



## **PETITION REPORT**

### **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)**

**20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

To consider a petition from residents of Merstham regarding the speed of traffic using the A23 High Street, Merstham.

#### **SUMMARY**

A petition has been received containing 111 signatures from residents of Merstham and Redhill requesting that Surrey County Council take action to ensure the safety of the local residents.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**The Local Committee is asked to note that:**

- (i) Anti-skid is to be laid on the bends near Quality Street and School Hill and on the approaches to the zebra crossing;
- (ii) Additional chevron signs are to be erected on the bend near Quality Street;
- (iii) The accidents that have occurred in the High Street will be discussed at the next meeting of the Accident Working Group on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The petition was submitted by Edward Brown of Cobblers Corner, 40 High Street, Merstham, Redhill.
- 1.2 In summary the petition states:

*“For more than two years, the residents of Merstham Village have campaigned to secure effective speeding and parking restrictions within the area and they have been told that there are insufficient resources and they are not a priority.*

*Local residents feel that their requests must now be fully justified after seven collisions within four weeks, that the time has come for Surrey County Council to take action to ensure the safety of the local residents and ask how these accidents can happen in a 30mph zone if the vehicles were not excessively speeding.*

*Local residents state that the problem exists because Merstham Village lies on a part of the main A23, and within a distance of no more than 300 metres there are numerous hazards. These include road junctions to the railway station, a sharp bend, a pedestrian crossing, bus stops and a school entrance.*

*There is no doubt that the 30mph speed limit must be enforced and perhaps even reduced to 20mph for a short distance. There needs to be more visible signs, and an effective speed control. This could be by means of signs that flash a warning to slow down. However, these do not catch persistent offenders. There is a clear argument that Merstham Village is in urgent need of speed cameras to be located at either end of the village. They wish the Local Council and Surrey County Council to take their road safety responsibilities seriously and that immediate action is taken to avoid the inevitability of a fatality.”*

## 2 ACCIDENT HISTORY & SPEED SURVEYS

- 2.1 The recent accident history in this area is shown below. It should be noted that these are personal injury collisions which are reported to the police and do not include unreported, damage only collisions.

	Junction Old Mill Lane	Bend near Quality Street	Near Zebra Crossing	Between Station Road & Station Road South	Junction School Hill	London Road South
<b>2000</b>				2 slight	1 slight	2 slight
<b>2001</b>					1 slight	
<b>2002</b>	1 slight	1 slight				
<b>2003</b>						
<b>2004</b>	1 slight	1 slight	1 slight		3 slight	
<b>2005</b>						1 slight
<b>2006</b>		2 slight	1 slight	1 slight	1 slight	1 slight 1 serious (motor cycle)

- 2.2 This site has been added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Accident Working Group in early December where the accidents will be discussed. This group consists of highway engineers specialising in accident prevention, road safety officers and Surrey Police.
- 2.3 Speed surveys were taken on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006 between 10:50am – 11:52am when traffic was free flowing. The results are shown below.

Location	Average Speed
A23 Northbound	27mph
A23 Southbound	28 mph

The measured speeds comply with the signed 30mph zone.

### 3 OFFICERS COMMENTS

- 3.1 Following the recent series of accidents, officers requested that the skidding resistance of the road surface should be checked. Following testing it was found that anti-skid surfacing could improve the skidding resistance in this area. As such this surface treatment is to be laid on both sides of the carriageway on the approach to the bend at Quality Street, on the approaches to the zebra crossing and on the southbound carriageway on the bend near School Hill.
- 3.2 Additional chevron signs have also been ordered which will be erected on the lamp columns on either side of Quality Street to highlight the bend.
- 3.3 Taking into account the accident history, measured speeds, and the measures requested by local residents, officers have undertaken an assessment of suitable measures that can be provided in the short term. These are shown on the table below. Further possible longer-term measures will be discussed at the Accident Working Group meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

Suggested Improvement Measure	Officers Assessment
Enforcement of 30mph speed limit and improved speed limit signs	The Police Casualty Reduction Officer has been asked to carry out speed enforcement in the area. Where there is a system of street lighting it is illegal to install 30mph repeater signs.
More visible signs	Chevron signs have been ordered
Effective speed control	Anti- skid to be laid as described in paragraph 3.1
Vehicle Activated Signs	These could be investigated either through Surrey County Council Member or Accident Working Group funding. Discussions are ongoing on this issue.

Speed Cameras	The criterion for a fixed safety camera taken from the 'Handbook of Rules and Guidance For the National Safety Camera programme for England and Wales for 2006/2007' is that there should have been at least 3 KSI (killed/serious) collisions during the past 3 years. Merstham High Street does not meet this criterion.
20 mph zone	To implement a 20mph zone, traffic calming is required to physically ensure that the speed is kept to this limit. This is not considered suitable for the A23 being an 'A' class road and is not anticipated to have the approval of the emergency services. Funding would need to be identified and approval would be required from the Local Committee.
Parking	Merstham parking restrictions will be reviewed during year 3 (08/09) of the Parking Priority Review agreed at the 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2006 Local Committee.

**Report by: Mr David Stempfer, Reigate and Banstead Local Transportation Manager**

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Petition from Residents of Merstham & Redhill

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