

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 21 SEPTEMBER 2018

LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER

SUBJECT: A25 GODSTONE ROAD, BLETCHINGLEY
SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

DIVISION: GODSTONE

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley was reduced from 50mph to 30mph in 2012 and engineering measures were installed to support the reduced speed limit. A speed limit assessment was carried out to investigate the effectiveness of the speed limit change, 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, be increased to 40mph. This report seeks approval for the changes to the speed limit in accordance with Surrey's policy.

The report has been deferred from the meeting on 9 December 2016 pending completion of the residential development in Knights Way. It was deferred for a second time at the meeting 22 June 2018, pending gathering of additional information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:**

- (i) Note the results of the speed limit assessment undertaken;
 - a. 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";
 - b. Or refer the decision whether to increase the speed limit in the section of the A25 Godstone Road detailed above to the Cabinet Member responsible for road safety.

- (ii) 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;
- (iii) Authorise delegation of authority to the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, who is also the local divisional Member and the Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee to resolve any objections received in connection with the proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To enable a change in the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road and un-named service roads, in accordance with Surrey's policy "Setting Local Speed Limits". The previous speed limit reduction from 50mph to 30mph with supporting engineering measures has been shown to be ineffective. 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. The speed limit policy in force in 2011 did not support a speed limit reduction to 30mph by signs alone. However supporting engineering measures of road markings and coloured surfacing to support the new speed limit were implemented as part of the scheme.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 A speed survey to assess the effectiveness of the speed limit reduction, implemented in 2012 was carried out in July 2016 the A25 Godstone Road. The existing speed limits are shown in **Annex 1**.
- 1.4 The policy also states that the length of road over which a speed limit change is being considered should be at least 600m. This is to ensure against too

many speed limit changes that could be confusing to the motorist within a short stretch of road. However in some cases a slightly shorter length may be suitable where the existing highway or roadside feature provides a natural threshold which may complement a change in speed limit.

- 1.5 Dragons teeth road markings and red surfacing with a 30mph roundel were implemented when the speed limit order was made in December 2012.
- 1.6 A report recommending a reduction in the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley was considered by Tandridge Local Committee at their meeting on 23 September 2016. At that meeting Officers were asked to carry out consultation with affected residents. The results of this consultation are outlined in section 4 of this report.

2. ANALYSIS:

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

2.2 A Speed Detection Radar (SDR) survey to measure vehicle speeds was carried out by the Police between 31 January 2018 and 7 February 2018. The location of this survey is shown in **Annex 1**.

2.3 The results of both surveys show that the dragons teeth road markings, coloured surfacing and 30mph roundel that were implemented in 2012 have not resulted in changing driver behaviour and reducing vehicles speeds as much as had been hoped. It is acknowledged that mean speeds have reduced from the 44.1mph mean speed measured in 2011. However they have not reduced to a level that is required for a 30mph speed limit.

Existing mean speeds have been compared with the new speed limit. 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.

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

Table 1: Comparison of Measured Speeds with Speed Limit

Survey Dates A25 Godstone Road	Existing speed limit	Measured mean speeds		Proposed speed limit	Complies with policy
		Northeast bound	Southwest bound		
July 2016	30mph	42mph	39mph	40mph	Yes
January/February 2018	30mph	41mph	37mph	40mph	

ITEM 8

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 The length of the proposed 40mph speed limit is approximately 400m. It is acknowledged that this is a shorter length than 600m as stated in the policy "Setting Local Speed Limits". However the northern boundary of Sunnybank Villas provides a natural threshold that complements the change in speed limit.
- 2.8 Recorded personal injury collisions on the roads under consideration have been investigated. During the 3 year period between March 2015 and February 2018, the latest period for which data is available, there have been no reported personal injury collisions.

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

Members refer the decision as to whether to increase the speed limit of the following roads from 30mph to 40mph to comply with Surrey's speed limit policy to the Cabinet Member responsible for road safety:

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

4. CONSULTATIONS:

Residents

4.1 In October 2016 a total of 54 letters and questionnaires were delivered to residents of the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley between Candlestick Cottage and Waterhouse Villa.

4.2 Copies of the consultation letter and questionnaire are attached as **Annex 3** 39 responses have been received giving a response rate of 72%.

4.3 The results of the questionnaire are summarised as follows:

- **13% AGREED** with the proposal to change the speed limit from 30mph to 40mph (5 responses)
- **87% DISAGREED** with the proposal to change the speed limit from 30mph to 40mph (34 responses)

Table 2 below gives a summary breakdown of the comments made on the questionnaires returned

Table 2: Residents comments on consultation

Comments	Number of respondents
Difficulty crossing to bus stops	7
Lack of enforcement of speed limit	7
Concern about increased speeds should proposal go ahead	11
Requests for traffic calming	3
Concern about noise	3
Difficulty entering/exiting service roads or drives	9
Defer decision on speed limit until after development at Knights Garden Centre site complete	3
Reduce speed on 50mph section of A25 between Bletchingley & Godstone to 40mph	3
Concern about HGVs	3

It should be noted that some residents made several comments on their questionnaires and some residents made no comments.

Tandridge District Councillors

4.4 A copy of the letter and questionnaire was forwarded to the three Tandridge District Councillors for the Bletchingley and Nutfield Ward. All three Councillors had similar comments which are summarised below:

- Speed limit was decreased to address a genuine issue affecting the residents of that part of Bletchingley
- Concerns about increased traffic speeds if the speed limit is increased to 40mph
- Reduce speed limit on 50mph section of A25 between Bletchingley & Godstone to 40mph
- Defer decision on speed limit until after development at Knights Garden Centre site complete
- Concerns about lack of enforcement of current speed limit

Parish Councils

4.5 Bletchingley Parish Council was consulted, and Godstone Parish Council contacted Officers, both Parish Councils had similar comments which are summarised below:

- Consider additional traffic calming measures
- Carry out a speed survey of 50mph section of A25 between Godstone & Bletchingley
- Defer a decision until both development at Knights Garden Centre site, and additional car parking site in Godstone have been completed

Police

4.6 Consultation has been carried out with Surrey Police, who fully support the proposed speed limit increase 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 £12,000. 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 to be prioritised for funding in 2019/20.

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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	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 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, and following consultation with residents, Tandridge District Councillors, Bletchingley Parish Council and Surrey Police.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Subject to approval and funding being allocated from the 2019/20 ITS budget, the proposal to make a Speed Limit Order is advertised in the local press during 2019/20. Following the making of the Order, the contractor is instructed to install the necessary signing.

10.2 In line with Surrey's Policy "Setting Local Speed Limits", Officers will monitor this change in speed limit. Should the increased speed limit prove not effective, it may be necessary to bring a further report to the Local Committee, and the speed limit may need to be changed.

Contact Officer:

Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer, 03456 009 009

ITEM 8

Consulted:

Residents
Tandridge District Councillors
Bletchingley Parish Council
Surrey Police

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Plan showing Speed Limit Proposals
Annex 2 – Plan showing Proposed New Speed Limits
Annex 3 – Consultation Letter and Questionnaire

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