

# Ruskell reminds MSPs to back his Safer Streets Bill

**‘Final chance to back 20 and save lives.’**

Scottish Green MSP Mark Ruskell has issued a final call for the Scottish Parliament to back his Safer Streets Bill which will increase active travel, tackle pollution and save lives.

The Bill would reduce the speed limit on restricted roads from 30mph to 20 mph.

SNP, Tory and Lib Dem members of the Scottish Parliament’s Rural and Connectivity committee’s rejected the Bill’s general principles despite acknowledging that a 20mph speed limit improves health, liveability and active travel rates.



Mark Ruskell MSP speaking outside Holyrood on Tuesday 11 June 2019

Lower speeds are proven to reduce accidents, with Bristol council estimating their rollout of 20mph saved four lives a year[1]. Even a small reduction of average speeds by 1mph results in a 6% decrease in accidents[2].

The Active Nation Commissioner for Scotland, Lee Craigie, is an advocate of the Bill. She explained: "I'm in support of this bill because it sends the message that what our society values is people and shared, safe spaces for everyone. Such spaces encourage more people to walk, cycle, scoot or wheel and so positively impact on the social connectivity in communities while supporting the mental and physical health of everyone in that community."



There was a demonstration in support of the Safer Streets Bill staged outside Holyrood on 11 June 2019. 60 seats were placed there with personal effects to demonstrate the 60 people whose lives might have been saved if the parliament had passed the legislation when it was first set up 20 years ago.

Mr Ruskell said: "Colleagues voting against this Bill cannot ignore the simple fact that it will save lives. This truth has been acknowledged by the Welsh Government, who are pursuing a course of action almost identical to that proposed in my Bill and the Scottish Government's refusal to get on board is baffling."

"The current system, where councils create their own 20 zones is both slow and expensive. The Bill has the backing of local authorities, children's charities and environmental organisations but the Scottish Government seem to consider

them secondary to the motoring lobby. The SNP have declared a climate emergency and claim to be a party of progress but if they team up with the Tories to block this Bill it will be hard to take those statements seriously.”



Green MSPs support the bill introduced by their colleague Mark Ruskell