

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 20 MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: PETITION (Reduce the unrestricted speed limit on Westerham Road, A25)

DIVISION: OXTED

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To consider a petition containing 36 signatures – by Mr Mark Salter.

“Due to the permissible yet dangerous speed limit on the A25 stretching the Surrey/Kent border close to the Grasshopper Inn and Moorhouse Sandpits, I opened a case with the Highways Agency back in May 2013. I have been informed by them and the police that a petition, signed by local residents and businesses may help them consider reducing the speed limit to a more reasonable level in keeping with the rest of the A25. Many sections of the A25 have already had their speed limits reduced and our local residents section has for some reason been ignored.”

**RESPONSE:**

The current speed limits on the A25 from a point approximately 100 metres east of Ballards Lane are as follows:

- east to the Surrey/Kent boundary is derestricted
- west towards Limpsfield and Oxted is 40mph up to a point approximately 120 metres west of the junction with Church Lane in Oxted, where the speed limit to the west is 50 mph

Speed limit assessments are being undertaken on the A25, between the county boundary and Church Lane in Oxted. Survey locations have been agreed with the divisional member, with the surveys funded from the Local Committee’s revenue maintenance budget. Two surveys took place at the end of February 2015, using automatic traffic monitoring equipment, on the section of A25 between the junction with High Street, Limpsfield and the Surrey/Kent boundary. The other surveys will take place once the pedestrian crossing works on East Hill, Oxted have been completed.

Changes in speed limits need to comply with Surrey’s speed limit policy. The policy highlights that changing speed limits with signs alone will not necessarily be successful in significantly reducing the speed of traffic if the prevailing mean speeds are much higher than the proposed lower speed limit. Any change in speed limit will require the support of the Police as they are responsible for enforcement.

The survey results show average speeds of 50.0mph in the westbound direction and 49.2mph in the westbound direction. These results comply with the requirements of Surrey’s speed limit policy to support a reduction in the speed limit from derestricted to 50mph.

A review of road casualty data over the past three years shows five collisions, all resulting in slight injuries. Speed was not considered by the Police to be a contributory factor in any of these collisions.

There is no funding allocated at the present time to progress a speed limit reduction on this section of the A25. Therefore the proposal will be added to the Integrated Transport Schemes list for consideration for future funding, to be prioritised alongside other schemes on that list.

In the meantime, it is proposed to seek the views of Surrey Police for a reduction in the speed limit from derestricted to 50mph, from a point approximately 100 metres east of Ballards Lane to the Surrey/Kent boundary. It is also proposed to discuss the results with Kent County Council, with a view to reducing the speed limit on the remaining derestricted part of the A25 (from the Surrey/Kent boundary to a point approximately 70m west of Farley Lane, a distance of approximately 700 metres).

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