

Suffolk County Council 20 mph Policy

In February, the PC was approached by the Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group, which was formed in 2025 so that parish and town councils throughout Suffolk could connect and join forces over road safety issues. It is a forum to share ideas, give feedback about local road safety issues, share expertise (for example what individual parishes have done to make their communities safer) and details of local contractors they have used. No specific input is required from individual parishes but by joining together we hope to achieve more to support our communities.

In October 2025 the group lobbied SCC about their speeding policies which needed updating. SCC has listened to feedback from parish councils and has now issued details of its new 20mph policy, copies of which are available at the meeting. It can also be viewed via the SCC website.

One of the big challenges, particularly for smaller parishes, is that they will be required to fund all the costs of implementing new speed limits themselves. One suggestion is for neighbouring parishes to submit joint applications for 20mph speed limits on specified roads in their parishes (not a blanket 20mph limit) and share the legal costs of the Traffic Regulation Order and any other administrative costs.

The group are also concerned that the draft approval continues to require parishes and towns to conduct expensive speed surveys prior to approval of proposed schemes, whereas the data is readily available to SCC from other established and objective sources, especially the universally available Connected Vehicle Data.

The group now has more than 30 town and parish councils as members in West Suffolk, and we are inviting all others across Suffolk to join with them. They are supported by the nationally acclaimed [20's Plenty for Us](#) campaign group, and West Suffolk MP Nick Timothy.

The PC hasn't yet made a formal decision on joining the group but it might be sensible, whether or not we decide to embark on a 20mph scheme in the Village.

The gist of the SCC's 20 mph policy

Where communities want lower speed limits, and mean speeds are already under 28 mph the presumption in favour of a lower limit will apply. Primary consideration will be given to the **function of the location**. Where significant numbers of more **vulnerable road users** are likely to be present, support is likely to be forthcoming. However, where the focus of the road is on traffic speeds and / or volumes are naturally higher, support is unlikely.

Average speeds between 28 and 32, 20mph will only be acceptable with traffic calming measures paid for by the Parish

Average speeds above 32 mph 20 mph unlikely to be acceptable with extensive, complex and locally funded measures.

Evidence Base

Speed surveys – information from local SIDs or Speed Watch teams.

Meaningful local community engagement showing clear support for a plan

Impact

Unlikelihood of any additional enforcement. Communities would therefore need to consider:

Reinstating previous limit

Additional traffic calming

Community speedwatch