

Petition – Road Safety on Ilsham Road

84 paper signatures and 38 e-petition signatures

We the undersigned petition the council to consider measures to improve the safety of Ilsham Road in Torquay.

The stretch of Ilsham Road between Ilsham Marine Drive and Meadfoot Green has no pavement and so cars are forced to avoid pedestrians. This often results in them having to stop if another vehicle is simultaneously travelling from the other direction. Cars coming from Meadfoot Beach have reduced visibility due to the bend and so are often caught unawares. There is a large volume of pedestrian traffic due to the popular green, playground and beach. This road is the 'advisory cycle route' as per Torbay Council who state they aim to provide routes that are:

- Safe - for children and less experienced cyclists
- Useful - for local journeys
- Memorable - for everyone It could be argued that at present this road does not fit this description.

Although most vehicles obey the current 30mph speed limit many are not prepared to stop or give the required 2m gap to pedestrians as per the updated highway code.

20 mph Zones were proposed around Torbay schools over nine years ago but since then very little has moved forward.

Local governments in towns, cities and villages around the world are rejecting nationally set 30mph or 50km/h speed limits as no longer “fit for purpose” in meeting the needs of citizens and society. 20mph or 30km/h is now seen as the maximum safe speed limit where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists unless there are adequate segregated and crossing provisions.

Most countries have nationally set default speed limits for urban/village roads. The 30mph or 50km/h default speed limit had no science behind it and most were adopted many decades ago when motor vehicle usage was much lower. Since then, the challenges in society to protect vulnerable road users, advance active travel, increase public health, increase equality, reduce emissions and the sheer numbers of motorised vehicles now require a re-think of what should be the maximum speed where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists.

Improving safe access to roads for all users is essential if we are to improve uptake of active travel which is key to tackling climate change.