

Annexe A – Russell Road Consultation Letter

Dear Resident,

RE: TRAFFIC CALMING (SPEED CUSHIONS) IN RUSSELL ROAD

In April 2013 Surrey County Council began a five-year £100m programme of carriageway maintenance that will result in 10% of Surrey's roads being resurfaced. This programme is called Project Horizon. The Spelthorne part of this programme was presented to Surrey County Council's Local Committee for Spelthorne in June 2013; further details are available at www.surreycc.gov.uk. A number of roads in Shepperton are due to be resurfaced as part of this programme, including Russell Road later this Financial Year.

Surrey County Council would now like to ask local residents, whether or not they would like to keep the traffic calming (speed cushions) in Russell Road or remove it when the road is resurfaced. There are a number of factors to consider before you respond:

- The traffic calming was installed in the mid 90s as a result of continuing collisions and complaints from residents about excessive vehicle speeds.
- The frequency of personal injury collisions reduced following the introduction of the traffic calming. A few casualty statistics to consider:
 - Since 1987 there have been 64 accidents (between 50m from the High Street and Marshalls roundabouts), giving an average of 2.37 accidents per year.
 - In the decade before traffic calming installed (1987-1996) there were 36 accidents (3.6 per year).
 - In the decade after traffic calming installed (1997-2006) there were 13 accidents (1.3 per year).
 - In the last decade (2004-2013) there were 1.8 accidents (1.8 per year).
 - There are no pedal cycle accidents recorded before 2001.
 - Between 2001 and January 2014 there were 21 accidents (including seven pedal cycles).
 - Up to 1998, there had been 43 accidents (average 3.58 / year).
 - There are no accidents recorded in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006 and 2009.
 - Since 2001, there have been 21 accidents (average 1.61 / year).
 - Between 2001 and 2008 there have generally been one or two accidents per year, but since 2010 this has risen to three or four.
 - The accident database maintained by Surrey County Council and Surrey Police goes back to 1987 and only records Personal Injury Collisions – not damage only accidents or near misses.
- There is evidence from the last four years that the frequency of collisions may be rising but it is difficult to know whether this is part of a new long term trend – two possible reasons for this are:
 - Across Surrey there is an increasing frequency of cyclist casualties coinciding with increased numbers of cyclists;
 - The existing speed cushions have become very dilapidated, and will not be as effective at reducing vehicle speeds as they were when they were first installed.
- Surrey Police report that they very rarely receive complaints of excessive vehicle speed in Russell Road.
- Residents living nearby the traffic calming report that they experience unpleasant vibration within their homes when vehicles drive over the speed cushions.

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- Surrey Police have raised the concern that if the traffic calming were to be removed, it could result in a higher number of collisions and excessive vehicle speeds in Russell Road.

Your Divisional Member Cllr Richard Walsh is sympathetic to the residents who report unpleasant vibration within their homes, but also mindful of the possible safety implications of removing the traffic calming.

The results of this consultation will be reported to Surrey County Council's Local Committee for Spelthorne on 30th June 2014, together with the casualty history outlined above, and the views of Surrey Police. We will also survey vehicle speeds and report the results to Committee. It will be the Local Committee that decides whether or not to remove the traffic calming.

If the Local Committee decides to remove the traffic calming we will survey vehicle speeds and monitor casualties after the traffic calming is removed. If there is evidence that vehicle speeds rise significantly, or that the frequency of casualties rises as a result of the traffic calming being removed, Cllr Walsh has committed to set aside funding to investigate the feasibility of an alternative traffic calming scheme that would not include speed cushions or road humps near to residential properties. The cost of implementing an alternative traffic calming scheme could be substantial. There would be no significant cost to renewing the existing speed cushions when the road is resurfaced. Any alternative scheme would be subject to public consultation. There is no guarantee that an alternative scheme would be feasible either in financial or technical terms.

Taking all the information into account, please could you let us know your views. Please could you let us know your preference by 7th June 2014 by returning the form below in the pre-paid envelope provided. If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to call 0300 200 1003 or to e-mail highways@surreycc.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Healey
Area Team Manager
Surrey Highways

<Address>

Would you like to keep or remove the speed cushions in Russell Road? KEEP / REMOVE / NO OPINION
(Please circle one)