



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
WAVERLEY**

**REDUCED SPEED LIMITS ON THE A31 AND A325 AT THE
SHEPHERD AND FLOCK JUNCTION, FARNHAM**

30 JANUARY 2009

KEY ISSUE

To authorise the introduction of lower speed limits on the Shepherd and Flock roundabout as well as a number of roads on the surrounding network.

SUMMARY

It is proposed to introduce 50mph speed limits on sections of the A31 and A325 in the vicinity of the Shepherd and Flock roundabout, the Water Lane roundabout, and the Six Bells roundabout in Farnham.

It is also proposed to introduce a 30mph limit on a section of Guildford Road leading from the Shepherd and Flock roundabout towards Farnham town centre, and a 50mph limit on sections of Weybourne Road and Hale Road approaching the Six Bells roundabout.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to agree:

- (i) That the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 84, 85 & 86 and Part III and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose the following speed limits be advertised and that, if no objections are maintained, the Order be made:

- a 50mph speed limit on those sections of the A31, A325, Hale Road and Weybourne Road in the vicinity of the Shepherd and Flock, Six Bells and Water Lane roundabouts described in section 1 below
 - a 30mph speed limit on the section of the A325 Guildford Road described in section 1 below
- (ii) That the consideration and resolution of any objections or representations received as a result of advertising and consultation for the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be delegated to the Local Highways Manager in association with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors.

1 EXISTING AND PROPOSED SPEED LIMITS

A31 Runfold Diversion, Shepherd and Flock and Farnham Bypass

- 1.1 Travelling from Guildford, the A31 has a 60mph limit along the Hog's Back, before the road becomes de-restricted (subject to a 70mph limit) on the Runfold Diversion, descending towards the Shepherd and Flock junction. The current speed limit remains 70mph through the junction, before a 50mph limit is introduced about half along the link towards the traffic signals at Hickley's Corner.
- 1.2 It is proposed to extend the existing 50mph limit on the Farnham Bypass eastwards to encompass the entire Shepherd and Flock junction, and a relatively short section of the Runfold Diversion approach.
- 1.3 The existing 70mph limit covering the Shepherd and Flock junction is considered inappropriate, given the much lower speeds at which vehicles actually circulate the junction. Introducing a 50mph limit as described above is expected to regulate inappropriate speeds on the gyratory system itself, as well as on both the A31 approaches. The lower limit should contribute to road safety, especially by reducing the difference in speeds between vehicles on the westbound A31 'jet-lane' through the junction, and those on the adjacent circulating lanes.

A325 Water Lane Roundabout, Six Bells Roundabout and Hale Road

- 1.4 The A325 currently has a 60mph limit from the Shepherd and Flock junction travelling northwards through the Water Lane and Six Bells roundabouts, before a 30mph limit is introduced on Hale Road on the approach to the traffic signals at the junction with the Upper Hale Road.

- 1.5 It is proposed that the suggested 50mph limit for the Shepherd and Flock junction is extended north through the two roundabouts to meet the existing 30mph limit in the Hale Road.

A325 Guildford Road

- 1.6 The Guildford Road leads from the Shepherd and Flock junction towards Farnham town centre. The road has a 30mph limit other than a relatively short section on the approach to the Shepherd and Flock junction, which has a 60mph limit.
- 1.7 It is proposed that the 30mph limit in Guildford Road is extended to cover the length currently subject to a 60mph limit, described above.

B3007 Hale Road and B 3007 Weybourne Road

- 1.8 The B3007 Hale Road has a 30mph limit, other than on the approach to the Six Bells roundabout, where the speed limit is 60mph. Similarly, the B3007 Weybourne Road has a 40mph speed limit, other than on the approach to the Six Bells roundabout, where the speed limit is again 60mph.
- 1.9 It is proposed that the suggested 50mph speed limit at the Six Bells roundabout is extended to cover the approaches on Hale Road and Weybourne Road, which are currently subject to 60mph limits.

2 CONSULTATIONS

- 2.1 Surrey Police have expressed support for these reductions in speed limits.
- 2.2 Formal consultations would be carried out as part of the traffic order process required to reduce speed limits.

3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Costs for reducing these speed limits would be met from the Committee's devolved Local Transport Plan capital budgets for 2008/09 and 2009/10.

4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No specific implications.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Lower vehicle speeds engender an improved sense of safety and security in local communities.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Reducing the speed limit on the A31 through the Shepherd and Flock junction from 70mph to 50mph is expected to contribute to road safety at a junction that some drivers find difficult to use. The lower speed limits proposed for the A325 and other approach roads are a logical extension of the lower limit at the Shepherd and Flock junction.

7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As above

8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 8.1 The Local Transport Service will move towards implementing the reduced speed limits.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None