

**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(ELMBRIDGE)**

**LETTER OF REPRESENTATION RESPONSE
REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN
WESTCAR LANE, HERSHAM**

14th JUNE 2012

KEY ISSUE

To provide Members with an Officer response to the letter of representation submitted to the Local Committee.

SUMMARY

A letter of representation has been received signed by 58 signatories requesting traffic calming measures to be placed on Westcar Lane, Hersham to prevent speeding and rat running.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Elmbridge Local Committee is asked to agree that:

- (i) Note the content of the report

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A letter of representation signed by 58 signatories has been submitted to the local office on behalf of the residents of Westcar Lane. The full details are as follows:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to install traffic calming measures that would address speeding, heavy truck usage, and cut through traffic in our street so that the pedestrians and homes in Westcar Lane are better protected. Westcar Lane experiences a high level of cut through traffic from the major surrounding corridors along Burwood Road and Queens Road/Queensway North. This includes cars and large commercial vehicles that use our residential street as a short cut. Moreover due to the straight nature of Westcar Lane traffic regularly exceeds the speed limit putting both residents and an increasing number of younger children in danger.

- 1.2 The C156 Westcar Lane links Queens Road to Burwood Road in Hersham. It is a narrow residential road approximately 500 metres in length. The volume of traffic using the road is moderate to low with an average of approximately 2000 vehicles per day.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 There are no recorded collisions within the last six years throughout the length of Westcar Lane.
- 2.2 Data collected between the 19th and 24th April 2012 by Surrey Police shows an average speed of 34mph in both directions from a total of 16,124 vehicles. A total of 83 long vehicles were recorded travelling in both directions, which was split 47 and 36 respectively. This equates to 0.5% of the total vehicles using Westcar Lane.
- 2.3 The results of the speed survey showed that the majority of motorists are travelling just above the speed limit, but within the tolerance for speed enforcement, which starts at 36 mph in accordance with the Associated Chief of Police Officers (ACPO) guidelines. Further to the survey findings local Police Officers have carried out speed enforcement in the vicinity.
- 2.4 The Police have actively promoted Community Speed Watch (CSW) in the Borough since its introduction in 2004. So far, no residents from Westcar Lane have taken up the training or formed an active group for the area. CSW can be an effective way to reinforce a speed limit and any enforcement carried out by the Police. The Area Highways Team can provide Police contact details to the petitioners if they wish to pursue this further.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 Further to the letter of representation, Westcar Lane has been added to the Borough Speed Management Plan, speeds will be monitored on a six monthly basis and additional enforcement will be carried out.
- 3.2 The Police have agreed to place a temporary Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) in Westcar Lane on a rotational basis as part of their ongoing speed management programme.
- 3.3 The Police will provide random speed enforcement and will continue to promote and offer Community Speed Watch training through their regular panel meetings.
- 3.4 Unsuitable for HGV signs could be considered at either end of Westcar Lane to try and prevent rat running from HGV's. However, the signs are only advisory and have no legal standing for enforcement purposes. The signs are unlikely to have any effect on the low number of HGV's currently using the road but the Local Committee may wish to pursue this advisory measure.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Surrey Police have been actively involved with SCC. Speed enforcement has taken place and Community Speed Watch training will be offered through panel meetings with residents.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost to implement traffic calming throughout the length of Westcar Lane would be in excess of £100,000.
- 5.2 From the data available it would not appear of value for money to install traffic calming features along Westcar Lane given there is no evidenced need in terms of recorded collisions.
- 5.3 The cost of providing Unsuitable for HGV signs at either end of Westcar Lane would be approximately £500 - £1000.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Given the lack of collision justification the recommendation is the Committee note the content of the report.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 From the data available it would not appear of value for money to install traffic calming features along Westcar Lane given there is no evidenced need in terms of recorded collisions.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Subject to the above recommendation being agreed, the location will be monitored and if the situation changes it will be identified via the Elmbridge Casualty Reduction Working Group which consists of Officers from the Casualty Reduction Group, Road Safety officers, Surrey Highways, Surrey Police, Surrey Fire & Rescue.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None