



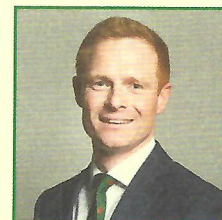
ROBBIE MOORE MP

Member of Parliament for Keighley and Ilkley

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA



Cllr Karl Milner
Mayor of Ilkley
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BY EMAIL & POST

31st July 2023

Dear Karl,

ILKLEY SPEED REDUCTION SCHEME

I write regarding the proposed speed reduction scheme for our town which includes a blanket, town-wide rollout of a 20mph speed limit with the inclusion of 133 speed cushions and 10 speed tables.

As you will be aware, I have previously expressed my strong objection to such a blanket, town-wide scheme.

The recent public consultation conducted by Bradford Council concluded that a clear and overwhelming majority rejected such a proposal and I therefore write to express my deep concern that Ilkley Town Council are not taking on board the clear views expressed by the people of Ilkley throughout ongoing decision-making on this matter.

As you will be aware, the results from the public consultation concluded that 91% of respondents were against the implementation of a town-wide 20mph speed limit with the inclusion of speed cushions and speed tables, and 52% were against a town-wide 20mph zone.

Despite the clear results, I am very concerned that these voices are not being adequately acknowledged in the decision-making process.

Ilkley Town Council is made up of fourteen Councillors. Seven of the fourteen are publicly opposing the scheme and listening to the consultation results. It is therefore deeply frustrating that the remaining seven Councillors, including yourself as Mayor with a deciding vote, seem to be determined to press ahead regardless with the blanket, town-wide scheme thus ignoring the views of the consultation in its entirety.

This does not seem democratic, and I urge you as Mayor, alongside the remaining seven Councillors who currently back the scheme to revisit the consultation results and look to implement a more targeted traffic calming scheme, rather than any sort of blanket, town-wide proposal.

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You will be further aware that Bradford Council have made it clear that they will only press ahead with the implementation of the town-wide scheme should a financial contribution of £87,500 be made by Ilkley Town Council. This is a significant expenditure for the Town that should not be taken lightly, particularly when the public consultation clearly indicates a lack of support for the scheme. It seems an unwise investment to implement a plan that is met with considerable resistance, especially when funds could instead be allocated to other projects that have much greater support from taxpayers within the town.

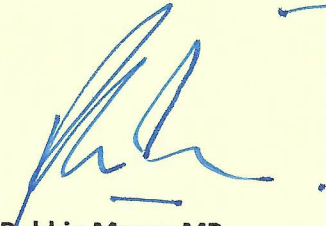
Therefore, surely given Bradford Council have said they will only pursue the implementation of a town-wide scheme on the basis Ilkley Town Council make such a financial contribution, it is within your gift as a Town Council to listen to the results of the public consultation, and stop a blanket, town-wide scheme. Instead, the Town Council could instruct Bradford Council to explore targeted traffic calming measures which I believe would be more beneficial and as the public consultation has concluded, would be widely welcomed.

There is certainly a consensus among residents that areas around schools or zones known for excessive speeding should be prioritised for speed reduction measures, while other, less at-risk areas should retain the existing speed limits, and not have speed cushions, humps or tables installed. A targeted approach would focus on bad junctions and critical areas like schools ensuring the added protection is delivered where it is needed. The implementation of a blanket policy, rather than a nuanced approach, risks not only frustrating residents but also diverting resources away from the areas where they are most needed.

It is also important to note that I recently attended a public meeting organised by the Ilkley Road Safety Action Group held at the Clarke Foley in which approximately 250 concerned residents attended. I understand that you as Mayor did not attend this meeting. This was one of the largest public gatherings I have seen in Ilkley, which illustrated the strength of feeling on this issue. The organisers talked through events to date, and views were expressed from the floor. It is fair to say that the vast majority who spoke highlighted their frustration that the consultation results are being ignored. Upon the organisers conducting a vote by a simple show of hands at the end of the meeting, it was clear a significant majority demonstrated opposition to a blanket, town-wide 20mph speed limit both with and without accompanying speed cushions and humps, and that the vast majority would much prefer to see a targeted speed reduction scheme to address traffic and road safety concerns.

I therefore strongly urge the Town Council to revisit the proposed changes and consider the views clearly expressed by the community. Of course, we all believe in the importance of maintaining a safe environment for all residents, but we also value the importance of considering the practicality, cost-effectiveness, and public sentiment surrounding any proposed changes.

Yours sincerely,



Robbie Moore MP
Member of Parliament for Keighley and Ilkley