

Supplementary Agenda

We welcome you to
Reigate and Banstead Local Committee
Your Councillors, Your Community
and the Issues that Matter to You

Supplementary Agenda

- Item 5a – Petition to: Make Sutton Gardens, Merstham one-way
- Item 5b – Petition to: Install a sign to warn of deer crossing on Dorking Road, Tadworth
- Item 5c – Petition to: Introduce a 20mph speed limit on Chipstead Lane, Lower Kingswood
- Item 6 – Written Public Questions



Venue

Location: Virtual

Date: Monday, 1 March 2021

Time: 2.00 pm



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

5 PETITIONS

To receive any petitions in accordance with Standing Order 68. Notice should be given in writing or by email to the Community Partnership and Committee Officer at least 14 days before the meeting. Alternatively, the petition can be submitted on-line through Surrey County Council's e-petitions website as long as the minimum number of signatures (30) has been reached 14 days before the meeting.

- a PETITION TO: MAKE SUTTON GARDENS IN MERSTHAM A ONE WAY ROAD FOR THE SAFETY OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE PROTECTION OF RESIDENTS' VEHICLES** (Pages 1 - 2)

The full wording of this petition and officer response is provided within.

- b PETITION TO: INSTALL A SIGN TO WARN OF DEER CROSSING ON DORKING ROAD, TADWORTH** (Pages 3 - 4)

The full wording of this petition and officer response is provided within.

- c PETITION TO: INTRODUCE A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ON CHIPSTEAD LANE, LOWER KINGSWOOD** (Pages 5 - 6)

The full wording of this petition and officer response are provided within.

6 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Pages 7 - 8)

One written public question was received before the deadline. The full wording of the question and officer response are provided within.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 1 MARCH 2021

SUBJECT: SUTTON GARDENS, MERSTHAM – INTRODUCE A ONE-WAY SYSTEM

DIVISION: MERSTHAM & BANSTEAD SOUTH

PETITION DETAILS:

There are two schools on Taynton Drive, and currently a third sharing a site after flooding. Parents continue to drop their children at the gate despite school requests to stop. Sutton Gardens is a narrow road on a bend that drivers cut through to get from Weldon Way to these schools. It has a wide kerb on the inside of the bend, and drivers in passenger cars, taxis and vans drive up the kerb when finding a vehicle travelling the opposite way. This has led to residents witnessing a number of near misses since September 2020 including: A child on a bike having a near miss on a kerb; a Sainsburys driver forcing a mother and child onto a resident's driveway; a lady on a mobility scooter faced with a car coming head on towards her. There has also been several collisions with residents cars. Residents have raised their fears of a serious injury and further damage to property to local Councillors, the County Council, at the new school consultation and with the Police, and have now been advised to start a petition. We believe Sutton Gardens should become a one way street or become a cul de sac with an emergency services barrier.

RESPONSE:

Sutton Gardens is a residential road in Merstham that links Weldon Way with Taynton Drive. Sutton Gardens has no parking restrictions and cars are usually parked on the north side of the road.

Merstham Park School is located in Taynton Drive and opened in temporary accommodation in September 2018 with a single year group, with additional year groups added each subsequent year. Woodfield Secondary School, which is a school for pupils with learning and additional needs, is also located just to the east of Sutton Gardens on Sunstone Grove. However traffic associated with this school is unlikely to use Sutton Gardens. It is acknowledged that roads around schools can become very busy at the beginning and end of the school day when parents are dropping off and collecting pupils.

The petitioners have safety concerns that vehicles are mounting the pavement to get past a vehicle coming the other way. They are therefore suggesting that Sutton Gardens is made one-way or becomes a cul-de-sac.

An investigation has been carried out into the collision history on Sutton Gardens. Surrey County Council has a record of collisions resulting in personal injury which is provided by Surrey Police. However, no record is kept of collisions which involve damage to vehicles and private property. This investigation has shown that during the latest three-year period for which

data is available (from October 2017 to September 2020) there have been no personal injury collisions on Sutton Gardens.

Experience elsewhere has shown that, when roads are made one-way, traffic speeds tend to increase unless additional traffic calming is put in place. This is because drivers do not need to slow down for vehicles coming in the opposite direction. The County Council does not wish to encourage increased traffic speeds on residential roads, and as traffic calming on this road is not currently prioritised there are no current plans to make Sutton Gardens one-way.

