

Objections and officer response

	Comments	Officer response
1	<p>I do not believe that a reduction of speed limits in such a blanket manner will be useful, nor will it be adhered to.</p> <p>Some roads that have been proposed to have their limits changed are already too difficult and too tight to navigate at much over 10mph as it is, this suggests to me that this proposal has not been thought through properly and will be throwing money at issues that do not really exist.</p> <p>A far better use of the same money could be to set up a couple of zebra crossings at strategic points in the town making it easier to cross for pedestrians and as such, slowing the flow of traffic through the town when necessary as opposed to constantly.</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town. Posting the speed limit even on routes that generally have lower speeds than the limit may help to encourage lower speeds.</p>
2	<p>I fully support the whole initiative, however, the change of speed limit is exactly outside my front door of Cathedral Cottage. It's a race track down Croydon road as it stands and having the change from 20 to 30 at that point will have cars accelerating and increasing the noise and pollution even more. I suggest that the change up happens after Farley Lane so that it's safer for all houses along that stretch and for people coming in on that accident bend from Westerham Hill.</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town. Currently the speed limit at this location is a change between 30mph and national speed limit. By reducing the speed limit changes in this location, it is anticipated that noise and pollution will decrease.</p>
3	<p>The current road speed seem acceptable. There is no fatalities or serious injuries to prove otherwise.</p> <p>The one fatality we did have in Westerham high st was through illness at the wheel and not reckless driving.</p> <p>We have to consider people's time and health too.</p>	<p>The proposed 20mph limit will help to ensure that accident numbers remain low. This approach is proactive and aimed at all users of the roads.</p>

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4	I use these roads 6 days a week. Including the roads up to Churchill school. Agreed there are a few idiots but those people will still be idiots with 20mph limits or not. The vast majority drive through and around the town at a sensible speed. My business is in Croydon where they have introduced vast swathes of 20mph limits. Initially for the same reasons you have stated. Now of course it's turned into a revenue stream with people getting fined for doing 23mph in a 20 zone at 6.30 in the morning on a straight wide road. Even if this administration say they have no intention of doing this it will not stop a future one. There are better things to spend the money on other than a load of ugly unnecessary signs.	The scheme is proactively seeking to changing driver behaviour. The 20mph scheme is to promote safe use of the roads for all users and is not intended to be used as a revenue stream. Kent Police enforce speed limits not the local authority.
5	There are minimal road traffic accidents that happen in Westerham. The last I can think of was the car which drove in to Costa but that was due to the drivers old age. All this will do is cause more congestion in the town and surrounding roads.	The proposed 20mph limit will help to ensure that accident numbers remain low. Research has shown that the risk of a child being involved in an accident is reduced by about two-thirds where 20 mph zones have been installed. This approach is proactive and aimed at all users of the roads.
6	This will cause increased congestion. I also believe reducing speeds to 20mph on relatively clear and open roads, increases instances of overtaking and risky driving.	The majority of these roads are residential roads with parking. The main routes that are covered by this scheme are routes that are used by all types of users and so the 20mph scheme highlights this to motorists
7	I strongly believe that reducing the speed limit to 20 in almost all of the proposed areas will not help and could only slow the flow of traffic especially as westerham is used heavily as a bypass when the m25 is closed. Reducing the speed limit will only cause a larger build up of traffic and potentially cause more problems. The only road i believe should have a reduced speed limit is Rysted Lane due to the school being located there	By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town.
8	I do not feel that a reduction in the	As well as providing safer roads for all, reducing

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	<p>speed limit on these roads is necessary for the reasons stated in the public notice but I would be in favour of diverting heavy traffic around Westerham on a newly constructed by-pass. The damage being done to many of the houses on Vicarage Hill is purely due to vibration from heavy traffic travelling on the A 25. Furthermore in line with many other town by-passes in Kent and other counties a by-pass would increase the local trade in the High St and other shops in Westerham contrary to that which is purported by some town councillors.</p>	<p>the speed limit throughout the town vibration and possible damage to buildings may be reduced. Currently there is no funding available to provide a bypass.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>A 20mph speed restriction would not reduce pedestrian accidents in Westerham. The vast majority of accidents have occurred at the top (town end) of Croydon road and also London road.</p> <p>We have adequate crossing facilities in Westerham. We have the mid road bollards allowing safer crossing on Croydon road near the fire station and also on The Green opposite the Grasshopper pub. We also have zebra crossings at the bottom of London Road and also in the town at Market sq.</p> <p>Due to the vast majority of accidents occurring off or away from the safer or designated crossing areas it would suggest that many in Westerham are too lazy to cross where safe. Reducing the traffic speed would increase a false sense of security for pedestrians whom already cross wherever they see fit.</p> <p>Westerham has limited access and i'm sure you will be aware of the congestion Westerham faces when the M25 shuts or is blocked for whatever reason. This would be the reality of a 20mph speed restriction with much higher congestion at the few junctions in and out of Westerham town causing gridlock with increased pollution via</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town.</p> <p>The proposed 20mph limit will help to ensure that accident numbers remain low and research has shown that the risk of a child being involved in an accident is reduced by about two-thirds where 20 mph zones have been installed.</p>

