



**BLACKHORSE ROAD / BERRY LANE /  
HEATH HOUSE ROAD**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR WOKING  
14 OCTOBER 2004**

**KEY ISSUE:**

Subsequent to an item brought to the Local Committee on 28 January 2004 concerning road safety and speed limits along Blackhorse Road, Berry Lane and Smarts Heath Road, the Local Committee is asked to consider a proposal to reduce the speed limit on two short lengths of Goose Lane and Smarts Heath Lane, both of which adjoin Smarts Heath Road, to bring continuity to the speed limits in the area.

**SUMMARY:**

The Local Committee resolved at its meeting on 28 January to reduce the speed limits on Blackhorse Road, Berry Lane and Smarts Heath Road to 40mph. This will leave two lengths of 50mph, one on Goose Lane and one on Smarts Heath Lane, that could cause confusion for drivers and which would be too short for Surrey Police to enforce. Surrey Police have indicated that they would like to see these lengths of road reduced to 40mph to give continuity to the speed limits in the area.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

Surrey Police suggested the reduction in speed limit on Goose Lane and Smarts Heath Lane to promote continuity.

Councillor Rousell, as Chairman of the Local Committee at the time of the original report and Councillor Marlow as the then Vice Chairman have been consulted and have given their support to the proposal.

The Divisional Member and Ward Member have been consulted and their responses will be reported at the meeting of the Local Committee.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee is asked to agree

**that the proposals shown on drawings No 11828 and 11829 be approved for consultation and implementation.**

## **INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND**

1. In response to a petition from residents of Blackhorse Road, a report was presented to the Local Committee on 28 January 2004. That report recommended that the speed limit in Blackhorse Road be reduced to 40mph, even though Surrey Police were not supportive of the proposal.
2. The report also recommended that the speed limit in Berry Lane and Smarts Heath Road should not be similarly lowered. However, it was resolved that these limits should also be lowered for uniformity since, to the driver, there was little visible difference between these roads and Blackhorse Road.
3. Subsequent to the Local Committee, Surrey Police advised that if the 50mph limit in the three roads was reduced to 40mph, two short, anomalous lengths of higher limit would be left in Goose Lane and Smarts Heath Lane, both off of Smarts Heath Road. It was suggested that these, too, should be reduced to 40mph. The lengths of road involved are 94 metres in Goose Lane and 405 metres in Smarts Heath Lane.
4. Councillors Rousell and Marlow, respectively the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Committee at the time of the original report, were contacted at the beginning of June to advise them of this potential anomaly and the proposed solution.
5. Both Councillors have expressed their support for the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Goose Lane and Smarts Heath Lane. However, the proposal needs to be correctly minuted, hence this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. The necessary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the original speed limit reductions can incorporate these additional reductions. The TRO is to be funded from existing revenue budgets.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

7. The proposal should improve the safety of users of Goose Lane and Smarts Heath Lane, in addition to the original roads.

## **CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no crime and disorder implications.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9. There are no equalities implications.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

10. Reducing the speed limits on Blackhorse Road, Berry Lane and Smarts

Heath Road would result in higher limits remaining on short lengths of adjacent roads, which are almost identical in character. This could give confusing messages to drivers and the resulting lengths would be too short for Surrey Police to enforce. It would, therefore, be sensible to reduce the speed limit over short lengths of Goose Lane and Smarts Heath Lane to give continuity to the speed limits in the area.

**Report by: Stephen Child, Local Transportation Director, Woking**

---

**LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Kevin Patching**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01483 518300**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS: Item 14 of the Local Committee for Woking meeting, 28 January 2004.**

**Minute 14/04**

---

Version No. 1      Date: 21/09/04      Time:      Initials: KP      No of annexes: