



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

PUBLIC QUESTION

14 DECEMBER 2012

On the subject of speeding on Stanstead Road Caterham, Councillor Eithne Webster, Chair of Caterham on the Hill, Police Panel asks:

At the 5 October Local Committee meeting a petition concerning speeding in Stanstead Road Caterham was presented. This issue was brought up again at the Caterham on the Hill Police Panel on Tuesday 27th November.

Residents are appreciative of the efforts being made by the Police through their own resources and also through the local 'Speedwatch', to monitor and restrict speed in this road, but many people are concerned that these efforts are limited in effect.

Although residents are aware of the many calls on resources, we ask that Surrey County Council consider the alleviation of the dangers caused by speeding in Stanstead Road a priority. Could we request costings for a fixed speed camera in a suitable location in the road?

Local Committee response:

As part of the Drive SMART partnership with Surrey Police, Surrey County Council have developed local speed management plans for each District and Borough. These list all the roads where speeding has been raised as a concern. Each road is then investigated to assess the extent of the problem in order to make sure Drive SMART police resources are targeted at the sites that need the most attention to reduce speeds and casualties. The stretch of Stanstead Road from Oakhyrst School

to Church Road (1,360m long) is one of 75 sites on the current Tandridge Speed Management Plan receiving attention. Since one slight injury in 2009, to date there have been no further collisions resulting in personal injury on this stretch of 30 mph speed limit road. Information on all collisions resulting in personal injury recorded by the police are now available to view on computer mapping via www.crashmap.co.uk

The police have measured speeds on this road using a speed detection radar device. This equipment is mounted discreetly on street furniture to measure vehicle speeds without drivers knowing it is there. A one-week survey was conducted from 1 March to the 8 March 2012. This showed that average speeds were 34 mph southbound and 36 mph northbound. The 85th percentile speed (the speed above which the fastest 15 per cent of vehicles were travelling) was 39 mph southbound and 40 mph northbound.

A new fixed speed camera would cost approximately £50,000, and then would require ongoing maintenance and back office resources to process offences. Therefore it is not possible to introduce permanent fixed cameras on all roads where there is speeding. Instead within Surrey fixed speed cameras are reserved for the very worst collision hotspots where there has been a serious history of collisions. This also helps maintain public support for cameras to reduce road casualties. Consequently the council would not install a permanent fixed speed camera on this road.

Instead the police have given this site additional attention to encourage slower speeds. The police supervise Community Speedwatch volunteers who are active on this stretch of road. The police have also considered the use of a mobile enforcement unit whereby a speed camera is operated by an officer from within a van parked at the roadside. However it was found that there was no room to position a van safely at the roadside on this stretch. Therefore as well as hand held laser enforcement, the police have used an officer operated speed camera mounted on a tripod at the roadside. The police will continue to give this stretch of road additional attention as part of the Tandridge speed management plan.