

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2014****LEAD OFFICER: JOHN HILDER
AREA TEAM MANAGER - HIGHWAYS****SUBJECT: UPDATE ON INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SCHEME
PROGRAMME FOR 2014/15****DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS IN WAVERLEY****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report provides an update on the 2014/15 programme of minor highway works funded by this committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to:**

- (i) Note progress on the programme of minor highway works for 2014/15
- (ii) Authorise the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the B2128 at Ellens Green between Pollingfold Bridge and the existing terminal signs 160m west of the junction with Somersbury Lane (currently 50mph).
- (iii) Authorise the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the A287 Gong Hill along that section of the road which currently has a 50mph limit between The Bourne and Millbridge.
- (iv) Agree that the current speed limit of 40mph along the A283 Petworth Road between Cherry Tree roundabout and Rodborough School, Milford remains unchanged. The introduction of a 30mph had been requested and the Committee may alternatively refer the introduction of such a lower limit to the Cabinet Member responsible for road safety.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to note progress the programme of work for 2014/15 and agree the recommendations above to enable the introduction of reduced speed limits.

1. UPDATE

Local Committee budgets and forecast expenditure

- 1.1 The 2014/15 budget, agreed allocations and forecast expenditure for 2014/15 are set out at **Annex 1**, which shows that currently it is estimated that the budget is slightly over-committed. The position will become more certain towards the end of the financial year as works are priced and installed and the Area Manager may have to make adjustments, such as deferring scheme starts, to remain within budget. If such adjustments are required they will be made in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and any members who may be affected.
- 1.2 At the end of the third quarter of the financial year the design of Integrated Transport Schemes is complete or approaching completion, with installation of outstanding schemes planned for quarter four.

Reduced speed limits

- 1.3 The 2014/15 programme of schemes includes requests for reduced speed limits for three roads and each has been assessed against the County Council's new policy for setting speed limits adopted in July 2014, with the results tabulated at **Annex 2**.
- 1.4 The Police have been consulted and support the introduction of the recommended lower limits for the A287 Gong Hill (reduce from 50mph to 40mph) and the B2128 Horsham Road at Ellens Green (reduce from 50mph to 40mph).
- 1.5 The A283 Petworth Road between Cherry Tree Roundabout and Rodborough School, Milford has a 40mph limit. This was subject to an assessment under the former speed limit policy (see Item 10: 'Waverley Speed Limit Assessment' considered at the meeting of the Local Committee on 21 September 2012) which indicated that the current 40mph limit is appropriate for this section of road, while the same assessment resulted in the introduction of a 30mph on the adjoining section of the A283 to the south of the junction with Milford Heath Road.
- 1.6 The 2014 assessment reported here and carried out under the new speed limit policy again indicates that 40mph is appropriate for the road and engineering measures would be required to lower speeds if a 30mph speed limit were to be introduced.
- 1.7 Since Petworth Road is an A-road vertical traffic calming would not be appropriate and measures would be confined to signing, road markings, vehicle activated signs, and possibly narrowing the carriageway. However, County Council Highways officers and the Police road safety officer for Surrey doubt that measures other than physically narrowing the road would have a material effect on speeds at this location.
- 1.8 Both the Police and County Council officers consider that the loss of the existing 40mph repeater signs as the result of introducing a 30mph limit may have an adverse effect, and speeds could increase as a result, both along the straight south of Cherry Tree roundabout and on the southbound approach to Rodborough School. The road has a system of street lighting and national regulations do not permit repeaters on a lit road that has a 30mph speed limit - drivers would have no reminders of the limit, which they do at present, albeit that limit is 40mph.

1.9 The County Council's speed limit policy includes the following provision:

'If the local committee disagree with the recommendations presented to them by the Area Highways Manager and wish to proceed with an alternative option, then the issue must be submitted for decision by the Cabinet Member responsible for road safety.'

