

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)****DATE: 25 MARCH 2015****LEAD OFFICER: PETER HITCHINGS****SUBJECT: SHERE AREA RURAL HGV REVIEW****DIVISION: SHERE AND SHALFORD**

Also Dorking Hills (Mole Valley) and Cranleigh and Ewhurst (Waverley)

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

It is proposed to carry out a review of HGV activity in the rural area around the Parish of Shere seeking to address long standing concerns of residents on the impact of perceived inappropriate HGVs journeys through this area. It is proposed to follow a model recently carried out in the Tandridge District which identified HGV related issues and potential solutions through discussions with individual Parish Councils.

The proposed study area within Guildford would cover the Parish areas of Shere and Shalford but a wider area of analysis, enclosed by the A25/A246 to the north, the A281 to the west and the A24/A29 to the east, is proposed in order to better assess the wider causes and origins and destinations of HGV movements throughout the area.

It is intended to coordinate this work with that of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) quiet lanes and de-cluttering project group which covers much of the same geographical area, has overlapping aims to conserve and enhance country lanes and the countryside, and will also be progressed through consultations with parish councils.

Reducing unnecessary HGV movements on some minor country lanes would meet the aims of both projects and provide the opportunity to make them more attractive and accessible to visitors and non-motorised users.

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

- (i) Endorse the study approach and
- (ii) Support the proposed project to review and address HGV issues within the Shere Parish area

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

A certain level of HGV activity on this area's rural road network is inevitable due to agricultural, local business activity, and the need for local deliveries. However, it is perceived that many HGV movements through this area are unnecessary and having a detrimental impact on the safety and character of rural lanes.

It is expected that some problems on minor lanes can be eased by a combination of low cost measures identified through discussions with Parish Councils.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The impact of inappropriate HGV activity on Surrey's rural communities has been a concern of local residents for many years. However, localised solutions have often led to problems transferring to adjacent areas. Additionally some local traffic management solutions have not always been welcomed in environmentally sensitive rural areas.
- 1.2 A district wide review of HGV issues and impact on communities in Tandridge was recently carried out with consultations with parish councils used to identify local problems and possible solutions which are summarised in **ANNEX A**
- 1.4 During the Tandridge study a method of advising satnav mapping of anomalies in local routing was developed. An instruction leaflet is shown in **ANNEX B**
- 1.5 It is proposed to follow the Tandridge model in the Shere area HGV study. Coordinating this work with the Surrey Hills quiet lanes and de-cluttering project would streamline consultations and ensure that common aims within the AONB are met.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The study will commence with consultations with all relevant parishes councils to determine local HGV issues and concerns. The key issues identified within the Tandridge study were:
 - HGV's diverting onto local roads from major roads due to road works and/or congestion on those roads
 - HGV's making inappropriate route selection following satnav directions
 - When on local roads HGV's taking short cuts through less appropriate minor lanes, sometimes using lanes which have advisory or statutory restrictions on HGV movements
 - The above issues are sometimes compounded through inconsistent or incomplete road signing on some roads.
 - Servicing and delivery problems in village or town centres
- 2.2 Some possible solutions developed during the Tandridge HGV study will be considered if appropriate within the Shere area study.
- 2.3 Parish councils will be made aware of the Surrey Hills quiet lanes de-cluttering project at the time of these consultations and asked to consider the joint aims of the two projects.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 **Elements of the study and possible solutions could include:**

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- Discussions with Parish Council to identify HGV issues: e.g's inappropriate routing, damage to verges, inadequate signing, operating centre issues
- Investigating and defining preferred HGV routes through area
- Developing area wide positive destination lorry signing
- Considering weight or width restrictions
- Reporting unsuitable routes and preferred alternative routes to Satnav mapping companies. Please see **ANNEX B** for more information
- Auditing all road signs in area audit to: identify redundant signs or street furniture to minimise clutter and clarify current signing needs
- Identifying unsuitable HGV routes which could be developed as quiet lanes.
- Considering measures which conserve and enhance the rural character of country lanes

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The project will be delivered in collaboration with the Local Highways Team and the Surrey Hills Area of Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 4.2 Consultation will involve all relevant parish councils.
- 4.3 The recent public realm improvements in Shere involved engagement with residents and the parish council and these lines of communications will be continued.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Initial costs for the study can be absorbed through existing revenue budgets.
- 5.2 Collaboration with the Surrey Hills quiet lanes and de-cluttering project and involvement of parish councils is expected to reduce officer time on the project.
- 5.3 Proposed measures arising from the study will have to be considered by the local committee or for inclusion within the Local Transport forward programmes or other funding streams.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 No significant implications from this project.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The project will be community driven through the involvement of Parish Councils in the identification of issues and potential solutions.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 Sustainability implications

The proposed scheme aims to encourage HGV's to use the most appropriate routes through this rural area. This is expected to lead to: a) more efficient goods deliveries thus reducing vehicle emissions and b) opportunities to conserve and enhance some minor country lanes so that they are more suitable for use by sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling, and horse riding).

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Conclusions:

- 9.1** A certain amount of HGV activity on this area's rural road network is inevitable due to agriculture, local business activity, and the need for local deliveries.
- 9.2** It is expected that some HGV related problems on minor lanes can be eased by a combination of: low cost measures identified through discussions with Parish Councils, positive HGV directional signing, HGV weight or width restrictions and restriction and by advising the satnav mapping companies of anomalies in their mapping.

Recommendations:

9.3 The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:

- (i) Endorse the study approach and
- (ii) Support the proposal to review and address HGV issues within the Shere and Shalford Parish areas

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 All county and district members and parish councils within the study area will be advised of the aims of the HGV study and Surrey Hills quiet lanes and de-cluttering project and invited to contribute.
- 10.2 At the end of the study a list of recommendations will be brought back to a future meeting of this committee.
- 10.3 Proposed measures resulting from the study will be considered for inclusion within the Local Transport Strategy forward programme or other appropriate funding stream.

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Consulted:

The proposal has been developed through consultation with Rob Fairbanks the Surrey Hills AONB and John Hilder the Local Highway Manager for south west Surrey.

If the project is progressed all county and district councils members and parish Councils within the study area will be consulted.

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Annexes:

ANNEX A – Tandridge District Freight Review

ANNEX B – Satnav Error Reporting Leaflet

Sources/background papers:

- none

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