

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)**

**DATE: 14 JUNE 2018**



**LEAD OFFICER: ANDREW MILNE – AREA HIGHWAYS MANAGER (NW)**

**SUBJECT: VEHICLE SPEEDS IN WHITMOOR ROAD – PETITION RESPONSE**

**DIVISION: BAGSHOT, WINDLESHAM & CHOBHAM**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Local Committee has received a petition signed by 82 residents concerned about the speed of vehicles in Whitmoor Road, Bagshot. The petition asks the county council to “implement speed restriction measures (e.g. speed humps / chicanes)”. The full petition text is attached at Annex 1.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to note that:**

- (i) Whitmoor Road is an existing site on the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan but is not currently being targeted for speed enforcement. However, the priority of the site will be reassessed using the latest speed data and collision information when the speed management plan is next reviewed (expected to be September 2018).
- (ii) Surrey Heath’s scheme list includes an existing proposal to introduce speed reducing measures in Whitmoor Road. The scheme is presently ranked 25 on the list and has not been prioritised for inclusion in the Local Committee’s current works programme. However, it will continue to be assessed and considered for inclusion in future programmes.
- (iii) Residents are encouraged to consider forming a Community Speed Watch group.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Recent speed survey data indicates there is a problem with some drivers travelling in excess of the 30mph speed limit.

An analysis of personal injury collision data for the last 5 years shows that Whitmoor Road has a good safety record compared to many other roads within Surrey Heath.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Whitmoor Road is a D-class road (D3568) that provides access to a series of side roads with residential development. It is subject to a 30mph speed limit and has a system of street lighting. There are no speed limit repeater signs (since their use is not permitted in 30mph roads with street lighting).
- 1.2 Whitmoor Road is a no through road and vehicles have to enter and exit at its northern end from its junction (roundabout) with Guildford Road and New Road. A location plan is attached below as figure 1.