The overwhelming majority of roads that are cul-de-sacs were laid out as cul-de-sacs when the houses on them were built. They therefore have a turning area at the end to enable vehicles to safely turn around. If a cul-de-sac does not have a turning area, any vehicle that gets to the end would need to reverse back along the road, which raises safety concerns. Unfortunately, there is not enough highway land at either end of Sutton Gardens to construct a turning area. Therefore, there are no plans to make Sutton Gardens a cul-de-sac as the petitioners suggest.

A way forward could be to continue to liaise with the schools and their School Travel Plans to try to reduce the impact of parking on Sutton Gardens at school drop off and pick up times.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to note the officer's comment.

Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 1 MARCH 2021

SUBJECT: DORKING ROAD, TADWORTH – ROAD SIGN TO WARN OF DEER CROSSING

DIVISION: TADWORTH, WALTON & KINGSWOOD

PETITION DETAILS:

Dorking Road (Tadworth/Walton on the Hill, Surrey) is in a rural area with a resident deer population. Deer are in danger crossing the road and also pose a risk to drivers.

There are currently no road signs alerting drivers to deer crossing on the road and an application to remedy this has been rejected by the council.

We call on the highways department of Surrey County Council to reverse their decision and install road signs. This will help protect the lives of deer; help prevent road accidents and help maintain a wildlife corridor in the area.

RESPONSE:

The B2032 Dorking Road, Tadworth is a rural road which runs from the junction with Pebble Hill Road and Headley Common Road, to the Tadworth roundabout at the junction with the A217 Brighton Road. Dorking Road runs alongside both Walton Heath and Banstead Heath.

An investigation has been carried out into the collision history on Dorking Road. Surrey County Council has a record of collisions resulting in personal injury which is provided by Surrey Police however, no record is kept of collisions which only involve damage to vehicles and private property. This investigation has shown that during the latest three year period for which data is available (from October 2017 to September 2020) there have been twelve collisions on Dorking Road, however none of these collisions involved a wild animal.

Surrey County Council is only permitted to install signs on the public highway if they are contained within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016. There are a large number of warning signs within the TSRGD that can be installed on the public highway network, including a warning sign with a picture of a deer on it to warn road users of the hazard of wild animals in the road ahead.

However, Surrey County Council is currently carrying out a programme of decluttering in line with Department of Transport guidelines. This is to ensure that road users are not distracted from important information by unnecessary signs, to reduce visual intrusion and to minimise maintenance costs.

A way forward could be for residents to carry out a deer survey with the Deer Aware organisation guidance, to help inform if the prioritisation for a warning sign changes.

Taking into account both the collision history, and the decluttering programme, a sign of this type is not currently prioritised and there are no current plans to install deer warning signs on Dorking Road as the petitioners are suggesting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to note the officer's comment.

Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 1 MARCH 2021

SUBJECT: CHIPSTEAD LANE, LOWER KINGSWOOD – 20MPH

DIVISION: TADWORTH, WALTON & KINGSWOOD/ MERSTHAM & BANSTEAD SOUTH

PETITION DETAILS:

This petition is to protect Chipstead Lane and encourage traffic to adhere to a new 20mph speed limit. Currently this stands at 30mph, which is still too fast for the traffic using it. The lane is residential, with a children's park and a dog walkers' area. The lane is also used by skip lorries, cars, vans and various artic lorries for the ongoing development at Fidelity International.

The concerns about traffic using the lanes and having a 30mph plus speeds, is that children and adults on bikes use the lane alongside horses and walkers. This combination does not work and can be intimidating for the people using it.

By having a 20mph speed limit allows all using the lane, to consider other users and reduces the chances of any more near misses. The lane should be a pleasant experience for all to enjoy and use, and not used to race through at 30mph plus, where wild life is being hurt and the countryside being lost through loud roaring lorries, motorbikes and cars.

