



# Road Safety Wales

## Diogelwch Ffyrdd Cymru

### Low Down

## Three months to go...

Reducing speed will not only save lives but will help build stronger, safer communities, Deputy Climate Change Minister Lee Waters has said, three months before the introduction of the default 20mph speed limit.

Described as the 'biggest step-change in community safety in a generation', most streets in Wales that currently have a 30mph speed limit will switch to 20mph on Sunday, 17th September. The change comes after four years of work with local authorities, police and road safety experts to design a change in law, making Wales the first UK nation to reset the default speed limit for local roads.

The Deputy Minister with responsibility for transport said, "We're now just three months away from the biggest step-change in community safety we have seen in Wales for a generation.

"In Wales we do things differently, we look after each other and trust the science. Evidence shows that a vehicle travelling at 30mph will still be travelling at 24mph in the time it would take a car travelling 20mph to stop.

"Reducing speed not only saves lives; it will help build stronger, safer communities - better places to live our lives."

First Minister Mark Drakeford added, "Our streets will be quieter, reducing the scourge of noise pollution, and slower speeds also boosts the confidence of people to cycle and walk around their local areas and for children to play outdoors.

"Evidence from around the world is clear – reducing speed limits reduces collisions and saves lives.

"I am confident if we all work together, we can make the necessary changes that will benefit us now and in the future."



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## Wales by Bike Prize Draw

Paul, a biker from Blackwood in south Wales, has been randomly selected as the winner of the Wales by Bike Prize Draw Survey.



Anyone who had completed a Welsh Government subsidised course was invited to fill in a survey and to be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win £250 from Road Safety Wales.

Welsh Government subsidised courses included:

- Biker Down! Cymru
- BikeSafe
- Dragon Rider
- Enhanced Rider Scheme, Powys
- Enhanced Rider Scheme, Ceredigion
- First Bike on Scene (FBoS)
- Ride On
- Rider Safe

Paul completed a BikeSafe course and commented; "I have discussed the course with every biker I talk to, I learned loads and it has certainly made me a more confident, competent, safer rider."

The majority of those that responded to the survey told us that their motivation to attend a course was to improve skill and enhance their safety, particularly if they had taken a break from riding for a few years.

When asked to provide some examples of things that they had learnt or had taken away from the course, road positioning, cornering, observation and overtaking were common themes in the comments provided.

Thank you to everyone that completed the survey and entered the competition. The Welsh Government is continuing to subsidise a number of motorcycling courses again this year and the 2023-24 survey is now open.

Please remember: if you have completed more than one of these courses and have been invited to provide feedback, fill in a separate survey for both courses so you get another chance to win £250!

## Agilysis to Support Wales with Ambitious New Road Safety Strategy

Agilysis has been commissioned to undertake the writing of a new strategy for road safety in Wales following a safe system approach with a vision zero goal.

Agilysis has a strong track record of producing road safety strategies, having already worked with several regional road safety partnerships and builds on international road safety reviews that the team have undertaken in the Middle East and the road safety performance framework for Scotland.

Over the next few months, a 6-phase process will draw on the input and expertise from stakeholders across Wales ensuring that the new strategy encourages a systemic and collaborative approach, embracing a shared responsibility between those who design, build, maintain, and use roads and vehicles.

The strategy will act as a public-facing document, setting out the commitments of the Welsh Government and partners, but it will also act as guidance for those across Wales as to what the key actions to prioritise safety and the evaluation of activities to measure effectiveness.



# Welsh Government celebrates Clean Air Day with £58m boost for active travel

Since 2018, the Welsh Government has increased active travel funding from £15m to £70m – now more than £22 for every person in Wales, compared to dedicated active travel spending in England of about £1 per head in the same period.

The Deputy Minister was speaking on a visit to Flintshire where he saw first-hand how people were making the most of the new Sandy Lane to Saltney Ferry active travel route.

Deputy Minister Lee Waters said, “Walking and cycling provides a practical and vital response to help Wales meet its environmental and health targets.



“The Active Travel (Wales) Act puts pressure on us to deliver on high-quality active travel networks that encourage more and more people to regularly walk and cycle for journeys instead of using a car.

“Today’s funding is another substantial investment that will help us deliver ambitious plans across Wales that have all been designed to connect people with where they love and where they need to go.

