

Too many accidents says safety campaigner

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Traffic in Faversham is more dangerous than London and something must be done, says one woman battling for safer roads..

Those are the views of Faversham Action for Calmer Traffic (FACT) campaign founder Amanda Russell who says two accidents in four days last week, both prompting a response from the air ambulance, is crazy and very upsetting.

The campaign for a 20mph speed limit in Faversham town centre has gained momentum after a 13-year-old was left with life-changing injuries when he was knocked off his scooter in Athelstan Road.

Just days later, a woman was taken to hospital with abdominal injuries after yet another collision.

Amanda moved from London to Ospringle Road in October 2013 and she says there is less provision for pedestrians and cyclists in Faversham, and the town is crying out for safer and more crossings.

The campaign follows the national 20's Plenty movement, which has brought in the speed limit into a number of boroughs in London and counties across the country.

Amanda said: "I started this campaign because I started to be very aware of how little infrastructure there is for people getting across town.

Injured scooter boy back home

Charlie Duchense, who featured on our front page last week after being knocked off his scooter, is now back at home in Faversham.

His mother Debbie has told the Faversham News this week that Charlie still faces plastic surgery but is back home using a wheelchair and crutches to get around.

To read last week's story, visit www.kentonline.co.uk/faversham

"Elderly people and people with children are just some of those who struggle. I was incredibly surprised at the speed of traffic travelling through the town, shocked at the lack of crossings and even more surprised by the council's very minimal response to serious accidents."

In January, 77-year-old Doreen Taylor launched a petition to upgrade a crossing in Forbes Road after her husband was knocked down and killed there in 2014.

Despite more than 1,200 signatures, Kent County Council refused.

In 2013, John Hobson was knocked down and killed by a motorcyclist on the crossing in Whitstable Road and it took months of campaigning to upgrade it to a crossing with LED lights,



Amanda Russell who is the organiser of the FACT campaign calling for a 20mph speed limit in Faversham town centre
Picture: Chris Davey FM3833946



'If it's good enough for Islington it's good enough for us'

A proposal for a 20mph speed limit was discussed during Faversham Town Council's annual meeting on Tuesday evening.

Cllr Trevor Abram (Con) said: "In Islington they have a 20mph speed limit and in fact across the city of London. If London can do it, why can't Faversham?"

Cllr Ted Wilcox (Con) said: "It's got to be education and some form of enforcement. If people behaved sensibly then we wouldn't need all these regulations, but unfortunately they don't."

"It is mean and selfish."
Cllr Mike Cosgrove (Con) said: "We are all touched by this and

one accident and one death is one too many. But we need to tackle this in the right way - we need a sustained approach and work out an appropriate model of solving this."

The speed limit will be discussed again at next week's town council meeting from 7pm on Monday at the Guildhall.

Amanda continued: "It is very early days of this campaign but we really want to find a solution. There are a lot of people now who have the same concerns in Faversham and this is a way to make a record of any accidents or near-

misses in the town. "We can start measuring how bad this situation is. People are concerned and they're angry. It would be a relatively cheap idea to implement so the council must know it makes sense."

What do you think? Email favershamnews@thekmggroup.co.uk or write to the Editor, Gazette House, 5-8 Boorman Way, Estuary View Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3SE.