



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

A message from Paul Smith's SAFESPEED

We are delighted that Swindon Council have been able to finally start to restore some sense to the roads of Swindon.

We do expect that this will take some time to show up in the figures. But we are totally confident that as the bad side effects of Speed Camera's start to wear off, and education improves, people will find the return to being responsible behind the wheel is a very comfortable and proud place to be. **To no longer be obsessed with driving to a specific speed, but instead to drive responsibly by concentrating fully on the road ahead.**

Road Safety Absolutely Depends, on drivers choosing appropriate speeds that are appropriate to the conditions 100% of the time. We need drivers that once again drive, in a manner, so that they can stop in the distance that they can see to be clear in. To clarify 'Clear' we mean, that all prevailing conditions are fully accounted for, and that all the drivers skills and knowledge, have been totally satisfied, that their progress is appropriate and suitable.

A driver who concentrates, has good observation, anticipates the road ahead, and has good all round space and time to react, is one that is never likely to have a problem on the road. **A driver that is 'fit for purpose'.** A camera, no matter how many there are, or how disproportionate their enforcement is, can never provide this level of safety on the road.

Safe Speed's Driver's, Highway Code we recommend to all drivers everywhere...

(With every edition **the Highway Code gets bigger. The latest edition recently published, has swelled to 133 pages.** The Safe Speed campaign says that this 'bloat' is causing the essential safety messages to get lost and has produced their own version of the Highway Code in just 100 words.)

Safe Speed's Highway Code in exactly 100 words:

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Drive on the left. Make sure you can see and be seen. Keep a constant look out all around. Be aware of signs and regulations and why they are there. Be predictable.

Recognise and anticipate danger and keep clear space from it. Always ensure that you can stop within the distance that you know is clear. Develop your skills.

Give courtesy, co-operation and space to others. Don't obstruct them.

Never take risks, drive whilst unfit or compete with others.

Safety is paramount and far more important than priority. Take personal responsibility for your safety and the safety of those nearby.

Enjoy. www.safespeed.org.uk

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Safe Speed co-founder Claire Armstrong explained: *"We're not seriously suggesting that the official Highway Code should be replaced with just 100 words of advice to drivers, but the reason we have done this is deadly serious. We need to point out to Department for Transport that they have lost sight of the essential foundations of road safety, and their new Highway Code further loses sight of these foundations in a morass of rules."*

"You cannot replace skilled human judgement with a rule book - however big it is - but that's exactly what Department for Transport is trying to do."

"Our Highway Code even includes things that the official version does not. For a start it reminds people that road use can be enjoyable. Without that enjoyment we wouldn't have the interest to develop the skills that safe use of the roads requires."

"Another problem is that the Highway Code tells us what to do, but not how to decide when it is safe. We need to recognise danger and develop our skills for that."

"We hope that these founding principles will help road users everywhere – not just drivers - to focus on what's important and stay out of trouble."

"Some of the statements may not be immediately obvious to inexperienced road users, but all the common crash causes are covered. When we get it right we don't crash - but in order to get it right we need the right beliefs, the right skills and the right attitude. When things go wrong - think back to your last incident - and you'll probably be able to recognise the cause of the incident in those 100 words. Did you fail to spot the danger? Did you take a risk knowingly? Were you unfit through tiredness, drink or drugs?"

"Use this code, learn from your mistakes and use the roads as safely as you possibly can. It's enjoyable to do so."

The PPP comments ... We fully endorse Claire's statement. It is the epitome of Sense and Reason in Road Safety, The PPP's core belief. SADLY the immediate response by their Police to Swindon's INITIATIVE was a threat to increase the use of mobile cameras. The Police and the unholy alliances (speed camera partnerships) are in denial. They can take this attitude because they are CURRENTLY unaccountable for the failure and ABUSES of the speed camera culture AND they don't see us as their customers but their enemy. FIVE YEARS AGO North Wales Police's response to the PPP's first PUBLIC meeting was also threatening and abusive. We have spoken to many partnership's members across the country and some were as irrational as animal rights extremists.

The PPP are currently working with several road safety professionals to develop policies and training systems for particularly vulnerable groups. Claire makes a most valid point about the time required to change our road safety culture and drivers attitudes. The insidious side effects of the 'Speed Kill's' policy will be with us for a generation.