

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)



DATE: 20 MARCH 2015
SUBJECT: MEMBERS QUESTIONS
DIVISION: OXTED

Mr Nick Skellett asks for an update on the speed limit on A25 outside Limpsfield CofE Primary School.

Last year children from the school came to the Local Committee to express their concerns about the danger of speeding traffic outside their school. Members of the Local Committee promised to investigate and we now have the results of the speed survey. I have been informed that the measured average mean speeds on the A25 outside the school were 38.7mph (eastbound) and 38.6mph (westbound) which I understand are above the threshold of 35mph (agreed with the Police and SCC) to warrant a speed limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph.

However this is a primary school with 4 to 7 year old children attending so can the Highways Service consider -

- (a) Making this a special case as it is probably the only primary school in Surrey with a 40mph limit outside.
- (b) Installing Vehicle Activated Signs in each direction (showing vehicle speeds) mounted on triangular School Warning Signs.

If the VASs are installed this may reduce mean speeds to below the threshold.

Response:

An automatic traffic survey has been carried out at a location between the crossing point for the school and Grub Street over a 7 day period from 25th February to 3rd March 2015. The measured average mean speeds were:

Eastbound: 38.7mph
Westbound: 38.6mph

It is the mean speeds that are considered when assessing roads for a possible reduction in speed limit, as set out in Surrey's speed limit policy. To comply with the policy, measured mean speeds need to be 35mph or less to enable a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. The policy does not allow for making special cases and a reduction in the speed limit outside the school would not be supported by the Police. However, there is the provision in the policy for the Local Committee, where it disagrees with officer recommendations and wishes to proceed with a speed limit reduction, can submit the issue for decision by the Cabinet Member responsible for road safety.

The traffic survey carried out by Limpsfield Infants School is one of five to be carried out on the A25 between the County boundary and Church Lane, with a view to reducing the speed limit along this whole length. Due to the works currently being

carried out near Snatts Hill to install a signal controlled pedestrian crossing, it has not been possible to carry out the surveys planned for three locations west of the B269 Limpsfield High Street. It is hoped to carry out these additional surveys early in May 2015. Should the measured mean speeds at these locations comply with the policy to enable a reduction in the speed limit to the west of Limpsfield High Street, officers would suggest that the reduced limit is extended to beyond Limpsfield Infants School. The Police have indicated that this approach is likely to be acceptable to them.

The Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who is also the divisional Member, will be advised of the results of the surveys in due course.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) could be provided on each approach to Limpsfield Infants School which show the School Children warning sign with the message Slow Down. These signs can be set to operate only at the start and end of the school day during school term time, so they are giving drivers who are exceeding the trigger speed a targeted message. The impact on vehicle speeds could be monitored to determine if they result in speeds being reduced to the level required to enable the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph. The cost of providing two VAS would be in the order of £8,000, with the final cost being dependent on electrical connections. However, there is no funding allocated in the Tandridge Local Committee's 2015/16 Highways Forward Programme to supply and install VAS at this location.