

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 23 SEPTEMBER 2016

LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: A25 GODSTONE ROAD, BLETCHINGLEY
SPEED LIMIT ASSESSMENT**

DIVISION: GODSTONE



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley was reduced from 50mph to 30mph in 2012. Concerns have been expressed by Surrey Police that a section of the 30mph speed limit is not effective. Therefore, a speed limit assessment has been carried out following the process set out in Surrey's policy "Setting Local Speed Limits". As a result of this assessment it is proposed that the existing 30mph speed limit in a section of Godstone Road and also in the un-named service roads fronting Chevington Villas and Sunnybank Villas, be increased to 40mph. This report seeks approval for the changes to the speed limit in accordance with Surrey's policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the results of the speed limit assessment undertaken;
- (ii) Agree that, based upon the evidence, **the speed limit be increased from 30mph to 40mph** in the section of the A25, Godstone Road between the existing 30mph speed limit terminal signs in line with the property boundary between 14 Sunnybank Villas and Waterhouse Villa and a point 15m north-east of the north-eastern building line of the property Avalon; in the un-named service road fronting the properties Laburnums, Moorings, Dormers and Longacre; and in the un-named service road fronting the properties Somerstone, Pennyacre, Tonbridge and Waterhouse Villa and nos. 9 – 14 Sunnybank Villas, in accordance with Surrey's policy "Setting Local Speed Limits";
- (iii) Authorise the advertisement of a notice in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to implement the proposed speed limit change, revoke any existing traffic orders necessary to implement the change, and, subject to no objections being upheld, that the order be made;
- (iv) Authorise delegation of authority to the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and the local divisional Member to resolve any objections received in connection with the proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To enable changes to the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road and un-named service roads fronting Chevington Villas and Sunnybank Villas in accordance with Surrey's policy "Setting Local Speed Limits". The concerns of the Police are that the speed limit on this section of the A25 has been set too low. If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored then this can result in the majority of drivers criminalising themselves and can bring the system of speed limits into disrepute.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 In November 2012 a speed limit order was made to decrease the 50mph speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley and the un-named service roads fronting Chevington Villas and Sunnybank Villas from 50mph to 30mph. This order was made following agreement by Tandridge Local Committee at their meeting in December 2011 that the speed limit be reduced. Whilst the speed limit policy in force in 2011 indicated that the speed limit remain at 50mph, it was considered that due to the site location within Bletchingley village the speed limit should be reduced to 30mph to tie in with the location of the village gateway.
- 1.2 Following representations from Surrey Police that the 30mph speed limit has not been effective as the majority of motorists are not complying with the 30mph limit, it was agreed that Officers would carry out a speed limit assessment in the A25 Godstone Road. The existing speed limits are shown in **Annex 1**.
- 1.3 Surrey's policy for determining speed limits was updated in July 2014. The aim of Surrey County Council is to set speed limits that are successful in managing vehicle speeds and are appropriate to the main use of the road. The policy states that after a scheme is implemented, surveys should be carried out to check whether the scheme has been successful in reducing vehicle speeds towards compliance with the new lower speed limit. If the scheme has not been successful in reducing vehicle speeds then a further report should be brought to the Local Committee. Consideration should either be given to any further engineering measures that may be possible to encourage greater compliance with the speed limit or alternatively the new lower speed limit could be removed and the road returned to the original or different higher speed limit. It should be noted that some forms of traffic calming will not be appropriate on major routes with large traffic flows and heavy vehicles such as the A25.
- 1.4 An improved gateway feature and dragons teeth road markings were implemented when the speed limit order was made in December 2012.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 A seven day automatic survey of vehicle speeds was carried out during July 2016 on Godstone Road. The location of the speed survey is shown in **Annex 1**.

2.2 The results of the survey show that the improved gateway feature and dragons teeth that were implemented in 2012 have not resulted in changing driver behaviour and reducing vehicles speeds.

