

From: ken ellcome <ken.ellcome@virginmedia.com>

To: Idris Francis <idrisfrancis@fightbackwithfacts.com>

Date: Wed, 30 Jan 2013 04:41:35 -0500

Subject: RE: 4 years' accident and casualty figures for Portsmouth's 20mph area - dreadful

Dear Idris,

I promised you a response early this year and I apologise that it has taken longer than anticipated.

I believe I am in a unique situation to comment on your findings. In a previous life I was a senior police officer in charge of the south western area of Hampshire's traffic policing. I am therefore experienced in all aspects of accident investigation and road safety.

There is no doubt in my mind that lower speeds on residential roads do in the main result in fewer accidents and less severe injuries. I make that statement with a couple of proviso's. The design of the road should influence the speed limit placed upon it and the speed limit should be realistic. ie as a radical example there is no point in placing a 20 mph limit on a dual carriageway.

The speed limit should be close to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of the road or traffic calming measures should be introduced to reduce this speed.

In Portsmouth's case I understand the average speed on most residential roads prior to the introduction of the 20mph limit was around 24 mph. This would therefore appear a suitable match. However the Police made it clear from the outset that they did not have the resources to enforce such a city wide scheme. The argument therefore in my view is whether or not the vast outlay justifies the results.

**As the average speed was already in the region of 20mph the only benefit would be to tackle those who greatly exceed that average. Those who already travelled between 20 mph and the then legal limit of 30 mph were probably not a problem. However the more reckless who travelled in excess of the then 30 limit definitely were and due to the lack of enforcement still are and may therefore be responsible for the statistics you have supplied..**

**In conclusion I do believe the considerable amount of money spent on this project has been wasted and few benefits have been achieved other than some unjustified positive publicity for the city.**

As a Councillor in opposition my opponents would no doubt disagree with my views. **However I believe my professional expertise coupled with your statistics nail the lie.**

Kind regards,

Ken Ellcome