

Southwark Living Streets  
28 Sutherland Square  
London SE17 3EQ.

1<sup>st</sup> March 2010

Dear Councillor Eckersley,

**Ref Scrutiny Committee C – Review of 20mph Speed Limit.**

I hope that you will not mind Southwark Living Streets making a submission to this committee as part of its work on 20mph and Speeding Review. We were sorry not to have been made aware of the work of this committee as lower speeds is one of the areas that our group is most interested in.

The committee has obviously had a great deal of data to look at and we would only like to make one principal point to the committee and that is the significance of speed limits in our town centres. In our participation in the review of the Southwark Road Safety Plan last year, it became clear just how high the levels of casualties were on our main roads and how casualties, especially amongst pedestrians and cyclists, were particularly focused on our town centres such as Peckham, Camberwell and Borough High Street.

We feel that it is important to focus on these town centres as they are the economic lifeblood of the borough and at present, their domination by at times fast moving traffic, leaves them at a significant disadvantage to out-of-town locations (principally outside the borough). We are keen to see our town centres be vibrant places, economically, socially and culturally for local people who live within walking and cycling distance of them and this made far harder for them if those who visit them face the threat that fast moving traffic presents. This is of course particularly difficult for who are elderly, less mobile and those with young children as they try to cross town centre roads for example.

Our experience of calming and slowing traffic in the major scheme on the Walworth Road, carried out jointly with TfL, is that this has enhanced retail activity, reduced (by almost half) road casualties and encouraged walking and cycling. Walworth Road, which is on the Strategic Road Network (SRN), carries 188 buses per hour in each direction. Their journey times have not been harmed by the significant changes that have been made. In the light of this very positive experience, we would like to see 20mph speed limits extended to all of the borough and SRN roads that pass through town centres (such as Lordship Lane).

We would also like to see TLRN roads become 20mph. Red routes in our town centres have the highest levels of casualties in the whole of Southwark and this policy of keeping them as 30mph appears at odds with all of the work that the current Mayor of London is seeking to do. The most recent draft of the Mayor's Transport Strategy proposes a concentration on town centres for transport connectivity, retail activity and quality of life. It also expresses an intent to work with London boroughs on road safety.

We would very much like to see the Scrutiny Committee encouraging Southwark to work with Transport for London to support these town centres by making them safer. 20mph speed limits can clearly play an important role in this. As we have noted, the experience of the Walworth Rd (which has a 20mph speed limit from Elephant Rd in the north to John Ruskin St in the south) is that bus times are not affected by such a speed limit, while casualties are halved and economic life and quality of life are increased significantly.

We would very much like the Scrutiny Committee to support the broadening of the 20mph speed limit approach to cover, in the medium term:

- Southwark's town centres that sit on borough roads - Half Moon Lane and Nunhead Lane/Evelina Rd.
- Town centres that sit on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) - Lordship Lane, Walworth Rd (currently 20mph), Camberwell (Camberwell Rd and Denmark Hill) and Lower Road.
- Those that sit on the TLRN - Borough High St, Camberwell (including the shops at Clarendon Terrace on Camberwell New Rd), Peckham (inc around Queen's Rd station) and Tower Bridge Rd (shops south of the junction with Grange Rd).

We thank you for allowing us to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Leach  
Southwark Living Streets.