



Westmorland and Lonsdale Green Party



Chris Loynes, ppc

Press release

Release: immediate

Green Party Supports the Kendal 20s Plenty Campaign

Westmorland and Lonsdale Green Party are giving their full support to the 20s Plenty campaign for a town wide 20mph speed limit in Kendal. Chris Loynes, the local Green Party general election candidate said:

'We know from councils elsewhere that slowing traffic down saves lives and reduces injury rates significantly. What's more people feel safe enough to leave the car at home and walk or cycle. This not only reduces congestion but also pollution such as carbon dioxide and diesel fumes. On top of that people are getting exercise and reduced stress leading to happier lives all round.'

Brighton and Hove Council, led by the Green Party, introduced 20mph speed limits on some roads with a drop of 20% in collisions and 19% in casualties. The scheme is being extended. This, along with other measures, has seen an 11% rise in cycle journeys and an astonishing drop of 200 fewer road deaths. Chris Loynes commented *'The savings for the NHS should outweigh any cost of introducing the scheme and the benefits are immediate and dramatic. This is a classic example of preventative 'medicine' working very well!'* These figures do not take into account the reductions in illnesses and death caused by reduced air pollution, down in 44 out of 46 monitoring stations. Recent research has highlighted that the soot and gases in car fumes, especially from diesel engines, are far more harmful than previously thought. Chris Loynes pleaded *'don't hang around near idling vehicles in traffic jams! Better still, let's do away with over-crowded, polluting traffic.'*

Kendal is going to get busier as housing developments go ahead around the town. It is hard to see how this can lead to anything other than greater congestion on the roads and so greater risks to all road users especially. It will also be a frustrating and unpleasant experience, not what Kendal wants to be known for. The Green Party think that the best solution all round is to get more people out of their cars and onto public transport, bikes and walking. A town that's enjoyable to walk around would be a pleasure for many more people than the traffic jams we can anticipate otherwise. Chris Loynes said *'20s Plenty would make a major contribution to how safe we are in our town and how enjoyable it is to be out and about in Kendal. I would encourage all Cumbrian towns to consider this.'*

The '20s Plenty for Kendal' campaign team added

'We're absolutely delighted that Chris supports our campaign. Towns all over the UK are recognising the benefits of calmer, quieter, safer traffic that comes from wide-area 20mph limits - with the right political support we think Kendal should be the first town in Cumbria to do the same.'

Chris Loynes
15th March 2015

For further information:

20s Plenty Kendal: <http://www.20splentyforkendal.moonfruit.com>