



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

PETITION

14 December 2012

A petition has been received bearing 292 signatures.

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to reduce the speed limit on the A25 outside Limpsfield C of E Infant School between Ballards Lane and the Junction with Limpsfield High Street from the current 40mph to 30 mph speed limit.

The A25, running through Limpsfield, is a very busy A Road with a current speed limit restriction of 40mph although most cars come along the road much faster.

Limpsfield C of E Infant School is a small village school, situated on the brow of the hill, along the A25 on National Trust land. There are up to 180 pupils aged between 4 & 7 who attend the school, many of which walk, cycle or scoot along the pavement areas adjacent to the A25 each day. Many parents and carers accompanying the children also have pushchairs & toddlers too.

The School is currently the only school in the Tandridge District area to not have a 30mph speed limit or less outside the school.

School users parking options are very limited, so the main car park is a National Trust Car Park which is located across the opposite side of the A25 from the school. At school drop off & pick up times, this crossing is manned by two Road Safety Officers, provided by the School. These Officers regularly have to step out into fast moving traffic thus, putting them & the motorists at risk.

Frequent users to cross the road are Limpsfield Chart Golf Club members, who also need to negotiate the A25, as the golf course, straddles both sides of the road. Others include those who need access to the Limpsfield Community Orchard and the Royal British Legion Clubs, both located off Grub Street. Horseriders & Ramblers also have to cross the A25 to access public bridleways & footpaths.

For the future safety of all those concerned, we would like to see the speed limit reduced from 40mph to 30mph between Ballards Lane & the junction with Limpsfield High Street to prevent a serious accident which is just waiting to happen.

Local Committee response:

The A25 Westerham Road by Limpsfield C of E Infant School is on the Integrated Transport Schemes programme for 2012/13. Funding has been allocated to investigate measures to reduce traffic speeds in the vicinity of the school.

Two speed surveys have been carried out using a hand held speed gun to record free flow speeds, as recommended in Surrey's speed limit policy, both between approximately 8.30 and 9.30am. The first was carried out during the summer when the school was closed and the second during school term time, the results of which are given below.

	Mean speed (mph)	
	School Holidays	School Term Time
Westbound	37.5	31.3
Eastbound	33.6	31.6

It should be noted that mean speeds are the measure used to determine speed limits. The surveys show that mean speeds during school term time are lower, which is likely to be the result of increased activity in the vicinity of the school.

Investigation of recorded personal injury collisions over the 3 year period 2009 – 2011 on the A25 Westerham Road between Limpsfield High Street and Ballards Lane show that there have been 3 slight injury collisions over this period. Two of these collisions involved single vehicle loss of control and the other was a rear end shunt just south of Ballards Lane. Speed was recorded as a contributory factor in one of the loss of control collisions. Data for 2012 is only available up until the end of September. There have been no collisions over this period. The accident data does not support a reduction of the speed limit on safety grounds.

As part of a recent traffic signs policy review, the DfT announced that English local authorities would be able to introduce advisory part-time 20mph speed limits for use in the proximity of schools. The advisory part-time 20mph speed limits do not require a Speed Limit Order and are introduced through the use of specially authorised signing in conjunction with flashing school warning lights. The Secretary of State has provided special authorisation of signs to enable local authorities to implement this change.

The advisory speed limit operates for the same period as the flashing school warning lights ie. at the start and end of the school day. The 20mph is not enforceable but advises drivers to slow down and informs them why a low speed is required, which should encourage compliance.

The existing speeds outside the school during term time suggest that the introduction of a 30mph speed limit would not have a significant impact on traffic speeds at

school drop off and pick up times. Therefore it is proposed to introduce an advisory 20mph speed limit outside the school, using the existing school crossing patrol lights. Work has already started on this proposal and the advisory 20mph speed limit will be implemented this financial year. Surrey County Council does not have an approved policy in relation to advisory 20mph speed limits. The impact of the advisory limit outside Limpsfield Infant School will be monitored and the results used to help inform the drafting of a policy.

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