

# Nailsworth 20mph Proposal

## The Background

At a public meeting called back in March 2013 many residents expressed serious concerns about traffic in Nailsworth. Comments included “At the moment the balance is 100% in favour of the car”, “We need a flashing sign to show what speed cars are doing”, “Need a different kind of Nailsworth where cars are not speeding and taking precedence” and “Traffic going faster leaves less time for people to cross the road”.

As a result the A46 Action group was formed made up of residents and councillors. The group looked at various solutions, including traffic calming, road markings, “Speedar” speed monitoring, a pedestrian crossing for Dunkirk, meet with other councils in the area, a 20mph zone.

A petition for a crossing at Dunkirk Mills was raised and presented to Gloucestershire County Council. This resulted in a traffic and pedestrian survey and the County’s assessment that there was no need for a crossing. Unfortunately a crossing is more likely after deaths have occurred, or if the town pays the £50,000 or so for it!

The Nailsworth Speedar group have found that cars speed across Nailsworth, and they monitor hot spots. Speeding drivers are sent warning letters and have their details recorded.

A meeting with Stroud highlighted that a 20mph zone is more cost effective than annoying traffic calming barriers. The meeting also reinforced the point that our community is for people, not just cars. These limits can be self enforcing, as a car going at 20mph will mean that cars behind it are also keeping to the limit.

A public meeting held in December 2015 was fully in favour of progressing a 20mph limit for the town.

## The Proposals

### A 20mph limit for the parish

Based on experience elsewhere a mixture of different speed signs can be confusing. It is considered a better solution to have an area limit rather than to pick groups of roads. Most of Nailsworth Parish’s roads are residential and so the pragmatic approach is for the current 30mph limit to be changed to 20mph. Existing 20mph signs, like in Market St., Northfields Rd. would be removed.

### Some speed limit signs moved

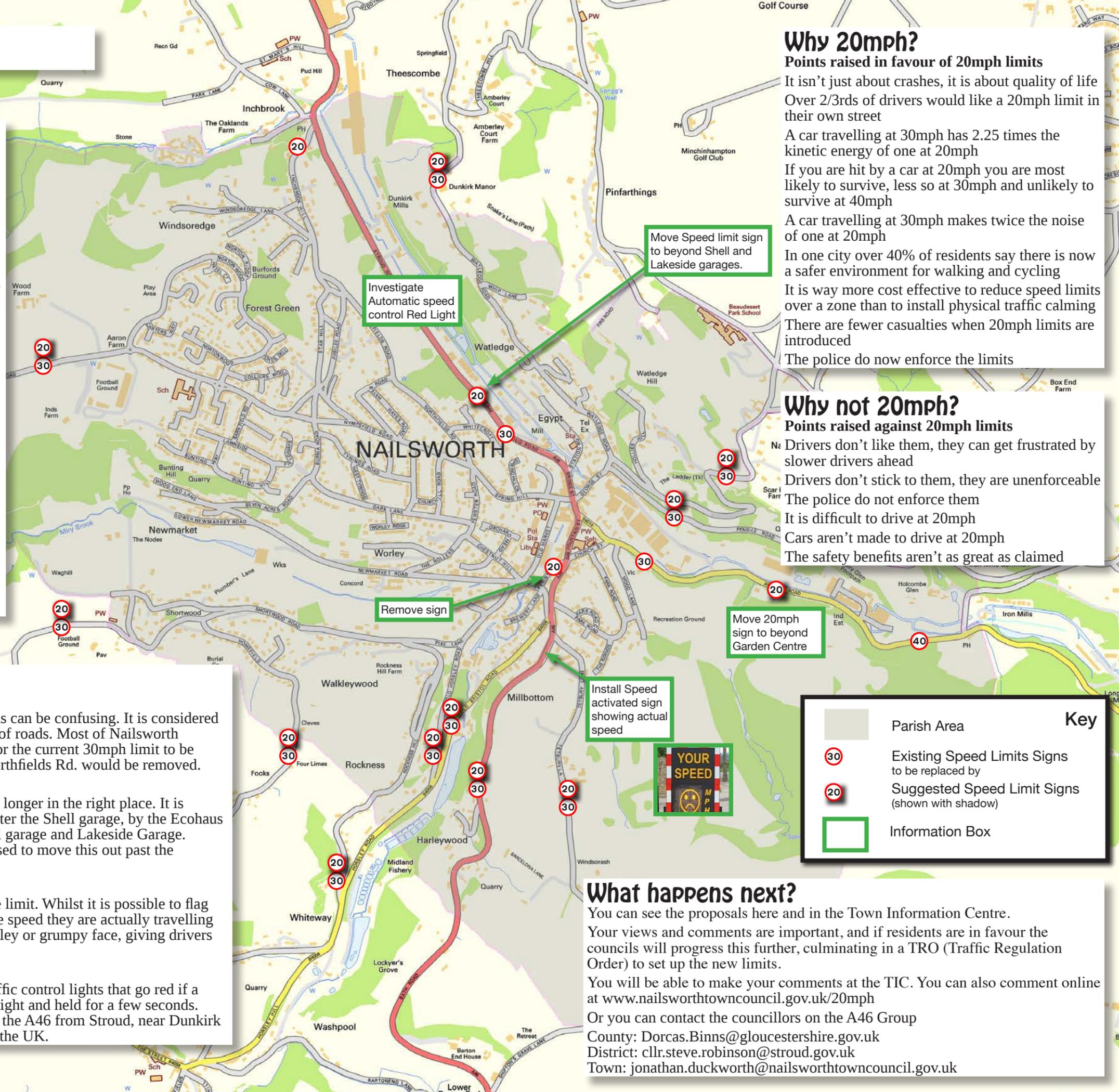
As a result of development and change some of the limits are no longer in the right place. It is proposed to move two limit signs. The first is on the A46, just after the Shell garage, by the Ecohaus development. It is proposed to move this out to beyond the Shell garage and Lakeside Garage. The second is on the Avening Road, by the Vicarage. It is proposed to move this out past the Garden Centre.