Flintshire County Council’s Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the regional transport strategy, Councillor Dave Hughes said, “I am delighted to receive confirmation of Welsh Government’s further funding for two very important Safe Routes in Communities schemes which aim to improve accessibility within Holywell and Flint.

“With these proposals we aim to improve conditions for walking and cycling by reducing traffic speeds, improving pedestrian priority and widening footways. With the addition of green infrastructure these areas will provide an attractive and safe environment, encouraging more people to walk and cycle more frequently.”

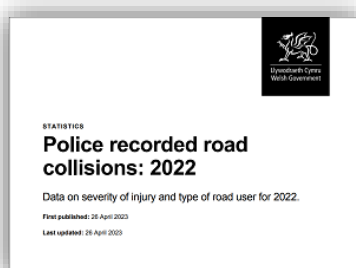
The new £58m will see the construction of 37 new active travel routes and the detailed development of a further 22. It will also be spent on 30 local authority Safe Routes in Communities schemes, with £3m for the Strategic Road Network.

Additionally, as part of this pot, all 22 local authorities will receive a minimum of £500k which can be used for future scheme developments and minor works such as new crossing points, promotional work and new cycle parking.

You can see the full break down of funding [here](#).

## Police recorded road collisions: 2022

In 2022 police forces in Wales recorded a total of 3,312 road collisions, broadly similar to the number seen in 2021, and a decrease of 23.5% compared to 2019.



These road collisions in 2022 resulted in 4,442 personal injuries. Of these, 93 people were killed, 921 people were seriously injured and 3,428 ‘slight’ injuries were recorded.

During 2022, over half of all road collisions (51%) occurred on 30mph roads with the next highest proportion (25%) occurring on 60mph roads. Road sections with a 20mph speed limit accounted for 6% of all collisions.

The full report can be found [here](#).

## Art to highlight the 20mph default speed limit

A Gwynedd school pupil will have his artwork displayed on roadsides near schools across Wales to encourage drivers to respect the forthcoming 20mph default speed limit on most 30mph streets in Wales, from 17 September 2023.

A recent Welsh Government and Road Safety Wales competition captured the imagination of more than 2,000 talented young artists. Pupils in Year 5 to Year 8, in primary and secondary schools across Wales, were challenged to create designs.

It comes as Wales gets ready to see the default speed limits on restricted roads change from 30mph to 20mph, to make streets safer.

Eminent graphic designer and creator of many timeless UK road signs, Margaret Calvert, was amongst the judging panel which chose a design by Noa Williams, in Year 7 at Ysgol Ardudwy, in Gwynedd, as the overall winner.

Teresa Ciano, Chair of Road Safety Wales said: "In classrooms and homes in every local authority, children considered and discussed imaginative ways to visually promote this ground-breaking road safety development to increase active travel, reduce road risk and protect our communities.

"The competition judges were presented with a very difficult task; resulting in Noa's design being selected as the well-deserved overall winner. The design was so impressive, the Welsh Government is also using it within the national communications campaign raising awareness of the change to 20mph on streets where people live. We would like to offer our congratulations to Noa, runners-up and all the talented pupils who participated in the competition."



## Schools road safety improvements almost complete

Work is nearing completion on road safety improvements outside two town centre primary schools in Merthyr Tydfil.

Caedraw Road is access-only, meaning it can only be used by people needing access to their properties or place of work.



The street cannot be used for parking other than permitted use for school buses, taxis and disabled users - and then only within designated bays for a limited period, as stated on the road signs.

A solid white line along most of the length of the street denotes a mandatory cycle lane, with parking or driving inside it prohibited. On the other side of the street, an intermittent line denotes an advisory cycle lane – it is possible to drive in this area, but priority must be given to any cyclists using it.

Concerns had been raised about safety at St Mary's Catholic and Caedraw Primary schools due to the number of cars parking on pavements on a road that has access-only restrictions. Residents of Caedraw Road were asked to take part in a survey on the plans, and an overwhelming majority of the responses were in favour of the scheme.

This scheme is part of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's priorities to improve both the safety of school children and the provision for pedestrians and cyclists to enter the town.

The work was funded by Welsh Government in partnership with Transport for Wales as part of a successful bid for Active Travel support. The route connects to the new bridge over the river Taff which is due to open this month.