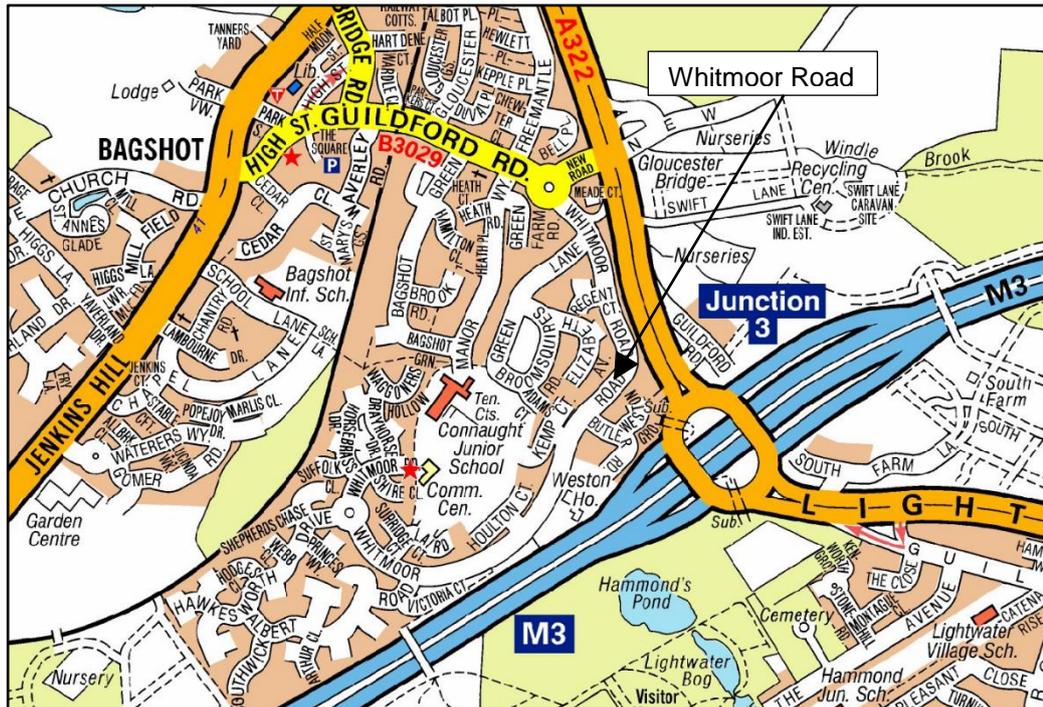


Figure 1 – Location Plan

- 1.3 There is a continuous footway along one side of the road (side furthest from A322 and M3) but only limited sections of footway on the opposite side. Footpath number 184, which provides access to Lightwater County Park via a bridge over the M3, crosses Whitmoor Road approximately midway between its junctions with Albert Road and Houlton Court.
- 1.4 Whitmoor Road is relatively wide (approximately 7.5m) and over part of its length there are areas of verge alongside the carriageway. This combined with the lack of direct vehicular access to properties results in a character of road where some drivers may feel comfortable travelling at speeds greater than the 30mph speed limit.
- 1.5 Since Whitmoor Road is a no through road a significant number of motorists who use it will be residents living on the estate or their visitors. In addition, the road is also used by visitors to the Community Centre and parents dropping off/picking up children who attend Bagshot Infant School or Connaught Junior School. Most of these visitors will live within the local area.



Figure 2 – Photograph of Whitmoor Road (near junction with Houlton Court)

## 2. ANALYSIS:

### Road Safety Record

- 2.1 Personal injury collision records have been examined for Whitmoor Road for the 5 year period between 1 December 2012 and 31 November 2017 (latest available data).
- 2.2 Over this period there has been one personal injury collision. This resulted in serious injuries being sustained.
- 2.3 The collision involved a motorcyclist losing control after hitting a drain cover. Excessive or inappropriate speed was not recorded as a contributory factor in the collision.
- 2.4 This represents a good safety record compared to many other roads in the Borough. Whitmoor Road is ranked 69 out 100 sites on the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan based on the number of personal injury collisions per kilometre (with the site ranked 1 having the poorest safety record).

### Vehicle Speeds

- 2.5 Surrey Police carried out a speed survey in Whitmoor Road from 30 January to 8 February 2018. The survey recorded the speed of all vehicles over this period.
- 2.6 A summary of the results of the survey are shown in table 1 below:

Date of survey	Average vehicle speed
30 Jan – 8 Feb 2018	34mph

Table 1 – Speed Survey Data

- 2.7 The average vehicle speed recorded is higher than would be desired in a 30mph road and indicates a problem with some travelling in excess of the speed limit.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 Alternative options that could be considered for reducing vehicles speeds are assessed below:

#### **Mobile Speed Enforcement**

- 3.2 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police have a partnership called Drive SMART which aims to tackle concerns over speeding and anti-social driving. As part of this initiative local speed management plans have been developed for each District and Borough to identify the sites with speeding problems. When residents raise concerns about vehicle speeds at a particular location a speed survey is undertaken to determine the level of speeding taking place. Depending on the results of the survey, the road will then be added to the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan and considered for speed enforcement.
- 3.3 In response to concerns previously raised about vehicle speeds, Whitmoor Road is included on the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan. However, it is not a site currently being prioritised for Police enforcement.
- 3.4 However, specialist road safety officers from Surrey County Council and Surrey Police meet approximately every 6 months to reassess the priority of sites on the speed management plan. The latest speed survey data and collisions rates for Whitmoor Road will therefore be assessed (relative to other sites) at the next review (expected to be September 2018) to determine whether the location should be reprioritised and targeted for speed enforcement.

#### **Permanent Speed Enforcement Camera**

- 3.5 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police follow the national guidance from the Department for Transport on the use of safety cameras. This guidance includes criteria for the deployment of speed enforcement cameras which ensure that cameras are prioritised at sites where there has been a serious history of collisions and where speeds have been measured and confirmed as excessive.
- 3.6 Fortunately, due to its good safety record, Whitmoor Road does not meet these criteria and therefore we would not consider installing a permanent speed enforcement camera.

