

Deputation Speech

On behalf of all the residents of Leeds, including yourselves and everyone who matters to you, I would like the council to make our country roads safer for walkers, wheelchair users, horse riders and cyclists.

I am extremely saddened by how dangerous our country lanes have become due to the speed limit still being 60mph on narrow, winding lanes. I am regularly nearly killed while I am out on my horses. Many cyclists and walkers complain of the same fears and people in wheelchairs are far too scared to get out into the countryside due to the dangers on the roads.

This maximum speed allowance was ok in yesteryear when people had vintage cars that were slower and people had more respect for others.

We now live in a society where many people have become extremely selfish and cars are extremely powerful.

Mental Health is a growing problem in society. We all need time to enjoy nature so that we can all feel happy.

Parks are man-made and unnatural and they don't serve the community as much as the real countryside does with it's wonderful wildlife and the enjoyment of watching farming happening. All of this brings people back to a sense of oneness with nature. This literally boosts our immune system and triggers the release of happy hormones.

So I would like to create Well-being Zones in our countryside. This would involve, clear signage with images of a walker, a wheelchair user, a horse rider and a cyclist. The wording would be Well- Being Zone! Pass Wide And Slow! Followed by an image showing 10mph and a 2 metre gap between car and person on the road.

A 20mph limit would be in place in general in these zones and the signs should be on all the beginnings of all the roads leading into the zone with reminders along the way.

It would be nice if harsher penalties could be given to the selfish drivers who choose to ignore the new situation.

The benefits of well-being zones would lead to lower emissions and less pressure on NHS mental health services.

I would like to propose a pilot scheme to start in Eccup as this is a place regularly frequented by many vulnerable road users and the countryside there is magical so it should be a safe place for all of us.

On the leaflet that I am passing around you will see the volume of people suffering from dangerous drivers who want to see a change. This is a facebook post.