

A question about traffic speed in our road.

We have lived in Warren Avenue for a long time and feel that drivers often drive too fast along our long, rather straight residential road. We'd like to understand other residents' attitudes. If you'd like to send an email to **warrenavspeed@gmail.com** we could get a clearer idea of what the feeling is. We shall delete all emails and email addresses if asked. We shall never cite people's names, give out email addresses, or use email content directly for any purpose without permission. The aim is to understand local feeling.

We welcome any comments you want to make, but you might want to answer some of these questions:

1) Do you think some drivers are driving too fast along Warren Avenue, where there are no speed bumps, particularly at rush hours? If so, how important is it to do something (not necessarily bumps) which stops them going so fast?

2) Do you think that only road casualty statistics should be used when devising traffic policy for residential areas, or should other factors-be-considered? E.g. law-breaking (exceeding of speed limits); the level of concentration needed to walk across a residential road without being killed; the level of rational anxiety felt by parents each time their children leave the house (walking or on a cycle); the difficulty of parking and driving away from home; noise.

Preventive policies are better than waiting for children to be killed and maimed before acting. Yet, from past statements and replies, Bromley Council seems to require deaths and injuries to occur before doing anything (even then it seems to favour money-wasting nonsense such as installing road signs). Such passive-reactive, coffin-counting attitudes have largely been superseded by more robust, professional approaches to traffic calming and control in effective road engineering departments across Europe.

3) Do you think that the growing popularity of larger, more powerful vehicles (SUVs, etc.), and high-speed use of our road by large vans and even lorries, are making the safety and noise situations worse than they were?

4) Do you think traffic volumes and/or speeds are increasing? Should someone be monitoring volumes and speeds? (e.g. Wikipedia: traffic count)

5) Are you hostile/welcoming/indifferent to the fact that across the Western world traffic departments managing traffic flows in residential areas are adopting 20 mph (30 kph) as the consensus speed limit to achieve safe and pleasant residential roads? This 20 mph speed limit already applies in parts of London. It is also all-party policy to favour it in residential areas, primarily for safety reasons.

6) Are you happy/sad/angry/indifferent at the general stance taken on the page on Bromley Council's website entitled "Accident reduction measures"? (google "bromley road safety vertical")

Traffic-related issues can rouse strong passions. If Warren Avenue residents reach a consensus about what is needed, Council officers and councillors may (or may not) be unresponsive, delaying, uncooperative, obstructive, devious, evasive, patronising, wrong-headed and above all unimaginative about the idea of doing what is needed to make Warren Avenue as safe and pleasant as our residential road deserves to be. They may be terrified of a precedent being set for the borough with implications for congestion on major roads. So we'd like to get an idea about feeling on this matter before deciding whether it is realistic to try to do something about it.