

# Thirsk & Malton Constituency Labour Party



Councillor Carl Les  
Leader of the Council  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Racecourse Lane  
Northallerton DL7 8AD

By email [cllr.carl.les@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.carl.les@northyorks.gov.uk)

5th January 2022

Dear Councillor Les

The Thirsk and Malton Constituency Labour Party is firmly committed to supporting initiatives and policies that have positive impacts on the health, safety and environmental welfare of our neighbourhoods for the benefit of all who reside in Thirsk & Malton. We fully support the nationwide *20's Plenty Campaign* which seeks for speed limits of 20mph to be the norm on residential streets and in town and village centres where people and children live, work and play.

The United Nations at its Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in 2020 endorsed the setting of 20mph maximum speed limits wherever pedestrians, cyclists or other vulnerable road users mix with motor vehicles; the Welsh Government has recently announced plans to reduce the national default speed limit in Wales from 30mph to 20mph on residential roads and busy pedestrian streets; and locally 58 North Yorkshire parish councils have voted in favour of 20mph default limits.

We understand that the Executive Committee is considering a report proposing a revised 20mph Speed Limit and Zone policy at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. We note in item 3.1 of the proposed policy that *'the benefits lower speed limits can bring to communities are fully accepted and model shift is a key objective'* but that there is no recommendation to support a 20mph default limit and therefore no model shift

It is of great concern that the proposed policy is based on an out of date government study and, while making very marginal improvements on current NYCC policy, is in conflict with representations made to NYCC by many parish councils in favour of a 20mph default policy in towns and villages and runs against the growing national and international support for such a policy. We urge the Executive to refer this proposal back to the TEE O&S Committee with the request that it draw up new proposals based on full consideration of the United Nations Policy, the representations of North Yorkshire parish councils, a review of the actual costs and benefits in local

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authorities that have already implemented this policy and the results of comprehensive consultation with local communities.

It has taken you four years to produce a policy which is of marginal benefit when you had an opportunity to do something which would be of huge material benefit to communities across North Yorkshire and to the wider environment. We urge you to be more ambitious, follow the example of the local authorities that are leading the way on this and deliver a policy fit for the future.

We would be grateful if this letter is shared with members of the NYCC Executive Committee prior to its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours sincerely

Thirsk & Malton Constituency Labour Party and Malton & Norton, North Ryedale,  
Filey & Hunmanby and Vale of York Labour Party Branches

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