



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE
(RUNNYMEDE)
PETITION – CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, VIRGINIA WATER
27 JUNE 2011**

KEY ISSUE

To advise the Committee that a petition has been received.

SUMMARY

This e-petition had 111 signatories when it closed in April 2011, and further signatures have been collected since.

Those signing the petition urge the Council to reduce the speed limit on Christchurch Road between Wellington Avenue and London Road (A30), for the safety of children and local residents and other road users.

ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER

Virginia Water – Mr Mel Few

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to agree:

i) that the present 40mph speed limit remain unchanged, and that no further action is taken in response to this petition.

1. BACKGROUND

The lead petitioner, Mrs Helen Cardos-Stowe, has organised the petition. The preface to the petition is attached at **Annex A**.

2. RESPONSE FROM SURREY HIGHWAYS

2.1 Road safety near schools is clearly a high priority and both Surrey County Council and Surrey Police have implemented various measures to try and influence driver behaviour and improve safety near the Christchurch Infant School. These include the following:

- Warning signs on high visibility yellow backing boards on both sides of the road on both approaches to the school.
- Areas of red surfacing on the carriageway next to the warning signs to create a "gateway" effect.
- Flashing wig-wag signs on both approaches to the school.
- Dual display vehicle-activated sign which displays the school warning sign during the school pick up/drop off times and the "40" symbol at other times (the sign is set to trigger at a lower speed during the school pick up/drop off time).
- Surrey Police's Casualty Reduction Officer for Runnymede has worked in partnership with pupils from the school to carry out speed enforcement on Christchurch Road as part of the School Speed Watch initiative.

2.2 Requests have previously been received for a reduction in the speed limit on Christchurch Road. As a result, a speed limit assessment was undertaken in accordance with Surrey County Council's Speed Management Policy in 2007. The assessment concluded that due to the nature of the road and the level of vehicle speeds the existing 40mph speed limit was appropriate and recommended it should be retained. This recommendation was supported by Surrey Police.

2.3 Since the assessment was undertaken in 2007 the only significant material change that has taken place is a reduction in the accident rate. Over the 3-year period 2004-2006 there were 3 personal injury accidents in the section of Christchurch Road between its junctions with the A30 London Road and Callow Hill. However, for the latest 3-year period of available data (April 2008 - March 2011) it is pleasing to report that there have been no personal injury accidents over the same length.

2.4 Whilst it is recognised that conditions change for a short period during the school drop off and pick up times, this alone does not necessitate a reduction in speed limit. Clearly a speed limit is the maximum permitted speed and drivers should always drive to the conditions. In addition, parking outside the school at pick up/drop off times has the effect of restraining most vehicle

speeds to well below the 40mph speed limit. As such, in reality, a change in speed limit is unlikely to have any significant impact on actual vehicle speeds over these periods.

LEAD OFFICER: Andrew Milne
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER: Jason Gosden
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk