

260407 – Item 6 – 20mph scheme correspondence with Cllr Keeling

Summary

7 November 2025

The Clerk wrote to Cllr Richard Keeling advising that the Parish Council had resolved to send him a letter regarding 20mph speed limits.

8 November 2025

Cllr Keeling thanked the Council for its correspondence, expressed support for the scheme, and indicated he may be able to assist financially. He offered to attend a future full council meeting for further discussion.

3 February 2026

- The Clerk advised Cllr Keeling that Cllr Short wished to discuss his earlier response on the 20mph scheme, noting Cabinet was due to consider the issue on 24 February.
- Cllr Short queried whether Cllr Keeling could press DCC for increased funding or suggest alternative ways to meet the £25k cost.
- He proposed meeting outside a full council session.
- Cllr Keeling agreed to meet and offered availability the following afternoon at DCC or another suitable time.
- Cllr Short initially accepted and asked for a suitable time.
- Cllr Keeling later advised he was no longer available due to another commitment. He noted that 12 schemes were already proposed for 2026/27, asked the Highways Neighbourhood Officer to brief the Parish Council, confirmed he could contribute financially (but not fully), and offered to attend the March meeting.

Full Correspondence

4 February 2026

Dear Richard,

I was lucky today to get time to speak with Councillor Jacqui Hodgson (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity) who gave me some good advice on how to progress as it's her portfolio.

Can I ask some questions:

Do you have an area you wish to be 20mph on a map, that can be professionally surveyed? The larger the area the more costly.

There will need to be a public consultation, are you confident of over 50% of those who will be consulted agree with the area proposed to be 20mph?

Have you taken a vote at a full council meeting to have a 20mph in the area you have designated and have you earmarked funds, also you would need to have it recorded in your parish minutes.

I would support you over the next 2 years with some locality funding but the bulk would have to come from the parish. There may be some new match funding I could also tap into about to be announced under our budget supporting Towns/Parishes road works.

I am happy to meet with you if you can confirm all above, unfortunately I can not attend your next meeting in March as I'm on a training course.

I hope this was helpful and I would be happy to support this community initiative.

Kind regards

Richard

9 February 2026

Dear Richard

Thank you very much for seeking the advice of the portfolio holder Jacqi Hodson.

DCC Cabinet originally invited communities to apply for a 20MPH limit in December 2021, but MPC was unaware of this until early in 2023 when we applied (MPC minute 13/2023). There was not time to undertake any specific public consultation prior to this if we wanted to be considered in the tranche for the next year.

The Council's intention is to cover the entire built-up area. We recognise that the detailed boundaries are best determined by highways officers. While the A382 is probably the highest priority a more limited area may not be much cheaper due to junction signage costs. It would be very helpful if DCC highways could professionally survey the built-up area to identify the likely cost of the most appropriate scheme in highway terms.

The Council has undertaken a number of limited consultations since our application, including questions and items at annual parish meetings. Comments are invariably in favour; traffic speed appears to be the most frequent complaint that we receive. A September 2023 consultation indicated that respondents were also in favour of obtaining a Speed Indicating Device (SID) and of a campaign that we have run of '20s plenty' signs on the main roads. There has been significant public interest in a Community Speed Watch group. It has been established, approved, and nine locations

risk assessed (this will increase our score on DCC's evaluation criteria by 2 points to 10). Speed checks by DCC and for a developer at two locations on the A382 have shown that over 1 in 7 vehicles are exceeding about 33mph in the town.

MPC has a Highways Working Group that is currently considering a number of traffic issues including a 20MPH limit, purchase of a SID and traffic management issues in the centre. It has discussed undertaking an extensive further consultation of all residents and businesses in the Spring. I envisage here will be questions about support for a 20mph limit, the proposed extent and funding implications. It is unlikely that MPC would wish to continue to progress seeking a 20 MPH limit unless a clear majority of respondents are in favour.

MPC has not at this stage identified any funds in its 2026/27 budget to help deliver a scheme (It has had to identify funding, if required, to take over public toilets). DCC's allocation and scoring scheme, that already identifies the successful communities for 2026/27, does not appear to give any priority to communities that may be able to offer part self-funding.

Your offer of some locality funding over the next two years will be most appreciated.

I would suggest the following way forward (Sorry, much of it falls on you)-

You ask DCC highways to identify the recommended precise boundary of a built-up area limit and the resulting likely cost.

In Spring, MPC widely consult the community over the principle of a scheme for that area and whether they would support part funding a proportion of it through the parish precept for 2027/28. This would confirm over 50% respondent support.

You identify a likely locality fund contribution that you could make for 2027/28 (I understand you cannot do a carryover from 2026/7) and investigate any prospect of a contribution from the forthcoming new budget for supporting roadworks.

MPC notify DCC that we now have a Community Speed Watch and therefore our evaluation score should be updated to 10 (the likely level for successful schemes for 2027/28).

While DCC now encourages self-funded community schemes, you raise with Jacqui that DCC should also give greater priority to part funded schemes.

Thank you once again for your help. You will appreciate that this is not a formal parish council response, however I have shared it with a number of colleagues. Perhaps we can have a further discussion if you come to our April meeting.

Richard Short