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	<p>congested junctions for longer periods of time.</p> <p>I feel this proposal is unfit for the area, would have detrimental impact on the road infrastructure without reducing pedestrian/ vehicle accidents.</p>	
10	<p>Westerham is a main route, often the m25 is closed and traffic is diverted through onto the a25, slowing traffic to 20mph will make congestion worse for the high street and resident. Every week there are also roadworks in the surrounding villages again causing traffic to back up again. Many of these roads are not even near the school or even see traffic caused by the school, why can't the traffic be limited to 20mph during the school opening and closing times like in most other areas of the country.</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town.</p> <p>The 20mph scheme is to promote safe use of the roads for all users at all times</p>
11	<p>I lived many years in central London, and the amount of pollution due to the high amount of traffic and time consuming for people to get to places because most of the roads are 20 mph...</p> <p>I believe that roads 30 mph are a decent speed to drive in the country specially when there is no a high number of vehicles nor people on the streets. I personally, do not think is fair that people that enjoy driving or drive to work have to stuck to 20 mph. I realised in the neighbourhood a lot elderly people and mothers are the number one complaint, but let just say, some people I have seen when they were driving have been very close to accidents, not for speeding, but for carelessness. As well as, families not looking when they are crossing and children running without supervision crossing roads, which an incident can happen easily at 20 mph and 30 mph. It is not always the driver's fault. I personally think is not fair to put the guilt automatically on the driver's, as pedestrians and drivers are both</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town.</p> <p>The 20mph scheme is to promote safe use of the roads for all users at all times.</p>

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	responsible for their actions.	
12	<p>The extent of the 20mph limit seems excessive and not confined to the areas close to schools or nurseries. You have not provided any statistics to support your argument hence it is impossible to determine what improvement to accident rates/injuries might be expected. How many accidents/injuries have there been in the last three years in the Westerham area? There is a balance to be struck between sensible speed restrictions and past incident rates I feel.</p> <p>The proposed one way flow round the green looks impossible. How will any lorries or larger vehicles travelling from the West negotiate the tight bend at the end of the green where it re-joins the A25?</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town.</p> <p>The proposed 20mph limit will help to ensure that accident numbers remain low. This approach is proactive and aimed at all users of the roads.</p>
13	<p>1) Some people who disregard speed limits anyway will continue to do so. Reducing the limit to 20 will have no effect on them at all.</p> <p>2) Some others drive at a constant 45 mph whether the speed limit is 60 or 30, with no awareness of their surroundings. Again, changing the limit to 20 will make no difference to those people.</p> <p>3) Reducing the limit to 20 will cause through traffic to bunch up. This means that the "snake" of traffic passing through Westerham will not only be more densely packed, but will also take longer (because it is going more slowly) to pass through Westerham. The level of pollution - both noise and chemical - will go up, and last longer.</p> <p>4) Reducing the speed limit to 20 will increase frustration among some drivers, leading to reduced awareness of their surroundings. This will have a small impact on road safety, but it will make it worse, not better.</p> <p>5) The argument that a reduced speed limit will enhance the safety of school children is a thin one. School children walk along only a few of the affected roads, and only at limited</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that more consistent speeds will be adopted throughout the town.</p> <p>The proposed 20mph limit will help to ensure that accident numbers remain low. This approach is proactive and aimed at all users of the roads.</p> <p>The 20mph scheme is to promote safe use of the roads for all users at all times and research has shown that the risk of a child being involved in an accident has reduced by about two-thirds where 20 mph zones have been installed.</p>

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	times. For the very limited time that they are exposed to traffic, the risk from frustrated drivers made to drive at 20 is arguably worse than that from drivers doing 30. And the speeders will take no notice of the limit anyway.	
14	<p>The speed of traffic within and through the town is within current limits.</p> <p>Reducing the current limits would not bring any safety benefits, and would have a negative impact on air quality for local people as slower moving traffic would cause more pollution.</p>	<p>By providing a more consistent approach to the speed limits in Westerham, it is expected that driver behaviour will change and that more consistent lower speeds will be adopted throughout the town.</p> <p>The 20mph scheme is to promote safe use of the roads for all users at all times. Less accelerating / braking reduces particulates. NICE recommends 20mph without speed humps for better air quality, less noise, vibration and road wear</p>