

# West Sussex failing to protect Worthing's children

**20's Plenty for Worthing – PRESS RELEASE – Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

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20's Plenty



Where People Live

**New data obtained by the 20's Plenty for Worthing campaign shows that West Sussex County Council's School Safety Zones are failing to protect Worthing's children: 97% of road collisions that injure Worthing's children do not happen in the areas covered by the School Safety Zones.**

From 2005 to 2010 there have been 271 injuries to children (0-16 years old) on Worthing's roads, 32 of them serious. Of these, 163 (60 %) have been to children who were walking or cycling (data [here](#)).

The 20's Plenty campaign obtained [this map](#) showing exactly where all these injuries occurred and then compared this to the locations of the School Safety Zones which now cover 21 schools. Only 8 of these injury locations were covered – and even these may have happened during school holidays or outside the times when the School Safety Zone lights were flashing.

The campaign asked West Sussex County Council what evidence they have for School Safety Zones (SSZs) achieving casualty reductions. They replied "Because the SSZs are not primarily designed or intended to be improvements to address casualty reduction pre and post implementation casualty data has not been used in the evaluation of the project." Instead they claim they are "part of our approach to Behavioural Change" – aiming to encourage more children to walk or cycle to school – regardless of whether it is actually safer!

**WSCC has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds of tax payer's money on School Safety Zones yet they cover just 2 miles of Worthing's roads and they don't even know if they make things safer.**

This is not good enough. If we want to encourage children to walk or cycle to school we need to make the roads for the whole of their journey safe. We should also make our streets safer for our children during evenings and holiday times. For collisions in Worthing involving children, 88 % were on roads with 30mph speed limits, and 67% were on unclassified, B or C roads – precisely the roads which the 20's Plenty campaign is targeting.

**We need 20mph speed limits on all residential roads – that is proven to make it safer for our children, for older people, for pedestrians, for cyclists and for motorists too.**

**Worthing County Local Committee will be discussing the introduction of 20's Plenty on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm at Worthing High School, in South Farm Road. The 20's Plenty campaign urges people to attend the meeting to show their support or write to their County Councillors in support of 20's Plenty.**

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