



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

**A25 GODSTONE ROAD, BLETCHINGLEY
SPEED LIMIT ASSESSMENT**

9th December 2011

KEY ISSUES

To report on the outcome of the recent speed limit assessment along the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley.

SUMMARY

A speed limit assessment has recently been undertaken for the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley, from a point 126m west of the junction with Water House Lane to a point 242m east of the junction with Rabies Heath Road. This road is currently subject to a 50mph speed limit.

The road character has been assessed as rural due to the lack of street lighting and the 'preferred limit' determined as 50mph using the appropriate hierarchy from Surrey's speed management policy document, 'Determining and Applying Speed Limits'.

However, given the location of residential properties that have access onto the A25 along this section and following additional consultation with Surrey Police, it is suggested that the speed limit should be reduced to 30 mph and a prominent gateway feature introduced.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the result of the speed limit assessment undertaken;
- (ii) Agree that, based upon the evidence, the speed limit should be changed to 30mph;
- (iii) Agree that a prominent gateway feature be constructed at the start of the new 30mph speed limit;
- (iv) 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 changes and revoke any existing traffic orders necessary to implement the changes, and subject to no objections being upheld, the Order be made; and
- (v) 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

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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The outcome of recent speed limit assessments in Tandridge were reported to the Local Committee in September 2011. The proposed extension of the existing 30mph on the A25 Bletchingley Road westwards to the existing village gateway was one of the speed limits assessed. There are several properties located on a service road that have access onto the A25 along this section. The proposed section of A25 to be reduced to 30mph is shown on the plan attached as **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 It was agreed that a decision regarding the extension of the 30mph speed limit on the A25 Bletchingley Road be deferred to allow officers the opportunity to consult fully with the Police.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Speed data for the site has been assessed and the results are shown in the table below:

Road	Average daily flow	Average 85%ile speed (mph)	Average mean speed (mph)
A25 Godstone Road	12,725	49.55	44.10

2.2 It should be noted that mean speeds are now being used as the basis for determining local speed limits, whereas in the past, 85th percentile speeds were used. This is underpinned by extensive research demonstrating the well-proven relationship between speed and collision frequency and severity. Mean speeds reflect that the majority of drivers perceive that speed to be appropriate for the given road. It is therefore the aim that the local speed limit is aligned so that the original mean speed driven on the road is at or below the new posted speed limit.

2.3 There has been one recorded personal injury collision on the section of road under investigation during the period January 2008 to April 2011, One of the speed limits assessed resulting in slight injuries.

2.4 The table below indicates the 'preferred limits' following assessment.

Current limit	Committee requested limit	'Preferred limit' under Speed Limit Policy
50mph	30mph	50mph

2.5 Although the existing speeds are in excess of 40mph it is considered that, due to the site location within Bletchingley village, the speed limit for this length of Godstone Road should be reduced to 30mph to tie-in with the location of the village gateway. In addition to this, a more prominent gateway feature should be installed to emphasise the start of the 30mph speed limit.

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 Further consultation has been carried out with Surrey Police and a site visit has been carried out which has clarified the exact extents of the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit. Taking this into consideration and fully appreciating the wish to provide some protection to the residents living in the service road, the Police have agreed that they have no objection to the extension of the 30mph speed limit. However, the Police do still have slight concerns over the compliance of this speed limit given the nature of the road at that point and therefore have asked that a prominent gateway feature be installed.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of changing any speed limit includes legal advertisement costs associated with the statutory process, together with the costs of design and implementation. It is also possible that some electrical works and re-lining would be required. Whilst likely costs are difficult to establish until a design is available, it is likely that a reduction in speed limit, including the provision of a gateway feature, will cost about £10,000 for the A25 Godstone Road.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A well-managed highway network can reduce fear of crime and allow the Police greater opportunity to enforce speed controls.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 This report sets out the speed limit assessment carried out for the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley. Whilst the 'preferred limit' as determined by Surrey's Speed Limit Policy suggests the existing 50mph speed limit should be retained, to address the specific site conditions it is recommended that the speed limit should be reduced to 30mph and a prominent gateway feature be installed.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendation to reduce the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley would have the effect of extending the existing 30mph to include the residential properties in the service road that have access onto the A25 along this section. The Police have no objection to the extension of the 30mph speed limit but have asked that a prominent gateway feature be installed.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Subject to Local Committee approval, the proposal to make a Traffic Regulation Order is advertised in the local press, detailed design is completed and, following the making of the Traffic Regulation Order, the contractor is instructed to carry out the works. The likely date that the reduced speed limit would be implemented is March 2012.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Tandridge Local Committee Report: September 2011, Item 13