Lengthsman scheme

- 1.10 At the meeting of 21 March 2014 the Committee agreed to fund lengthsman bids by Chiddingfold Parish Council (PC), Dunsfold PC, First Wessex (Sandy Hill and The Chantrys, Farnham), Hambledon PC, Haslemere Town Council (TC) and Farnham TC to a total maximum value of £42,361 subject to scrutiny by Highways officers.
- 1.11 At the meeting of 26 September the Committee agreed to fund a further bid by Witley PC, value £2,000.
- 1.12 Over the past year the Committee has discussed how lengthsman funding could be allocated in future, with the option of dividing equally by county council division with the local county councillor directing expenditure, either directly or via town and parish councils.
- 1.13 This point was considered by the Local Transport Plan Task Group meeting on 1 December 2014. The task group chairman pointed out that the intention of the scheme was to empower town and parish councils by providing them with funding to tackle minor highway maintenance work. This work may be seen as important locally, but was unlikely to be addressed by the day-to-day operation of the Highway service. Further, county councillors have their own devolved budgets which they could use to the same purpose in their electoral division, or pool resources across an area.
- 1.14 Other task group members held the view that where town and parish councils failed to take up the lengthsman scheme, residents were missing out on the benefits it brings.
- 1.15 The Area Manager did not think the task group reached a consensus on this subject, which the Committee may wish to discuss further.

Community Enhancement Fund

- 1.16 At the end of November 2014 £30,500 of the £45,000 fund had been committed. County councillors are asked to discuss potential work within their divisions with the area team and confirm their requirements by the end of December so that works can be ordered and delivered before the end of the financial year.

Parking Team Update

- 1.17 Objections to the 2013/14 review of parking restrictions in Waverley were considered by the committee at an additional public meeting on 9 May. Owing to the size of the review and the need to rectify historical inconsistencies with the existing lining, the Committee agreed to a phased implementation, town by town. The Parking Team issued the works order for lining in Farnham in

August, which started in October and is expected to be completed by the end of December. The Godalming area will follow in the new year, then Haslemere and Cranleigh.

Customer Enquiries

- 1.18 Following the extremely high volume of enquires in the first part of the year, the second and third quarters have seen a steady reduction. This is to be expected given the time of year but overall volumes remain high with over 118,000 received for the calendar year to date, giving an average of approximately 13,100 per month, down from 14,600 in the second quarter.
- 1.19 For Waverley specifically, 15,090 enquiries have been received since January of which 6,617 were directed to the local area office for action; 94% of these have been resolved. This response rate is slightly below the countywide average of 95%. Although the response rate remains high, we are working hard in conjunction with our contractors to improve the service we provide. This includes the launch of a new customer enquiry and works scheduling system and revised customer service Key Performance Indicators.
- 1.20 Through the Customer Service Excellence project we are also seeking to improve the accessibility of information and advance notification of roadworks. As part of this we have recently moved our roadwork information to a new website: www.roadworks.org that also contains information on work being undertaken by utility companies. The site provides a fuller picture of the work in an area and customers can sign up to receive alerts.
- 1.21 Although there has been a reduction in customer contacts, complaints have remained high with 308 at Stage 1 for the nine months to the end of September compared to 208 for the first half of the year. The South West area including Waverley has received 78. The main reasons for these are communication and the failure to carry out works to either the required standard or timescale. In addition 11 complaints have been escalated to Stage 2 of which we were found to be at fault in only three. Seven complaints have been made to the Local Government Ombudsman about the service, none of which have been upheld.

2. OPTIONS:

- 2.1 As discussed with members.

3. CONSULTATIONS:

- 3.1 Appropriate consultation will be carried out for all schemes.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 Works will be carried out by the County Council's term highways contractor, Kier, who won the term contract in a competitive tender process.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 No specific implications.

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6. LOCALISM:

- 6.1 Works and schemes are designed to improve and make safer the facilities for local communities in the borough.
- 6.2 The lengthman initiative allows parish and town councils to undertake enhanced maintenance of the public highway.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 None

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 8.1 As set out in the body of the report.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 9.1 Officers will continue to progress the programme of schemes agreed by the Committee.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

As described within the report

Annexes:

- 1. Highways Budgets and Expenditure for 2014/15
- 2. Speed limit assessment

Sources/background papers:

Local Committee for Waverley Friday 13 December 2013 Item 11: 'Highways Budgets 2014/15'
Local Committee for Waverley Friday 21 March 2014 : Item 9: 'Highways Update'
Local Committee for Waverley Friday 20 June 2014 Item 14: 'Update on Local Committee Highway Improvement Programmes for 2013-14 and 2014-15.'
Local Committee for Waverley Friday 26 September 2014 'Highways Update'

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