have in encouraging more physical activity such as walking and cycling, by contributing towards a safer environment.*

Exminster Parish Council has adopted an environmental policy and is implementing a number of measures to help mitigate the effects of climate change and support opportunities for improved health and wellbeing. A 20mph limit would be consistent with, and would underpin, these measures through, for example, significantly reduced vehicle carbon emissions throughout the village.

Exminster Parish Council does not believe there is any advantage to be gained from yet another trial in a town (Newton Abbot) whose characteristics bear little relation to those in Exminster. As stated above, there is already a substantial body of evidence in the public domain which demonstrates that the listed advantages are real.

Many residential areas in the vicinity of Exminster, such as Alphington, Exwick, Kenn, Starcross, etc, have extensive areas covered by 20 mph zones/limits, in many cases with no substantive traffic calming measures having been introduced. RoSPA states: *20mph limits without traffic calming also reduce traffic speed... Their lower cost means that wider areas can be covered.*

Therefore, in order to:

- Increase child and adult activity levels
- Promote healthy active travel options (walking and cycling)
- Address climate change challenges and opportunities
- Reduce accidents and casualties
- Reduce inequalities
- Lower vehicle emissions
- Reduce congestion
- Meet the wishes and expectations of the majority of residents

Exminster Parish Council resolves to request Devon County Council to normalize a 20mph limit/zone throughout all residential roads and areas in the village of Exminster with the utmost haste – the Council cannot understand why any public authority would stand in the way of practical and proven safety, environmental, health and wellbeing measures being implemented without further delay.

Station Road – Email from resident

With the advent of the new train service, the lines on Station Road have been somewhat improved.

However, with the current roadworks, the new lines are of course being obliterated and will presumably be redone very soon.

When we first moved into our house in late [REDACTED] the traffic on the road wasn't great, but now it's become, over the last year, really difficult. This is because there are non residents using the road as a free car park, people parking camper vans long term on the road, and drivers parking their vehicles beyond the white lines.

We have always found difficulty with pulling in and out of our driveway, as have been blocked in by thoughtless drivers who have parked across or partially across our driveway many many times. Visibility is more often than not almost non existent for pulling out. At present a camper van, for example, has chosen to park long term near our exit. My husband, (in his [REDACTED]), has to stand in the middle of the road to see if it's safe for me to pull out, and then I'm left with the problem of how to safely pick him up to continue our journey.

This is what we need please.....

A solid white line between our driveway and that of number [REDACTED] (we asked for this, along with our neighbours at [REDACTED], several years ago and were told there wasn't enough funding for it).

A system of residents parking permits.

A ban on long term parking for camper vans.

"Sleeping policemen" all the way up Station Road to slow the traffic down, (people are driving faster and faster each year!)

Please could my requests be considered, especially the first request. (That's not asking for a lot and would help us, and the residents at [REDACTED], immensely.)

The Clerks reply

Thank you for your email and bringing your concerns to my attention.

Responsibility for roads lies with DCC Highways, however and I will pass your comments on to the Town Council's Planning Committee at the next opportunity although this isn't until early May. In the meantime [REDACTED] or the police may be able to answer some of your queries.