Existing mean speeds have been compared with the new speed limit, as requested by the Police. The speed limit policy sets thresholds below which speed limits can be changed by signs alone. For a rural village speed limit change to 40mph, the threshold is set at 46mph. If the measured existing mean vehicles speeds are above the threshold then a lower speed limit cannot be implemented without consideration of supporting engineering measures.

2.3 Table 1 records the results of the speed survey, compares these with the current limit and the new limit requested by the Police and states whether they comply with the policy to change a speed limit by signs alone.

	Existing speed limit	Measured mean speeds		Requested speed limit	Complies with policy
		Northeast bound	Southwest bound		
A25 Godstone Road	30mph	41.8mph	39.2mph	40mph	Yes

Table 1: Comparison of Measured Speeds with Speed Limit

2.4 A plan detailing the proposed new limit is attached as **Annex 2**.

2.5 It should be noted that as previously it is also proposed that the un-named service roads fronting Chevington Villas and Sunnybank Villas be included as part of the speed limit order.

2.6 The proposed 40mph speed limit in Godstone Road will slow westbound traffic on the approach to Bletchingley, acting as a buffer between the 50mph and the 30mph sections of Godstone Road.

2.7 Recorded personal injury collisions on the roads under consideration have been investigated. There has been 1 collision during the 3 year period between July 2013 and June 2016 involving slight injury. Excessive speed was not considered by the Police to be a contributory factor in this collision.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 OPTION 1

Increase the speed limit of the following roads from 30mph to 40mph to comply with Surrey's speed limit policy:

A25, Godstone Road between the existing 30mph speed limit terminal signs in line with the property boundary between 14 Sunnybank Villas and Waterhouse Villa and a point 15m north-east of the north-eastern building line of the property Avalon

The un-named service road fronting the properties Laburnums, Moorings, Dormers and Longacre

The un-named service road fronting the properties Somerstone, Pennyacre, Tonbridge and Waterhouse Villa and nos. 9 – 14 Sunnybank Villas

3.2 OPTION 2

The speed limits remain unchanged which would not comply with Surrey's speed limit policy.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 Consultation has been carried out with Surrey Police, who fully support the proposed speed limit reduction as set out in Option 1.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The cost of changing any speed limit includes legal advertisement costs associated with the statutory process, together with the costs of design and implementation.

5.2 The cost of these works will be in the region of £5,000. If the Committee support Option 1 as set out in paragraph 3.1, it is suggested that the works be added to ITS schemes list for consideration for funding in 2017/18.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 The Highway Service is mindful of its needs within this area and attempts to treat all users of the public highway with equality and understanding.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 The Highway Service is mindful of the localism agenda which has been taken into account when writing this report.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

A well-managed highway network can reduce fear of crime and allow the Police greater opportunity to enforce speed controls.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 This report sets out the speed limit assessment conducted on the A25 Godstone Road. It is recommended that Option 1 is implemented, in accordance with Surrey's Speed Limit Policy, as set out in paragraph 3.1.

9.2 The recommendations have been made based upon existing policy, in consultation with Surrey Police.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Subject to funding being allocated from the 2017/18 ITS budget, the proposal to make a Speed Limit Order is advertised in the local press during 2017/18. Following the making of the Order, the contractor is instructed to install the necessary signing.

Contact Officer:

Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer, 03456 009 009

Consulted:

Surrey Police

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Plan showing Speed Limit Proposals

Annex 2 – Plan showing Proposed New Speed Limits

Sources/background papers:

- Data from speed assessments carried out during July 2016 in A25 Godstone Road
 - Surrey Police response to consultation
 - Surrey County Council's Policy Setting Local Speed Limits (July 2014)
 - Report to Tandridge Local Committee, A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley – Speed Limit Assessment, 9 December 2011
 - The Surrey County Council ((Various roads in Tandridge and Mid Sussex) (Restricted roads 20mph 40mph speed limit and 50mph speed limits) Order 2003) (Amendment No. 4) Order 2012
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