



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)**

### **NUTFIELD ROAD, MERSTHAM - AMENDMENT TO SPEED LIMIT**

**5 DECEMBER 2011**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

To resolve the anomaly in the speed limit in Nutfield Road/Nutfield Marsh Road between the Borough boundary and the width restriction.

#### **SUMMARY**

There is a short section of Nutfield Road/Nutfield Marsh Road between the 40mph limit at the Borough boundary with Tandridge and the 30mph limit at the width restriction that is subject to the National Speed Limit. This does not comply with Surrey's Speed Limit Policy and could lead to driver confusion and non-compliance with the posted speed limits. It is proposed to remove this anomaly by extending the 40mph limit from the Borough boundary to the width restriction.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:**

- (i) Agree that the speed limit in Nutfield Road/Nutfield Marsh Road between the Borough boundary and the width restriction be changed to 40mph;
- (ii) Authorise the advertisement of a notice in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effects of which will be to

implement the proposed speed limit change, and subject to no objections being upheld, the Order be made; and

- (iii) Authorise delegation of authority to the Area Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and the local Divisional Member, to resolve any objections received in connection with the proposals.

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The 6'6" width restriction in Nutfield Road, Merstham was relocated as part of the works for the new entrance to the Watercolour development. The width restriction was moved approximately 120metres south of its previous location near Mill Lane to a position closer to Cormongers Lane. The speed limit changes at the width restriction to 30mph for northbound vehicles travelling towards Merstham and to the National Speed Limit for southbound vehicles approaching the Borough boundary with Tandridge.
- 1.2 Following approval by the Tandridge Local Committee, a Speed Limit Order was made in November 2010, implemented in early 2011, the effect of which was to reduce the speed limit in Nutfield Marsh Lane, Nutfield to 40mph.
- 1.3 Cormongers Lane is subject to the National Speed Limit.
- 1.4 A plan showing the existing speed limits is attached as **Annex 1**.

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 As a result of the relocation of the width restriction and the change to the speed limit in Tandridge, there is a section of road, approximately 150m in length, between the 40mph limit at the Borough boundary with Tandridge and the 30mph limit at the width restriction, which is posted as National Speed Limit. In Surrey's speed limit policy the minimum length of road over which a speed limit should apply before changing to a higher or lower limit is given as 600m. This is to ensure against too many speed limit changes that could be confusing to motorists.
- 2.2 The current situation in Nutfield Road is an anomaly and does not comply with the speed limit policy and could lead to driver confusion and non-compliance with the posted speed limits.

### **3 OPTIONS**

#### **Revise existing speed limits**

- 3.1 The existing 40mph in the Tandridge section of Nutfield Marsh Road could be extended into Nutfield Road to the width restriction. The speed limit in Cormongers Road would remain at the National Speed Limit. This option is shown on the plan in **Annex 2**.
- 3.2 It is not considered feasible to extend the existing 30mph from the width restriction to the Borough boundary. The speed limit policy classifies this section of road as rural as there is no system of street lighting and extensive roadside development would be expected for a 30mph to apply. In addition, traffic turning right out of Cormongers Lane would be entering a 30mph speed limit that would then change to 40mph within approximately 80metres, at the Borough boundary.

#### **Do nothing**

- 3.3 If the existing speed limit between the Borough boundary and the width restriction in Nutfield Road is not amended, the anomaly will remain and there is the potential for driver confusion and non-compliance.

### **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 The Police have been consulted and have no objection to the proposal to extend the existing 40mph speed limit from the Borough boundary with Tandridge to the width restriction in Nutfield Road.

### **5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The estimated cost of advertising the Traffic Regulation Order is £1,000. The estimated cost of amending the signing, reusing existing signs where possible, is £1,000.
- 5.2 The estimated £2,000 total cost of this scheme could be met from the Small Safety Schemes and Speed Management heading of the Integrated Schemes capital budget 2011/12.

### **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Highway Service is mindful of its needs within this area and attempts to treat all users of the public highway with equality and understanding.

### **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 A well-managed highway network can reduce fear of crime and allow the Police greater opportunity to carry out their enforcement duties.

## 8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 There is an anomaly in the speed limits in Nutfield Road/Nutfield Marsh Road, resulting in a short length of National Speed Limit. It is recommended that the existing 40mph in Nutfield Marsh Road be extended from the Borough boundary to the start of the 30mph limit at the width restriction in Nutfield Road.

## 9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To be remove the existing anomaly in the speed limits which could lead to driver confusion and non-compliance with the posted speed limits.

## 10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 The Speed Limit Order will be advertised and, subject to there being no objections, the order will be made and the revised speed limit implemented.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	None