### Speed Activated Sign

Cars coming down the A46 from Calcott are often exceeding the limit. Whilst it is possible to flag up speed limits such as in Horsley, it is better to show drivers the speed they are actually travelling at. The proposal is for a sign that shows actual speed, with a smiley or grumpy face, giving drivers useful feedback.

### Automatic Speed Control Red light

In some countries (particularly Spain and Portugal) there are traffic control lights that go red if a vehicle is exceeding the speed limit. The car is stopped at a red light and held for a few seconds. The proposal is to look at the possibility of a control like this on the A46 from Stroud, near Dunkirk Mills. We’d need the support of our MP as this is really new for the UK.



## Why 20mph?

### Points raised in favour of 20mph limits

It isn’t just about crashes, it is about quality of life. Over 2/3rds of drivers would like a 20mph limit in their own street.

A car travelling at 30mph has 2.25 times the kinetic energy of one at 20mph.

If you are hit by a car at 20mph you are most likely to survive, less so at 30mph and unlikely to survive at 40mph.

A car travelling at 30mph makes twice the noise of one at 20mph.

In one city over 40% of residents say there is now a safer environment for walking and cycling.

It is way more cost effective to reduce speed limits over a zone than to install physical traffic calming.

There are fewer casualties when 20mph limits are introduced.

The police do now enforce the limits.

## Why not 20mph?

### Points raised against 20mph limits

Drivers don’t like them, they can get frustrated by slower drivers ahead.

Drivers don’t stick to them, they are unenforceable.

The police do not enforce them.

It is difficult to drive at 20mph.

Cars aren’t made to drive at 20mph.

The safety benefits aren’t as great as claimed.

## What happens next?

You can see the proposals here and in the Town Information Centre.

Your views and comments are important, and if residents are in favour the councils will progress this further, culminating in a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) to set up the new limits.

You will be able to make your comments at the TIC. You can also comment online at [www.nailsworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/20mph](http://www.nailsworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/20mph)

Or you can contact the councillors on the A46 Group

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