#### **20mph Speed Limit**

- 3.7 In accordance with the county council's speed limit policy, if a 20mph speed limit is to be introduced on a road where the average speed exceeds 24mph (as is the case for Whitmoor Road) then it is necessary to introduce traffic calming measures to reduce speeds down to this level (see further comments below about traffic calming measures).

### **Traffic Calming Measures**

- 3.8 The cost of the introducing traffic calming measures such as chicanes or speed cushions/tables over the length of Whitmoor Road would significantly exceed the total annual capital budget currently received by the Local Committee. Furthermore, such measures would only generally be used at sites which have a poor safety record. It would therefore be difficult to justify their introduction in Whitmoor Road when numerous other sites on the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan have a much poorer safety record.

### **Alternative Speed Reducing Engineering Measures**

- 3.9 Further to the above comments about traffic calming measures, there are alternative engineer measures that could be considered to help reduce vehicles speeds (such as vehicle activated signs, road markings, islands etc).
- 3.10 There is an existing proposal on the Surrey Heath scheme list to identify and implement appropriate speed reducing measures in Whitmoor Road.
- 3.11 The list is assessed each year and schemes are ranked against a number of criteria (including road safety) to help the Local Committee decide which schemes it wishes to prioritise for inclusion in its programme of works.
- 3.12 When the list of schemes was last assessed the proposal for Whitmoor Road was ranked 25 and the Local Committee decided to prioritise alternative schemes for inclusion in its programme. However, the proposal remains on the scheme list and will be reassessed (together with the other schemes on the list and any new ones introduced) when the Local Committee considers which schemes to include in its 2019/20 programme of works.

### **Community Speed Watch**

- 3.13 Community Speed Watch is an initiative that enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally. The leaflet attached at Annex 2 provides more details about the initiative.
- 3.14 A Community Speed Watch group did previously operate in Whitmoor Road but is no longer active. If residents concerned about vehicle speeds wish to form a new group then Surrey Police would provide all required training as well as ongoing support.
- 3.15 Community Speed Watch may have a greater impact in educating drivers and encouraging improved compliance with the speed limit in these particular circumstances since most drivers using Whitmoor Road will be residents from the estate or people who live locally.

## **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 Surrey Police have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications for Local Committee budgets resulting from the recommendations of this report.

**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 This report responds to a petition from residents about an issue of local concern.

**8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

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

**9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 9.1 Whitmoor Road has a good safety record compared to many other roads in Surrey Heath and therefore it would be difficult to justify introducing the type of costly traffic calming measures requested in the petition. Its good safety record also means it does not meet the criteria for a permanent speed enforcement camera to be introduced.
- 9.2 There is an existing proposal on the Surrey Heath scheme list to identify and introduce alternative appropriate speed reducing measures in Whitmoor Road. This proposal is ranked 25 on the scheme list and has not been prioritised for inclusion in the Local Committee’s current works programme. However, it is recommended that the scheme is retained on the list and is assessed and considered for inclusion in future programmes.
- 9.3 Whitmoor Road is included on the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan but is not currently being targeted for speed enforcement. The latest speed data indicates there is a problem with some drivers exceeding the speed limit. The site will therefore be reassessed for possible speed enforcement when the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan is next reviewed (expected to be September 2018).

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 The latest speed survey data and collision rates for Whitmoor Road will be assessed relative to other sites to determine whether the site should be targeted for speed enforcement when the Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan is next reviewed.
- 10.2 The existing proposal to introduce speed reducing measures in Whitmoor Road will continue to be assessed and considered for inclusion in future Local Committee programmes.
- 10.3 Surrey Police will provide training and support if residents wish to proceed with forming a Community Speed Watch Group.

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**Contact Officer:**

Jason Gosden – 0300 200 1003

**Consulted:** Surrey Police

**Annexes:**

Annex 1 – Petition Text

Annex 2 – Community Speed Watch Leaflet

None

**Sources/background papers:**

None

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