



**East Hampshire
Conservatives**

14a Butts Rd, Alton
Hants GU34 1ND

NEWS RELEASE

27 April: immediate release

New hope on Selborne speed limit?

County councillor Mark Kemp-Gee and parliamentary candidate Damian Hinds have given a cautious welcome to last week's government announcement that more areas could get 20mph speed limits.

Campaigners in traffic-blighted places such as Selborne have long argued for a lower speed limit, and the new announcement will raise hopes of progress.

The government plans are still at the consultation stage. A possible stumbling block is that, in the government strategy, new 20 mph limits are only supposed to be considered for roads which are "not part of any major through route" – and "major" isn't precisely defined. There is a separate clause suggesting that exceptions could be made for areas of "high pedestrian movement"; it is hoped that the proximity of the school could be taken into consideration.

Mark Kemp-Gee said: "I have actively supported the County Council's 'Village 30' programme, which has now brought the 30 limit in to many villages in East Hampshire, and the 'Twenty's Plenty' programme around schools. I firmly believe in a statutory 20 mph limit in certain special cases, including Selborne. I will continue to work for that, as well as a long-term traffic solution for the village."

Parliamentary candidate Damian Hinds added: "If there was a 20mph limit in a village like Selborne the impact on journey times would be small, but the benefit to village life – and safety – could be great. Of course the limit on its own isn't the whole story – people have to keep to it – but it would be an important step."

Damian and Mark are preparing a submission to the Department for Transport putting the case for villages in Selborne's position to be able to qualify for the lower limit.

ENDS

Picture attached: **20, please, for Selborne**



Notes to editors:

- Among the measures in the Department for Transport's consultation document *A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World* (April 2009), is this proposal: "In order to improve safety on the streets where people live, we are proposing to amend our guidance on speed limits, recommending that highway authorities, over time, introduce 20 mph zones or limits into streets that are primarily residential in nature, or other areas where pedestrian and cyclist movements are high (for example around schools or markets) and which are not part of any major through route."
- Hampshire County Council's '20's Plenty' campaign promotes lower speeds in school zones. The 'Village 30' programme has brought a 30mph limit to over 100 villages in Hampshire.