



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

PUBLIC QUESTION

14 DECEMBER 2012

**On the subject of proposing a 20mph speed limit on Station Road East, Oxted,
David Borer from Tandridge Access Group (TAG) asks:**

This is a busy shopping area used by many residents of Oxted and the surrounding areas. Due to the demographics of the area during weekdays there are predominately elderly shoppers and mothers with pushchairs and/or walking young children.

The road is on a fairly steep hill and there are parking bays on one side from the top to the middle and thereafter parking bays on both sides of the highway. Traffic is made up of a mix of cars, delivery vans and recently an increased number of buses. The provision of the parking bays means that on many occasions the traffic has a clear passage up/down the hill.

There is only one pedestrian crossing located at the bottom of the hill which means that people are crossing the road at many points. This is especially hazardous for mothers with children and anyone who is disabled as they have to negotiate the parked vehicles and then attempt to cross the road.

From our observations because of the hill and reasonably clear highway vehicles going down the hill tend to increase speed as they travel which increases the danger for pedestrians.

It is currently down to individual authorities to reduce speed limits on their local road networks. Many councils – including Birmingham, Bristol and Portsmouth – have

already lowered limits in urban areas but campaigners say the Government must act to encourage more to follow suit.

The GO 20 campaign cites research carried out by Warrington MBC, which suggested 20mph speed limits reduce casualties among pedestrians and cyclists. A separate study by Bristol City Council found such moves boost take-up of active travel – therefore reducing congestion and pollution in town centres

Julie Townsend, deputy chief executive of Brake, says: 'Everyone should be able to walk and cycle in their community without fear or threat: it's a basic right.

'We are calling on the government and more local authorities to recognise the need for 20mph, and the huge demand for safe walking and cycling, and GO 20.'

In Tandridge a 20 mph scheme operates in Smallfield and has successfully reduced traffic speeds thereby increasing safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

We do not have access to the statistics but we understand that there is not an accident problem in Station Road East but as has been shown elsewhere the introduction of a 20 mph limit would increase the safety of both pedestrians and drivers as well as improving the environment and combined with the current TDC policy on free parking would help to attract more shoppers to Oxted

It is the opinion of the members of Tandridge Access Group that this would be an appropriate action to take in Station Road East from the entrance to the Waitrose store to the Tandridge District Council offices. We also propose that the length of Gresham Road as far as the library should be included as there are many pedestrians crossing this area of road to access both the Health Centre and the Library.

Tandridge Transport & Access Group have discussed this proposal and fully support it as a benefit to all road users

Please could the Tandridge Local Committee give consideration to this proposal which is for the benefit of all residents and if they agree support the necessary steps that are required to implement the limit?

Local Committee response:

20mph speed limits can be introduced in two ways, both of which require the making of a Speed Limit Order. A 20mph zone is generally introduced over several roads and requires the provision of terminal speed limit signs at all entry points to the zone and traffic calming features every 100 metres to reduce speeds. A 20mph limit is introduced by the use of terminal speed limit signs and 20mph repeater signs at regular intervals along the roads covered by the limit, with no supporting engineering measures. Research has shown that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit by signing alone only reduces vehicle speeds by approximately 2mph.

Surrey's Speed Limit policy recommends that a 20mph zone or limit will only be authorised if the average free flow speed at a representative site does not exceed 20mph. It is also generally recommended that 20 mph speed limits (including 20 mph zones) should be introduced over an area consisting of several roads and not just an individual road. It is doubtful that a 20 mph speed limit on a single road would

have any significant effect on speeds or collisions unless it was at least 500 metres in length.

Station Road East between Waitrose and Tandridge District Council offices is approximately 450 metres in length and Gresham Road between Station Road East and the library is a further approximately 150 metres. Investigation of recorded personal injury collisions over the 3 year period 2009 – 2011 for this section of Station Road East show that there have been 1 fatal and 7 slight injury collisions over this period. Of these, the fatality and 4 of the slight injury collisions involved pedestrians. Speed was not noted as a possible causal factor in any of the collisions. Data for 2012 is only available up until the end of September. There has been 1 slight injury collision over this period and this involved a pedestrian. There are no recorded personal injury accidents over the length of Gresham Road under consideration.

There is no speed data available for Station Road East or Gresham Road. Until a speed survey has been carried out, it is not possible to make a judgement on whether a 20mph could be introduced under Surrey's speed limit policy. Therefore it is proposed that a survey is carried out to collect this information and the views of the Police sought. The request will also be assessed and prioritised against set criteria (Congestion, Accessibility, Safety, Environment and Maintenance) in accordance with the County's Local Transport Plan.

Once collected, this information will be reviewed with the Tandridge Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who is also the divisional Member, to determine whether they wish to add the request for a 20mph speed limit in Station Road East and Gresham Road to the Integrated Transport Scheme list for future consideration for funding. Officers will inform Mr Borer from the Tandridge Access Group of this decision in due course.

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