

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

SUPPLEMENT AGENDA

Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 6.30 pm Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS

18 Historic Zone 20mph (Pages 3 - 12)

PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN FORUM 27TH NOVEMBER 2019

- 1. The TWG is proposing a 20mph zone in the historic centre of the town to reduce speeds and increase safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Currently the speed limit in the central, historic part of Tunbridge Wells is 30mph but the demand for more 20mph limits is growing.
- 2. <u>Appendix A</u> As well as the first 20 mph zone in St. John's, there are now other zones in Goods Station Road and near Claremont School, and others proposed for Banner Farm estate, St Peters and Culverden. As you can see this proposed historic centre 20mph zone links them all together and will go a long way to offering a better quality of life for all at street level.
- 3. Appendix B This is the historic zone which covers the borough's main shopping, cultural and entertainment centre as wells as houses and workplaces. Pedestrians are numerous throughout the day and evenings. Pavements are historically narrow which means that people have to walk in close proximity to passing traffic. There are few safe road crossings and roads are too narrow for segregated cycle lanes. Slower speeds will help to protect cyclists and pedestrians alike, and should not impinge on drivers journey times because of congestion particularly at peak times.

[Appendix B Notes: Red lines indicate roads in the Historic Centre 20mph zone but the map does not extend far enough east to show all the roads.

A = Claremont Road leading to Claremont School (20mph zone) and agreed Banner Farm 20mph zone.

B = Royal Oak pub at junction of Calverley Road/Bayhall Road and Pembury Road and Prospect Road and adjacent to the proposed 20mph zone in St Peters.

C = Prospect Road – could include Park Street, Princess Street and Cambridge Street in the historic zone

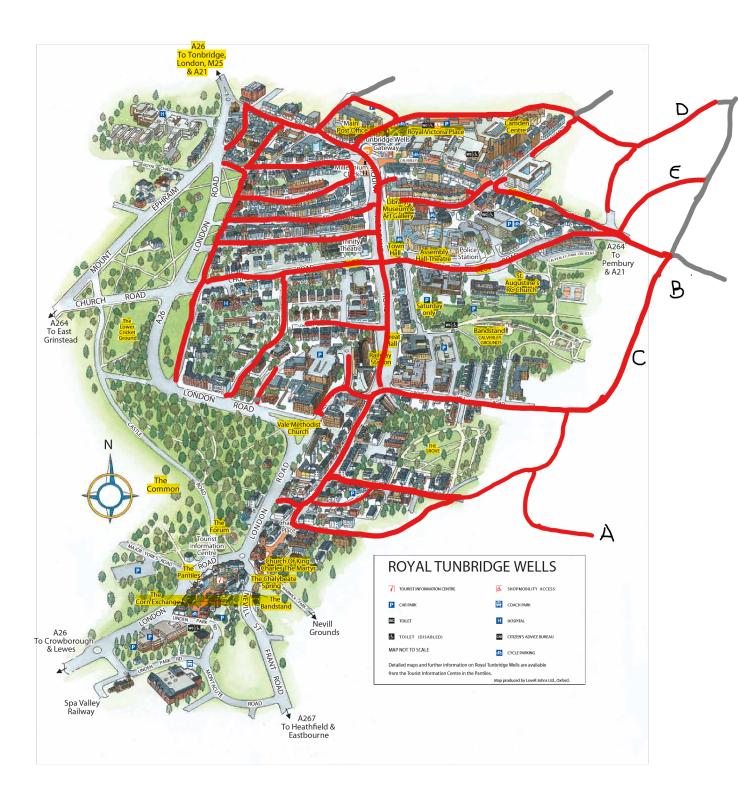
D = Sandrock Road – already has a 20mph zone at St James School

E = Calverley Park Gardens has been designated in Draft Local Plan to be reserved for buses and cyclist (and local access) only.]

- 4. **Appendix C** There is a high density of listed buildings dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries within the historic centre. They are already subjected to vibration, pollution and physical damage from traffic every day. Lower speeds will help to reduce this.
- 5. **Appendix D** Recently, the rear of a grade 2* listed house in Calverley Park Crescent was recently partially demolished and the railings on three others were destroyed by a speeding car that lost control. Fortunately, no one was injured.
- 6. The Town Forum wants our townspeople to go about their daily business in the town centre without fear of fast-moving and polluting traffic. For the future we recognise we all need to change to a more active travel lifestyle. Reducing speed to 20mph will ensure that pedestrians and cyclists are more visible to drivers and this will make crossing roads and cycling much safer.
- 7. **Appendix B** again. This is our proposal which we plan to present to the JTB. Any questions and comments?

Map B: Historic Centre Tunbridge Wells 20mph





MAP A

RTW town centre showing historic buildings in red and conservation areas in blue

