

CABINET – 19 NOVEMBER 2025
RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Public Questions

1. Councillor Craig Emery

Question:

This week marks Road Safety Week across the UK - where people up and down the country call for safe roads for everyone.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend in person today as I am supporting students from Derwen College in their campaign for safer streets. Students regularly wait 20mins to cross the 40mph road outside their college to catch a bus to Oswestry.

Elsewhere in Gobowen, the School Streets trial has been a particular success, however, it is a trial only and information about this continuing has been limited from officers.

My hope would be for Shropshire Council to go further and faster by introducing a default 20mph speed limit in residential areas - this would reduce the complexity of school streets and ultimately save Shropshire Council money.

The default speed limit of 20mph on built-up roads in Wales has brought multiple benefits. Lower speeds in Wales have led to 630 (26%) fewer casualties in the twelve months after the national speed limit change compared with the previous year, including 80 fewer fatal or serious injuries. Lower than expected vehicle damage claims has enabled esure Insurance Group to reduce its premiums for Welsh drivers and esure is now committed to reducing policy prices for customers within 3 months of identifying a new 20mph area in the rest of the UK.

Can Cabinet Members update the community on their plans to bring safer streets to Shropshire as a priority - especially outside schools, SEND colleges and built of residential areas?

Response:

I thank Cllr Emery for his question, and want to applaud him for highlighting the issues faced by students at Derwen College.

Cllr Emery has eloquently presented the evidence for greater use of 20mph speed limits, and that is exactly what we are working on with officers. We have met with counterparts in Oxfordshire, where the Liberal Democrat and Green administration successfully rolled out a 20mph transformation programme where local parish and town councils could request reviewed speed limits with the support of their local county councillor. As I have answered previously this work is complicated by the 20mph outside schools programme introduced by the previous Conservative administration. We will work with officers to provide a robust mechanism for delivery, aligning our manifesto pledge with the emerging Local Transport Plan and Local Plan. This will ensure schemes are fit for purpose.

Regarding School Streets, I share Cllr Emery's frustration with the suspension, especially in the case of Gobowen. Last week I asked officers to provide an update for affected local members, this is in train, and a clearer position will be available shortly.