

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2014



SUBJECT: PETITION (HGVs out of Lambs Business Park)

DIVISION: GODSTONE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To consider a petition containing 12 signatures:

Increased tonnage and volume of large trucks / lorries out of Lambs Business Park are causing significant noise and vibration nuisance for residents living on Tilburstow Hill Road and in Godstone. In particular in the hours of 6am to 9am and 3.30pm to 6.00pm Monday to Friday.

They are a danger to other drivers, horses and their riders, cyclists and walkers on Tilburstow Hill Road, in particular in the section from Harts Lane to Rabies Heath Road, where the road narrows, is steep and twisting. This is also the crossing point for Greensand Way, for horses, walkers and bikers. Noise and vibration nuisance is very significant and is detrimental to the local environment and quality of life.

The volume, speed and size of these vehicles hurtling down Tilburstow Hill is not appropriate, given nature of this rural road into Godstone and Godstone Farm. I and several neighbours have seen and been involved in "near misses" with these trucks. Do we need a death for action to be taken?

RESPONSE:

Tilburstow Hill Road is a rural road that runs from Eastbourne Road, Godstone to the A22 at Blindley Heath, approximately 4.5km in length. The speed limit varies over the length of the road, it is 30mph for a short section at the northern end between Eastbourne Road and Stratton Brook. It then changes to 40mph between Stratton Brook and a short distance south of Rushton Avenue, from this point to the A22 the speed limit is 50mph. There are no weight or width restrictions on the road, however there are signs either side of the railway bridge warning that the bridge height is 12'9".

Lamb's Business Park is an industrial estate accessed from Tilburstow Hill Road immediately south of the railway line, from which a variety of businesses operate. Many of these businesses require access by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) both for their own operational requirements and also to receive deliveries.

There is a bridleway crossing on Tilburstow Hill Road between Harts Lane and Rabies Heath Road. The Greensand Way long distance walking route runs along this bridleway. There are appropriate signs in place either side of this bridleway crossing advising that accompanied horses are likely to be in the road ahead.

A review of the collision data provided by the police shows three collisions resulting in slight personal injury in the past three years, one at the junction with Love Lane, one at the junction with Rabies Heath Road and one 30m north of Harts Lane. None of these collisions involved HGVs, and speed was not considered by the police to be

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a contributory factor in any of the collisions.

The speed of traffic was measured by the police using Speed Detection Radar on the 40mph section of Tilburstow Hill Road during 2013. The measured mean speeds were 45mph northbound and 47mph southbound. It is unfortunately not possible to separate the speeds of cars from the speeds of HGVs using this data. The police are responsible for enforcing speed limits on Tilburstow Hill Road and have been contacted about enforcement on Tilburstow Hill Road. They advise that the road is no longer subject to regular police enforcement due to both the level of speeds and lack of collisions where speed was considered to be a contributory factor.

Officers have considered the use of positive lorry route signing to direct HGVs to access Lambs Business Park from the A22. However this was not considered appropriate due to the difficulty that HGVs would have making the sharp turn from the southbound A22 onto Tilburstow Hill Road and from Tilburstow Hill Road onto the northbound A22. It is acknowledged that large vehicles do make this manoeuvre. However the County Council would not wish to install positive lorry route signing at this location unless the junction of Tilburstow Hill Road and the A22 were improved. The Tandridge Local Transport Strategy is the subject of a separate report to this Committee. The annex to this strategy lists schemes that have been identified for the Tandridge District, but for which no funding has been allocated. The A22/Tilburstow Hill Road junction improvement is one of the schemes on this list.

Any steps to ban HGVs from using Tilburstow Hill Road eg a width restriction would need to take account of the requirements for legitimate HGV access to properties including Lambs Business Park. Therefore even if a width restriction were introduced it could not prevent HGVs accessing Lambs Business Park and would not address the petitioner's concerns.

The only restriction to HGV movement on Tilburstow Hill Road is the low railway bridge. It is proposed to improve the signing at the junction of Tilburstow Hill Road and the B2236 Eastbourne Road to provide advance warning for drivers of the bridge height at the railway bridge.

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