



**UPPER STREET, SHERE:
TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)**

30th SEPTEMBER 2009

KEY ISSUE

This report seeks approval for traffic calming measures in Upper Street, Shere and minor alignment alterations to the junction of Upper Street and London Lane.

SUMMARY

The proposed measures are designed to reduce traffic speeds in Upper Street in order to improve safety for vehicles leaving an expanded car park at the recreation ground. A pilot scheme has been carried out to test the proposals, and speed surveys have taken place. The project is funded as part of the car park extension at no cost to Surrey County Council, other than a small contribution from the Member Revenue allocation of the former Member for the Shere division.

Report by

GBC HEAD OF OPERATIONAL
SERVICES

Surrey Atlas Ref.

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GUILDFORD B.C. WARD (S)

TILLINGBOURNE

COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION (S)

SHERE

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) that the proposed traffic calming works in Upper Street and the alignment alterations to the junction of Upper Street and London Lane, Shere, as shown on the drawing attached as **ANNEXE 1**, be approved.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1 Probably the most notable issue affecting the Shere conservation area is the pressure of parking and congestion on the character of the village. Shere Parish Council recognise this and have been campaigning for many years for an extension to the existing car park at the recreation ground. Guildford Borough Council (GBC) officers, with support from Surrey County Council (SCC) colleagues, have been working with Shere Parish Council (SPC) to achieve this.
- 2 Planning permission for the car park extension was granted in March 2009 with the following condition: "Prior to commencement of development, details of the proposed traffic calming on Upper Street, including works at the London Lane/Upper Street junction shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The extension to the existing car park shall not be used for the parking of vehicles until the traffic calming measures on Upper Street and the works at the London Lane/Upper Street junction have been constructed in accordance with the approved details."
- 3 The condition was designed to reduce speeds on Upper Street in order to compensate for poor sightlines at the junction of Upper Street and London Lane, and to make minor improvements to secure slightly improved sightlines.
- 4 Following discussion with SCC Safety Engineering and Transportation Development Control officers, GBC officers prepared a design for two kerb build-outs which included priority give ways with a view to addressing the sightlines and speed issues. The build-outs were to be positioned outside The Lodge on the north side of Upper Street and at the footbridge on the south side of Upper Street. The designs respect the highly sensitive environment.
- 5 In order to 'prove' the design, GBC officers organised a pilot temporary installation from 10 to 23 August 2009 to determine the effects that the traffic calming would have on the village. Officers of GBC and SCC and representatives of SPC met on site to agree details of the temporary arrangements which were achieved by using timber baulks with appropriate signing.

- 6 Speed surveys were undertaken, with and without the build-outs. They showed only a marginal reduction in the 85 percentile speeds in Upper Street, which are already reasonably low. The proposed build-out outside The Lodge did however have the advantage of allowing vehicles exiting London Lane to pull out further into Upper Street before entering the live traffic lane, thus improving the sightline considerably.
- 7 Stage 1 and 2 Road Safety Audits have been carried out. The audit highlighted a number of problems, including the need to cut back hedge growth, alterations to signing, and drainage and road surfacing improvements. The recommendations have been agreed by GBC officers and will be addressed in the final design. Officers of both authorities consider that the installation of the temporary build-outs was successful and enabled an informed decision to be reached as to the way forward.

CONSULTATIONS

- 8 Local borough and county councillors are supportive of the proposals. SPC consulted residents by way of the parish newsletter and individual letters to residents in Upper Street. The consultation confirmed support for the car park extension and at the time of writing no adverse comments had been received regarding the proposed build-out outside The Lodge. However concerns were raised about the build-out under the footbridge. It was felt that traffic could become 'trapped' when leaving the village by vehicles entering, resulting in greater congestion in the village. Any further representations received before the date of the Committee meeting will be reported verbally.
- 9 In view of the concerns expressed, SPC has requested that only one build-out be installed outside The Lodge as shown in **ANNEXE 1**. SCC Safety Engineering and Transportation Development Control officers have agreed to this request.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10 SPC is paying for the traffic calming works with a £2,000 contribution from former County Councillor Davis from his Members' Revenue Allocation as agreed by this committee in March 2009.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11 The proposed works will facilitate the construction of a much needed car park extension thereby lessening the impact that traffic currently has on the village.

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 12 The proposal has no crime and disorder implications.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

13 The proposal has no equalities and diversity implications.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

14 The proposed works will facilitate a much needed and long campaigned for, car park extension for the village to ease the pressure that parking and congestion cause.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

15 If the recommendations are agreed, it is intended that the highway works will be carried out during the autumn or early winter, following which the extension to the recreation ground car park will be carried out.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS	NONE
