



OFFICER DRAFT REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE TANDRIDGE

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW for the A22 EASTBOURNE ROAD SOUTH GODSTONE

20 JUNE 2008

KEY ISSUE

To propose a speed limit reduction and Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) for the A22 Eastbourne Road in the South Godstone.

SUMMARY

This report proposes a speed limit reduction from 40 mph to 30 mph for a section of the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone. This location was the highest priority for a speed limit review on the prioritisation list, which was approved by the Local Committee at the 07 March 2008 meeting. The speed limit review was carried out in accordance with Surrey County Council's policy and Department for Transport guidelines. The installation of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) is proposed to support the introduction of the revised speed limit.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee for Tandridge is asked to agree:

- (i) the proposed change in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the A22 Eastbourne Road, South Godstone (see Annex B), and the installation of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in both directions to support the introduction of this new speed limit.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The policy for determining and applying speed limits in Surrey was developed in partnership with Surrey Police so as to ensure that appropriate speed limits are used effectively, alongside other speed management measures, to increase the safety of all road users and to suit the function of the road.
- 1.2 In 1993 the Department for Transport (DfT) provided advice on setting speed limits on trunk roads in Circular 1/93 and suggested that Local Traffic Authorities use it for their local roads. Since Circular 1/93 there have been a number of developments in national speed management policy and good practice for urban and rural areas. Surrey County Council's policy for determining and applying appropriate speed limits takes account of this (see Annex A).
- 1.3 The section of highway proposed for a speed limit reduction is the existing 40mph section, which runs from the railway bridge to a point about 515m north of the railway bridge. The new preferred speed limit for this section of highway is 30mph.
- 1.4 In 2002 there was a speed limit review of all roads in South Tandridge. The section of the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone, being considered in this report, had an existing speed limit of 40mph. This speed limit was unaltered during this complete speed limit review scheme. The section of the A22 north of this 40mph speed limit was reduced from the national speed limit to 50mph.
- 1.5 The surrounding area of the existing 40mph section of the A22 Eastbourne Road is primarily residential property and there is a school (St Stephens Church of England Primary School) nearby on Hunters Chase. A few years ago a pelican crossing was built on the A22 in this location so as to provide a safe crossing facility. This was installed in the knowledge that the existing 40mph speed limit in this location would be reviewed for consideration of a 30mph speed limit.
- 1.6 Godstone Parish Council has requested VAS to be installed at certain locations in their Parish, one being this section of the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone. They are very concerned with the existing 40mph speed limit in a location that has a lot of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, which is generated by the close proximity of St Stephens Church of England Primary School. They have confirmed with Surrey County Council that they will be contributing to the cost of any approved requests.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone was analysed for accidents recorded resulting in personal injury from 01 January 2005 to 31 December 2007, a period of 3 years, which are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Date & Time	Severity	Casualties	Road Conditions	Main Factor
21/03/2005 18:55	Slight	2	Dry	Poor judgement
20/05/2005 15:30	Slight	1 (1 M/cycle)	Dry	Failed to look properly
24/06/2005 19:13	Slight	2	Dry	Junction overshoot
04/11/2005 13:30	Slight	1 (1 HGV)	Dry	Poor manoeuvre
08/03/2006 18:53	Slight	2	Wet/Damp	Impaired by alcohol
06/03/2007 13:37	Slight	3	Dry	Poor manoeuvre
11/05/2007 17:57	Slight	2	Wet/Damp	Speeding

There were 7 accidents recorded within the study area resulting in 13 casualties. This gave us a Casualties/Km figure of 25.24, which is very high.

All of the accidents recorded were slight, with the majority resulting from poor driving decisions at junctions. Only one accident was officially attributed to speeding.

- 2.2 A speed survey was carried out within the study area. This was a continuous 24-hour/7-day survey, which took place between 11 March 2008 and 18 March 2008. The results of this survey can be seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Site	Existing Speed Limit (mph)	Preferred Speed Limit (mph)	85 th percentile speed (mph)	Mean speed (mph)
1	40	30	40 (S) 40 (N)	34.32 (S) 34.89 (N)

We can see that the mean speeds are between 34mph and 35mph. These speeds are too high to bring in a new 30mph speed limit on its own. To bring the existing speeds in line with the proposed speed limit, other speed reducing measures will be required. After consultation with Surrey Police, this report suggests installing a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), in a suitable location, on each approach to the proposed 30mph speed limit.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 The County Councillor for Godstone Division, Marian Myland, and Godstone Parish Council have previously expressed their support for a 30mph speed limit in this location.
- 3.2 Surrey Police, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service and Tandridge District Council have been consulted on the contents of this report.
- 3.3 Surrey Police have stated, in a scheme consultation meeting held on 22 April 2008, that they are in full support of the speed limit reduction for this section of the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone. They also stated that to achieve the preferred 30mph speed limit, other speed reducing measures would need to be implemented in conjunction with the reduced speed limit. Surrey Police agreed with the proposal to install VAS on the approaches as a further speed reducing measure.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A separate report has been prepared for the Local Committee recommending a funding allocation for speed management measures from the 2008/2009 Local Allocation for Tandridge. This would be used to fund the work on the speed management scheme.
- 4.2 Godstone Parish Council has requested VAS to be installed at certain locations in their Parish, one being this section of the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone. They have confirmed with Surrey County Council that they will be contributing to the cost of any approved requests. This financial contribution will be used towards the total cost of installing two VAS on the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone as part of the speed limit reduction scheme.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable to this report.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The initiative to introduce appropriate speed limits for sections of highway in Tandridge, through speed limit reduction, should improve safety and discourage speeding drivers.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Speed management is an important issue for many communities in Surrey. Effective speed management measures contribute to casualty reduction targets and the Local Transport Plan (LTP) objectives.

- 7.2 Speed limit review is an important part of the speed management process. This report proposes the reduction of the existing 40mph speed limit on the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone. The lowering of the speed limit alone may not be completely effective in reducing actual speeds, and after consultation with Surrey Police, it is recommended that Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are also introduced to bring actual speeds in line with the new preferred speed limits.

If approved for implementation by the Tandridge Local Committee, the effectiveness of the new speed limit will be monitored. If sufficient reductions in speed are not achieved, it may be desirable to reconsider the site with a view to implementing further speed management measures.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 This report recommends that the Local Committee agree with the proposed reduction to the existing speed limit on the section of the A22 Eastbourne Road in South Godstone (see Annex B), and the introduction of VAS to support this new speed limit, so that vehicle collisions are less likely and hence a reduction in casualties.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Funding received for speed management in this financial year would be used to finalise the design for this proposed speed limit reduction, to implement the changes, and to monitor the effectiveness of the new speed limits.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Speed Limit Reviews on Roads in Tandridge Local Committee report 14 December 2007 & Speed Management in Tandridge Local Committee report 07 March 2008.