

**Response by Bristol Walking Alliance to  
20mph Speed Limit Consultation 2026**



***Bristol Walking Alliance (BWA) welcomes the proposals to reduce speed limits to 20mph on many additional residential roads in the Bristol area.***

In our submission to the BCC Transport Committee Group on Road Safety Strategy we listed excessive vehicle speed as a critical issue for pedestrians in Bristol.

There is clear evidence that reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph reduces the number of collisions that result in death or serious injury to pedestrians. In a collision with a pedestrian, every 1mph above 20mph increases the chance of a fatality by 15%.

In addition, vehicle acceleration and braking has been shown to be smoother at 20mph, leading to reduced emissions and so cleaner air. Reduced vehicle speeds also encourage more people to use active travel, which can itself also provide health benefits.

We do not offer comments on the details of the changes under consideration, leaving that to local Councillors and residents, but would advocate that as many of the speed reductions as possible go ahead.

We would, however, suggest that differences in speed limit over short stretches of road can be confusing and distracting for drivers, and consistency should help overall road safety.

Bristol Walking Alliance  
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[enquiries@bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk)