

ANNEX 1**SPEED LIMIT AND ROAD SAFETY MEASURES FOR STONEHILL ROAD, OTTERSHAW**

At its meeting on 5 December 2013, Runnymede Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee noted measures taken by the Surrey County Council Runnymede Local Committee in respect of Stonehill Road, Ottershaw.

At its meeting in July 2013, the Committee had noted that Stonehill Road, Ottershaw had a 60mph speed limit. The Committee was of the view that it was dangerous to cycle in that road with such a high speed limit and had therefore agreed that representations should be made to Surrey County Council (SCC) seeking a lower speed limit for the road.

At its meeting on 5 December 2013, the Committee noted that SCC had confirmed that the area of Stonehill Road between Chertsey Road and Accommodation Road was part of the Surrey Cycleway and that the rest of Stonehill Road was a recommended route for cyclists. SCC Local Highway Services had also advised that many rural roads that were popular with cyclists were subject to the national speed limit (60mph). However, this did not mean that drivers should travel at that speed. The speed limit was a maximum speed and not a target speed. Motorists should always drive to the prevailing conditions. Reducing a speed limit alone would not necessarily result in a reduction in actual vehicle speeds since motorists determined their speed based on the character of the road and the prevailing conditions. Unless additional measures were to be introduced that changed the character of the road or influenced driver behaviour then reducing a speed limit in isolation might have limited benefit in improving road safety. A speed limit assessment would have to be undertaken in accordance with SCC's Speed Management Policy (and Surrey Police consulted) to determine whether a reduction in speed limit was appropriate. The SCC Runnymede Local Committee would have to agree the inclusion of the speed limit assessment as part of its programme of works and allocate funding.

SCC Local Highway Services advised that concerns about road safety in Stonehill Road had previously been raised at the SCC Runnymede Local Committee. An analysis of the accident data had confirmed that there was a history of personal injury accidents in the road and a significant proportion of the accidents were clustered around the side road junctions. In response to this information, the SCC Runnymede Local Committee had agreed that measures should be introduced that specifically targeted improvements in safety at these cluster sites. It was considered that this approach was likely to have a greater road safety benefit than alternative options such as reducing the speed limit. Therefore a series of four measures had been implemented in March 2012 as part of the SCC Runnymede Local Committee's programme of works. Firstly, enhanced junction warning signs had been installed. These signs were on yellow backing boards to maximise their conspicuousness. Secondly, new road markings and coloured road surfacing had been installed. These were located next to warning signs to gain maximum impact by creating a gateway effect. Thirdly, marker posts had been installed to help highlight side road junctions and fourthly, areas of vegetation had been removed to improve visibility for drivers emerging onto Stonehill Road from side road junctions.

SCC Local Highway Services advised that there were currently no proposals to undertake a speed limit assessment or introduce further measures since it was still too early to assess the impact of the above improvements. However, the County Council would continue monitoring the safety record for Stonehill Road to determine the effectiveness of the improvements and assess whether there was a need to consider additional measures. Stonehill Road was one of the sites to be considered at the next meeting of the Runnymede Road Safety Working Group (this was a group consisting of specialist road safety officers from Surrey Police and SCC that met twice a year to consider locations that had been identified as having a history of personal injury accidents) at the end of April 2014. Normally the effectiveness of a set of measures in reducing personal injury accidents would be assessed after 3 years. However, the measures for Stonehill Road would have been in place for 2 years when this meeting would be held so a review of the accident data at that time should give an initial indication of the impact of the measures.

The Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee noted the information provided by SCC on measures taken by the SCC Runnymede Local Committee in respect of Stonehill Road. Runnymede Members for Foxhills Ward that were present at the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee meeting considered a reduced speed limit to be essential in Stonehill Road as local residents were most

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concerned about the potential for accidents in the road. The Ward Members for Foxhills considered that the likelihood of accidents was high because of a number of factors which they reported as follows. Houses were located close to the road in Stonehill Road, Ottershaw. The road width was narrow. Foxhills Country Club organised cycling races on a regular basis that passed through Stonehill Road. The road was not lit. The road was used by horse riders. There was a blind bend. Animals (e.g. deer, badgers) were regularly killed in the road. The volume of traffic in Stonehill Road had risen greatly recently. Having noted the comments of local Members, the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee considered that the speed limit should be reduced to 40mph and that double white lines should be introduced, or at the very least vehicle actuated radar or vehicle actuated signs and other appropriate safety measures should be introduced.

The Committee agreed that representations should be made to the SCC Local Committee for Runnymede regarding Stonehill Road. The views of the Surrey Police on the speed limit and on road and traffic safety matters in Stonehill Road would also be sought.

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE RESOLVED that –

- 1. the Surrey County Council Local Committee for Runnymede be recommended to reduce the speed limit in Stonehill Road, Ottershaw to 40 mph and introduce double white lines in that road in line with the wishes of local residents; and**
- 2. if the Local Committee is not prepared to implement the measures at 1.above, then the Local Committee be requested to consider introducing vehicle actuated radar or vehicle actuated signs and other appropriate safety measures in Stonehill Road, Ottershaw.**