



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

C231 GASTON BRIDGE RD/UPPER HALLIFORD RD

PETITION RESPONSE

REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING

19th MARCH 2012

KEY ISSUE & SUMMARY

To provide Members with an Officer response to the petition submitted at the previous Local Committee Meeting, requesting Traffic Calming and a Vehicle Activated Sign.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the report

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A Petition has been submitted to this Committee, signed by 75 signatories from Gaston Bridge Road and Upper Halliford Road, Shepperton. The full details are as follows:

Dear County Councillors, This letter comes from 75 residents of Gaston Bridge Road and Upper Halliford Road Shepperton, with a plea for urgent action to reduce speeding on our residential road. There are three points which cause the main problems: 1. Coming off the dual carriageway into Gaston bridge Road. 2. Coming off the roundabout into Upper Halliford Road 3. The bend in the dualled Upper Halliford Road and Gaston Bridge Road at the junction of Halliford Road.

Residents living by points 1 & 2 complain of speeding traffic, however point 3 is where we have suffered six serious accidents since 2004 due to excessive speed, with drivers not reducing their speed coming from the direction of Upper Halliford towards the dual carriageway, or from the dual carriageway towards upper Halliford, luckily none of them fatal. However we firmly believed the next one will be. The latest two incidents, the first on Thursday 26th May was caused by a speeding hit and run driver when he drove into a line of parked cars – causing considerable damage, cost and inconvenience to two householders. Several weeks later on Saturday 16th July a driver came round the bend past Halliford Road on Gaston Bridge Road heading towards the dual carriageway, lost control and hit an oncoming vehicle so hard his vehicle ended up facing the direction from which he came. It was amazing the no one was seriously hurt. We would like to invite you to visit the road to discuss with us the possibility of speed humps, vehicle activated signs or even increased police or community speed watch activity. Thank you in advance of your response.

- 1.2 Gaston Bridge Road/Upper Halliford Road, Shepperton is a quiet, rural road. It mainly serves residential properties and some small local shops.
- 1.3 Gaston Bridge Road and Upper Halliford Road used to be the main link road from Shepperton to the A308 Staines Road West until the Upper Halliford Road by-pass was constructed. This removed the vast majority of traffic from these roads, however, the route can still be used as a short cut to Lower Sunbury by using Halliford Road.
- 1.4 Residents of Gaston Bridge Road/Upper Halliford Road have requested the introduction of traffic calming and Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) to try and deter motorists from speeding and using the road as a cut through when there is congestion on the Upper Halliford By-Pass.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Accident analysis has shown that there has only been one recorded slight injury accident within the last three years at the junction of Halliford Road and Gaston Bridge Road. It is not known whether speed was a contributory factor.
- 2.2 Speed checks were carried out in Gaston Bridge Road close to the junction of Halliford Road by the Police on the 20 – 29 December 2011. The data has been analysed and the results show that the average speed is 29 mph northbound and 28 mph southbound.

- 2.3 The police have indicated that they do not consider there to be an evidenced speeding issue at this location. However, they have started to carry out random speed enforcement in the area and identified offenders as being a mix of local residents and through traffic.
- 2.4 The Police have actively promoted Community Speed Watch (CSW) across the Borough since its introduction in 2004. To date residents from Gaston Bridge Road/Upper Halliford Road have not taken up the training or formed an active group for the area. CSW can be an effective way to reinforce speed limits and any enforcement carried out by the Police. Interested residents are therefore advised to take up this offer and Surrey County Council officers are able to provide details of the appropriate staff if required.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Police have agreed to place a temporary VAS in Gaston Bridge Road/Upper Halliford Road on a rotational basis as part of their ongoing speed management programme.
- 3.2 The Police have confirmed they will provide random speed enforcement and will continue to promote and offer Community Speed Watch training through their regular panel meetings.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Further to receipt of the petition by Officers before Christmas, Surrey Police have been actively involved with SCC in addressing residents' concerns. Speed enforcement has taken place and Community Speed Watch training has been offered through panel meetings with residents. Evidence suggests that average speeds are low and not an immediate cause of concern for regular targeted police enforcement.
- 4.2 Permission would need to be sought from Skanska who own the Street Lighting units, which would be used for siting the VAS on a permanent basis.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost to implement traffic calming throughout the length of Gaston Bridge Rd/Upper Halliford Rd would be in excess of £100,000.
- 4.3 The total cost to supply and install a permanent Vehicle Activated Sign for Gaston Bridge Rd/Upper Halliford Rd would be approximately £6000 - £8000.
- 4.4 From the data available it would not appear of value for money to install traffic calming features or a permanent vehicle activated sign along the route given there is no evidenced need in terms of recorded collisions.

Instead it is proposed that the random Police enforcement and VAS deployment should continue and the local residents form a CSW group.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Equalities and Diversities implications arising from this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Vehicle activated signs are frequently targeted by youths and vandals. Maintenance for VAS can be expensive and there is little funding available to maintain the existing 517 signs situated throughout the County.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Given the lack of collision justification the recommendation is that Committee note the content of the report.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Subject to the above recommendation being agreed, the location will be monitored and if the situation changes it will be identified via the Spelthorne Road Safety Working Group, which consists of Road Safety officers, Surrey Highways, Surrey Police, Surrey Fire & Rescue. The location will continue to receive enforcement by the Police and temporary VAS deployed.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: none

Version No. 1 Date: 01-03-2012 Time: Initials: AS No of annexes: 0