



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 3 DECEMBER 2014
LEAD OFFICER: ANDREW MILNE, AREA TEAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: COMMON CLOSE, HORSELL – PETITION RESPONSE

AREA: HORSELL EAST & WOODHAM WARD / WOKING NORTH

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

A petition was received by the Woking Joint Committee at its meeting on 24 September 2014 asking for the speed limit on the A3046 Chobham Road, in the vicinity of its junction with Common Close, to be reduced from 50mph to 30mph. The petition contained 59 signatures.

A number of personal injury collisions have occurred at the junction and residents find it difficult to turn right out of the road.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked to note the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This length of road has been included in a package of speed limit assessments that will form part of the Joint Committee's ITS work programme during the 2015/16 financial year. The speed limit will be assessed with a view to reducing it if appropriate.

A scheme for enhanced signing along this length of Chobham Road has been ordered and should be in place before the end of the calendar year.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 The A3046 Chobham Road runs north from Woking towards Chobham. The first 1300m, between its junction with Victoria Way and a point just north of the mini-roundabout junction with Shores Road is subject to a 30mph speed limit. From the mini-roundabout to beyond the borough boundary, the speed limit is 50mph.

1.2 Chobham Road is a busy road and gaps in traffic to allow vehicles to exit Common Close can be limited, particularly for vehicles wishing to turn right.

1.3 Before submitting their petition, a number of residents had written to the Local Highway Team as a result of which a scheme for improved signing in the vicinity of

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Common Close was drawn up. There was previously no proposal for a reduction in the speed limit, although this was added to the ITS work programme following receipt of the petition. This item is ranked 18th out of 65 schemes on the programme.

1.4 This report is for information only.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 No speed survey has yet been undertaken in the vicinity of Common Close to determine current vehicle speeds on Chobham Road and no assessment has been carried out against the County Council's speed limit policy.
- 2.2 Since the beginning of 2011, ie the last 3 full years plus the current year to date, there have been 2 personal injury collisions at the Chobham Road / Common Close junction. These resulted in a total of 5 slight injuries, 4 of which occurred in the collision on 27 March 2013 that is referred to the petition. Both collisions involved vehicles turning right into Common Close and being hit from behind.
- 2.3 In the same period one other personal injury collision took place near the junction with Cheapside and involved a single pedal cycle and no other vehicle.
- 2.4 All other collisions in the vicinity took place within the 30mph limit apart from one, which took place in Shores Road opposite the access to Sandy Track Car Park.
- 2.5 The number of damage-only collisions is unknown as only those collisions that result in personal injury are recorded.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 A scheme for enhanced signing in the vicinity, including yellow backed junction warning signs with distance plates, has been ordered and should be in place by the end of the calendar year.
- 3.2 The ITS work programme for next year includes a package of speed limit assessments in a number of roads in Woking Borough. The length of Chobham Road from the point where the 50mph limits starts near Shores Road to the roundabout junction with Littlewick Road is one of the roads to be assessed. The road will need to be assessed against the County Council's speed limit policy before it is known whether a 30mph speed limit is appropriate.
- 3.3 If a 30mph limit is appropriate, the necessary legal procedure to introduce the lower limit will be carried out. However, it is important to note that because Chobham Road is illuminated by a system of street lighting, no 30mph speed limit repeater signs could be erected. Other than the 30mph limit entry signs at the end of Shores Road and adjacent to the Littlewick Road roundabout, no additional signs would be permitted. It is also worth noting that where the same situation occurs along Kettlewell Hill, there are ongoing issues with compliance with the 30mph limit.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 No consultation has yet taken place. Consultation will be undertaken as part of the traffic order making process if the speed limit assessment suggests that a lower limit is appropriate.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The package of speed limit assessment that will form part of next year's work programme is estimated to cost £40-£50,000, which allows for the speed limit assessments in the various roads plus the cost of making any traffic orders and the necessary signing amendments.
- 5.2 Next year's budgets are not yet known and no specific budget for the speed limit assessments has yet been allocated but it is intended that this scheme will be funded from the ITS budget.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 Due to the volume of traffic using Chobham Road, it is likely that turning out of Common Close will continue to be problematic, irrespective of the speed limit. Likewise, there may continue to be collisions involving traffic turning right into Common Close.
- 6.2 The enhanced signing will help to highlight the junction.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The community most directly affected by this proposal are the residents of Common Close and Cheapside.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 There are no Equalities and Diversity implications relating to this issue.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report.
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 The length of Chobham Road between its junctions with Shores Road and Littlewick Road and which is subject to a 50mph speed limit is one of a number of roads that are due to have speed limit assessments undertaken during the next financial year. Although next year's budgets have yet to be agreed, it is intended to package a number of roads together, undertake speed surveys and assess them against the County Council's speed limit policy. If appropriate the speed limit reductions will be advertised and the relevant traffic regulation orders made, assuming that any objections can be satisfactorily resolved.

10.2 A scheme of enhanced signing on Chobham Road in the vicinity of Common Close has been ordered and should be in place before the end of the calendar year.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

11.1 No actions will be taken regarding the speed limit until the new financial year when a speed survey will be undertaken and a speed limit assessment carried out to determine if a 30mph speed limit is appropriate on this length of Chobham Road.

Contact Officer:

Kevin Patching, Traffic Engineer (Woking)

Consulted:

No consultations have yet been carried out.

Borough Portfolio Holder

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County Council Cabinet Member

John Furey

Annexes:

None.

Sources/background papers:

- Petition received by the Woking Joint Committee, 24 September 2014
- Surrey County Council Policy – Setting Local Speed Limits, July 2014