

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: PETITION (Reduce the speed limit on Stafford Road to 20 MPH)

DIVISION: CATERHAM VALLEY



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To consider a petition containing 28 signatures:

The northern end of Stafford Road (running from Burntwood Lane and past Milner Approach) is far too narrow to support the current speed limit of 30 MPH. This is a double parked, residential road, with little access (due to parked cars) to the easterly pavement, and virtually no access to the westerly pavement.

Residents are forced to walk into the road in order to access their cars, or to move further along the street, and the current 30 MPH speed limit makes this extraordinarily dangerous.

Many residents of this part of Stafford Road have in the recent past experienced damage to the sides of vehicles, and the loss of family pets. All attributable to cars moving at speeds greater than this road can possibly safely support. This is a serious risk to public safety.

Without action, it can surely only be a matter of time, before a resident is seriously injured whilst attempting to negotiate Stafford Road.

For this reason, I petition Surrey Council to reduce the speed limit on Stafford Road to 20 miles per hour.

RESPONSE:

Stafford Road, Caterham links Caterham town centre to the south to the A22 Wapses Lodge roundabout via Burntwood Lane. Stafford Road is a residential road that runs parallel to the B2208 Croydon Road, along the side of the hill. This results in properties being either above or below the level of the road, limiting the ability of residents to provide off-street parking. The road is heavily parked, with vehicles parking with two wheels on the footway where they are parking opposite other vehicles.

A review of collision data collected by the Police shows that in the 3 year period August 2011 to August 2014 there have been no recorded personal injury accidents in the section of Stafford Road between Burntwood Lane and Milner Approach. For the same period, there were 2 collisions in the section of Stafford Road between Milner Approach and Church Hill, both of which resulted in slight injury.

In July 2014 Surrey County Council adopted a new speed limit policy. Under the policy, 20mph speed limits can be introduced by signing alone where existing mean speeds are at or below 24mph. Where the existing mean speeds are above 24mph, then traffic calming measures will be required. The policy sets out an assessment process that has to be followed, which includes seeking the views of the Police.

ITEM 4

A speed survey was carried out in Stafford Road at a location just north of Milner Approach on 28th November to get an indication of existing speeds. The recorded mean speeds, the measure used to assess speed limits, were 25.9mph north-eastbound (towards the A22) and 27.5mph south-westbound (towards Caterham), within the existing 30mph speed limit. The existing mean speeds exceed 24mph and so a reduction to 20mph in Stafford Road by signing alone would not comply with Surrey's speed limit policy. The collision record would not support the introduction of physical traffic calming measures to bring speeds down to the level required for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit.

Contact Officer: John Lawlor, South East Area Team Manager, Local Highways Service Group, 03456 009 009
