



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

**FORDBRIDGE ROAD, ASHFORD
VEHICLE SPEEDS AND LORRY BAN**

08 OCTOBER 2007

KEY ISSUE

To consider whether measures should be implemented along Fordbridge Road, Ashford.

SUMMARY

The receipt of a petition signed by 102 residents of Fordbridge Road, Ashford was reported to the October 2005 meeting of this Committee concerning excessive speeds and the number of heavy goods vehicles using the road. The petition requested traffic measures to stop speeding traffic and to enforce the lorry ban.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to note that:

- (i) Fordbridge Road, Ashford is included on the list for a vehicle activated sign, to be rotated on a six-monthly basis.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The receipt of a petition of 102 signatures was reported to this Committee at its meeting in October 2005. The petitioners of Fordbridge Road were concerned about excessive speeds and the number of heavy goods vehicles using the road. They requested traffic measures to stop speeding traffic and enforcement of the existing lorry ban.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Surrey Police are responsible for the enforcement of speeding vehicles. They carried out speed surveys on Fordbridge Road, which has a speed limit of 30mph, in October 2005, May 2006 and March 2007. The 85th %tile speeds (the speed that 85% vehicles travel at, or below) were found to be 36mph, 34mph and 36mph respectively. The average traffic speeds for those surveys were found to be 29mph, 28.7mph and 30mph respectively, showing most drivers travel along Fordbridge Road within the speed limit.
- 2.2 This data does not show excessive speeding during the survey periods by the vast majority of drivers although a small number of drivers during each survey were found to travel over 60mph.
- 2.3 During the three years ending July 2007 there were 10 collisions that caused personal injury. There was one fatal collision, one that caused serious injury and eight that caused slight injuries. Four of those collisions may have been speed related.
- 2.4 The petitioners' request for traffic calming along Fordbridge Road combined with a request for a pedestrian crossing was assessed in accordance with the Local Transport Plan objectives and was 24th priority on our list of schemes, as reported to the March 2007 meeting of this Committee. The Fordbridge Road proposals were not included on the Local Transport Plan five year programme of work as funding was only available for the 18 highest priority schemes.
- 2.5 Surrey Police are also responsible for the enforcement of the 7.5 tonnes lorry ban. The restriction is well signed at and in advance of the entry points to the zone. The ban is environmental and is not a high priority for Surrey Police; however if officers witness a driver disobeying the restriction they can react.
- 2.6 A one day survey carried out on 25 April 2006 which counted the number of vehicles weighing 3.5 tonnes or more, rather than the weight limit of 7.5 tonnes, showed that during the morning peak time, 08.00 to 09.00 hours, 25 vehicles over 3.5 tonnes entered the junction of Fordbridge Road / Stanwell Road. During the evening peak hour, 17.00 to 18.00 hours, nine vehicles over 3.5 tonnes entered the junction.

Unfortunately this data is only indicative of the number of vehicles over 7.5 tonnes that used Fordbridge Road on that day. It must be remembered that vehicles over 7.5 tonnes that are servicing properties within the lorry ban are permitted to enter the lorry ban zone.

- 2.7 Where there is evidence of regular offenders of the restriction, the Police will process the enforcement. Should residents wish to forward details of offending vehicles the registration, company's name, the date and time should be noted.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 There have been discussions between SCC and Surrey Police Officers regarding the possibility of providing a vehicle activated sign on Fordbridge Road and both authorities favour the provision of a sign on a six-monthly rotating basis. The location would be monitored for effectiveness.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Formal consultation is not required for the provision of a vehicle activated sign. However discussions will take place with County and Borough Members to seek their views on the location of a sign.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The vehicle activated sign would be funded from a budget specifically allocated for this type of sign. The proposal is within the agreed capital budget.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Four collisions in the last three years along Fordbridge Road may have been speed related. On that basis it is recommended that a vehicle activated sign is provided on a six monthly rotating basis.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 A vehicle activated sign is likely to encourage some drivers who exceed the speed limit to reduce their speed and thus decrease the likelihood of speed related collisions.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 The vehicle activated sign will be installed towards the end of the financial year.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: