

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)****DATE: 7 MARCH 2016****LEAD OFFICER: DAVID TAYLOR****SUBJECT: THE ACRES, HORLEY****DIVISION: HORLEY****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Following the receipt of complaints about traffic speeds and the public using estate roads, Surrey County Council (SCC) is currently working with the developers of The Acres, a development at the North East Sector at Horley, to implement a scheme including a Speed Limit Order, creating a 20 mph zone throughout the estate. Whilst the order is likely to be created prior to the adoption of the roads as part of the public highway, it will come into force once the legal process has been satisfactorily completed. The order is also referred to in the draft Section 38 Agreement between SCC and the developers, who will fund and carry out the works.

The 20 mph zone is to be extended into Langshott from the hotel corner in the east to Wheatfield Way in the west as part of the Langshott bus route works.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee is asked to agree that :

The Speed Limit Order is advertised and subject to the satisfactory resolution of any objections or other representations, that the Speed Limit Order creating the 20 mph zone is made and brought into force.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

There have been complaints about vehicle speeds along Brookfield Drive and throughout The Acres estate. Pedestrians have expressed concerns about public safety. With the school now operational it is important that the 20 mph zone is implemented.

Plans are now in hand to extend the existing bus service throughout the estate which will also require additional parking restrictions inbound, and the relocation of vehicles currently parked at the kerbside. This could result in an increase in traffic speeds, making it appropriate that the zone is introduced. The bus will exit The Acres and egress through Langshott. It is in the interests of highway safety that traffic speeds are minimised, as currently only a small part of Langshott has a segregated footway.

Previously 20 mph zones would not have been authorised by the Department for Transport if the average speed at a representative site within the zone was in excess

of 20 mph. Subsequently Department for Transport Circular 01/06 'Setting Local Speed Limits' relaxed this guidance to allow average speeds of 24 mph.

The average speeds on Brookfield Drive are slightly above the 24 mph threshold. The automatic traffic counts were however located at the point where vehicle speeds is likely to be at their highest. Having discussed this with the Police and our Road Safety team there is general support for the introduction of a signed 20 mph speed limit on The Acres development.

Langshott traffic speeds have not been measured at this stage as the current speed limit is de-restricted. That has to be regularised when putting the bus through this area. Appropriate traffic calming will be implemented to improve the existing road humps and tables.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The promotion and advertising of the draft Speed Limit Order will require the prior approval of the Local Committee as a new highway is subject to a 30mph limit (where sections 81 and 82 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the RTRA') apply) until regulated by an order (made under Section 84 of that Act). This is for Brookfield Drive, the spine road throughout the estate. Langshott has no speed limit signs along this section and minimal street lighting. Traffic speeds will need to be controlled as part of the bus route works.
- 1.2 It should be noted that research shows that signed 20 mph speed limits generally lead to only a small reduction in traffic speeds.
- 1.3 The scheme includes the provision of terminal signs at the entrance to The Acres and then roundels and repeater signs (utilising the existing lamp columns). Careful consideration has been paid to the design of the signage to avoid unnecessary clutter. (The approved drawings are No's BSC/360/KS/01A & 02A: see Annex 1 & 2 respectively).
- 1.4 As the definition of a road in Section 142 of the Act is 'any length of highway or of any other road to which the public has access, and includes bridges over which a road passes', it is justifiable to make an order when the roads in the site are constructed and usable by members of the public. The majority of the roads within the site have now been constructed and are available for use. In order to assist with highway safety, it is suggested that the first publication of the notice of intention to make the order is made as soon as possible.
- 1.5 The Speed Limit Order needs to be made (i.e. sealed and dated) within 2 years after the first publication of the notice of intention to make the order. The order can be brought into force straight away and applied to all roads in the development as they are currently being used by the public. The signage/lines associated with the order will need to be implemented by the developer. The Langshott element of the scheme can follow as part of the bus route works.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The Acres has been designed and constructed to encourage low traffic speeds. In the main, this has proved successful. Road safety and the local environment will be improved following a reduction in traffic speeds.
- 2.2 Langshott is country lane, mainly without footways, where a bus service is to be introduced and the road needs to be improved including traffic calming.
- 2.3 Both areas have high amounts of pedestrians, including school children.
- 2.4 The Automatic Traffic Count Survey results have been received and we have consulted both the Police and our Road Safety team on the findings. The mean 24 hour westbound traffic speed is 25.09 mph and the mean 24 hour eastbound traffic speed is 24.16 mph. From 07:00 - 19:00 the mean speeds are 24.97 mph and 23.97 mph respectively.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The purpose of the 20 mph zone is to encourage lower traffic speeds where enforcement can be carried out if necessary.
- 3.2 Maintaining the existing speed limit of 30 mph at The Acres, does not have any environmental benefits and will not assist with speeding drivers. This applies in particular to Langshott which is de-restricted and only has some footways at its western end. The remainder is a shared surface where pedestrians mix with traffic.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 SCC's Legal Department, and the SCC Safety Audit, Traffic & Road Safety teams and Surrey Police were consulted regarding the proposed 20mph zone and the proposal was fully supported.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The developer will bear the costs involved in implementing a 20 mph zone at The Acres. The administrative costs are being borne by SCC and will be included within the Bus Route Scheme being designed for Langshott as part of the Horley Master Plan.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications associated with the order. It should be noted however that some footways in The Acres have been improved as part of the scheme and this has improved access for those with impaired mobility and/or for parents and/or carers with pushchairs. It is proposed that the Langshott scheme will include facilities for pedestrians where currently there are none.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The community at The Acres and Langshott will benefit by the introduction of an enforceable 20 mph zone.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Speed Limit Order be advertised & made providing that any objections are first resolved satisfactorily. Where significant objections or other representations are received following the advertising of the draft order, it is proposed that the Planning and Development Group Manager should decide, in consultation with the divisional member, appropriate borough councillor on the joint committee and the Local Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman, whether the Speed Limit Order should be made, or alternatively whether the matter should be referred back to the Local Committee for decision.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 The Speed Limit Order will be made and brought into force and the associated alterations to the signage and lining will be carried out for The Acres. The Langshott scheme is currently going through detailed design and such design will include the 20 mph restrictions.

Contact Officer: David Taylor, Transport Development Planning Senior Projects Manager Tel: 0208 541 9310.

Consulted:

Surrey County Council's Legal Department, Safety Audit Team, and Traffic & Road Safety Team and Surrey Police.

Annexes:

Scheme drawings for The Acres, No's BSC/360/KC/01A & 02A.
Langshott proposals, LANG/0100/014.