RESPONSE:

Chipstead Lane, Lower Kingswood runs east-west, connecting the A217 in the west with Hooley and the A23 in the east, and is also used to access Chipstead which is located to the north east of Chipstead Lane. The western end of Chipstead Lane is semi-rural in nature with the majority of residential properties being located on one side, with fields and a children's park on the other. A 30mph speed limit is in place along this section of Chipstead Lane, which extends from the junction with the A217 in the west, to just to the east of the junction with Millfield Lane. The road then becomes more rural in nature and the speed limit increases to 60mph.

It is acknowledged that residents are concerned about the speed of traffic and safety of Chipstead Lane. There are many more requests for reduced speed limits on roads throughout Reigate & Banstead, than it is possible to achieve, and these have to be prioritised. Those roads which have a history of personal injury collisions where speed is a contributory factor are prioritised to be considered first.

Surrey County Council holds personal injury collision data, provided by Surrey Police. An assessment has been carried out into the collision history on this 30mph section of Chipstead Lane, which has shown that during the latest three year period for which data is available (from October 2017 to September 2020) one personal injury collision, involving a slight injury, has occurred on this section of Chipstead Lane. This collision was a low speed shunt which occurred near the roundabout junction with the A217 and excessive vehicle speed was not recorded as a contributory factor in this collision.

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If the existing mean speed of traffic on a road is travelling at 24mph or lower, then the speed of traffic using this road could be successfully reduced to 20mph using a traffic regulation order and a change of the existing speed limit signs. However, if the existing mean speed of traffic is greater than 24mph, then traffic calming measures would need to be introduced in order to successfully reduce the speed of traffic using this road to 20mph. In October 2018 a speed survey was carried out on Chipstead Lane, Kingswood which recorded mean speeds of 32mph in both directions. The results of this survey show good compliance with the existing 30mph speed limit. Traffic calming measures would need to be installed, in order to ensure that any 20mph speed limit could be successful in reducing the speed of traffic using this road to 20mph.

It is acknowledged that residents remain concerned about the safety and speed of traffic using Chipstead Lane. However, the installation of traffic calming measures in order to support a successful 20mph speed limit for Chipstead Lane would not currently prioritise above other roads which have a history of personal injury collisions where speed is a contributory factor. Despite this the County Council does take concerns about road safety seriously and road collisions across the County are continually monitored. If there should be any significant change or increase in the pattern of collisions, then the matter would be referred to the relevant Road Safety Working Group for action to be determined. This group consists of Road Safety experts from both Surrey Police and the County Council as well as engineers from Surrey Highways.

It is understood that residents, working with Surrey Police, have an active Community Speedwatch in place and this will help to raise driver's awareness of the existing speed limit and reduce vehicle speeds on Chipstead Lane.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- i. note the officer's comment and support the continuation of the Community Speedwatch.

Contact Officer: Anne-Marie Hannam, Senior Traffic Engineer

Questions from Members of Public

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)



DATE: 1 MARCH 2021

LEAD OFFICER: JESS LEE, PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC

DIVISION: ALL

1. Question from Mr John Vincent

With respect to the Reigate railway station level crossing on the main A217. Signage should be installed to request motorist to switch off their engines when stationary to help reduce pollution. This would be an important reminder to motorists that they could be helping to cut emissions as they wait.

This is done in other Surrey Borough's.

New cars often have stop-start systems that automatically shut off the engine when the car is at rest (like mine) but many don't.

Response:

The A217 Reigate Hill is the main north/south access into Reigate and runs from the M25 at junction 8 to join the A25 at Castlefield Road. The North Downs railway line connects Reading to Redhill. There is a level crossing next to Reigate station where the A217 Reigate Hill crosses the railway line.

It is being suggested that signs are put up in A217 Reigate Hill asking drivers to turn off their engines whilst waiting at the level crossing. Surrey County Council is only permitted to install signs on the public highway if they are prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. There are no relevant signs in these regulations for vehicles to turn off engines when waiting at level crossings. Therefore, it is not possible for Surrey County Council to put up such signs on the A217 Reigate Hill on the approach to the level crossing.

It may be that similar signs next to level crossings in other locations have been put up on privately owned land next to the public highway, and sometimes on Network Rail owned land or assets directly. This has been raised at a Betchworth and Reigate Rail Initiative meeting previously, and it is understood that Network Rail were considering potential locations, that do not obstruct sight lines, for this type of sign.

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