

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



SURREY

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2018
SUBJECT: REDUCING TRAFFIC SPEEDS ON SERVICE ROAD OFF
 LONDON ROAD NORTH, MERSTHAM
DIVISION: MERSTHAM AND BANSTEAD SOUTH

PETITION DETAILS:

Residents Action Group for the Environment (RAGE)
 Representing local environmental concerns of residents of
 London Road North and Glebe Road, Merstham, Surrey

**PETITION TO REDUCE TRAFFIC SPEED ON
 SERVICE ROAD OFF LONDON ROAD NORTH, MERSTHAM**
 July 2018

Our service road (running parallel with the A23/M23 northbound merge on London Road North) provides main road access for five properties in Glebe Road and six houses along the service road itself.

This is currently unrestricted from the adjoining 50mph London Road North carriageway and is used extensively by rat runners jumping the daily traffic queues at the M23 exit.

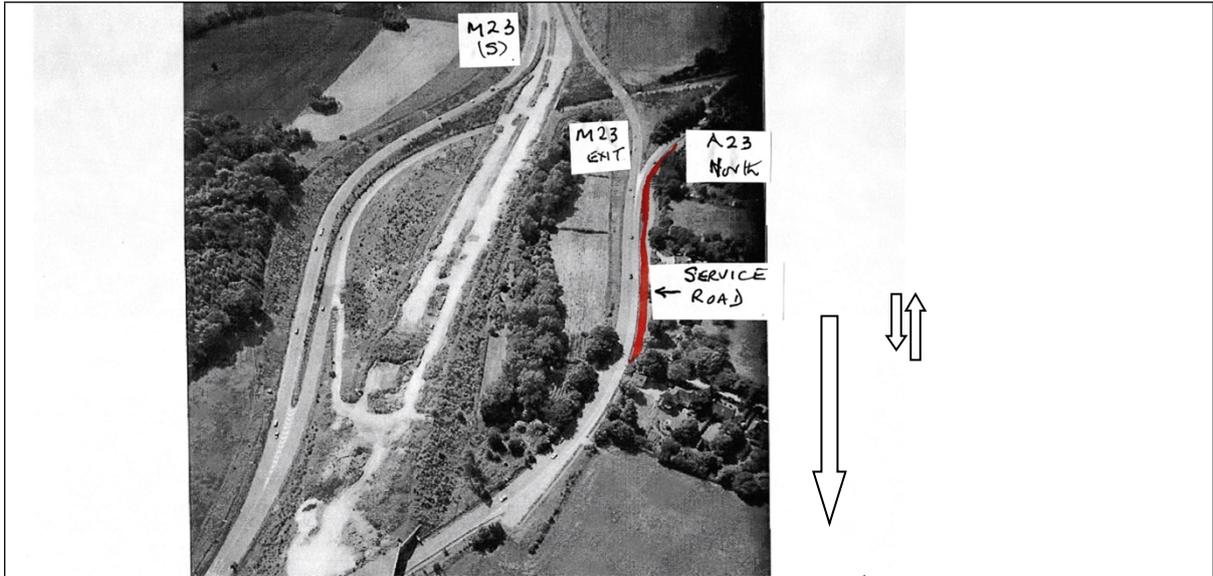
Thankfully accidents have been few but near misses are frequent due to rat runners assuming the service road is one way northbound. Also, part of the service road is on a blind bend.

Local residents are seeking by way of this Petition to have the speed limit in the service road reduced from 50 mph to 30 mph and appropriate traffic calming measures introduced – maybe speed humps, camera signs and two-way arrows painted at intervals in the road

(Petition has 20 signatories).

The petitioner has provided some supplementary photos that illustrate the issues – see overleaf.

ITEM 5



Location of 2-way service road (in red) at the unfinished M23/A23 junction south of Hooley



Entrance to 2-way 50 mph service road from one-way A23 north (also 50 mph)



The service road is used to jump the M23 exit queue



The 2-way warning sign to motorists entering the service road

RESPONSE:

The service road on London Road North is a public road that provides access to six properties on London Road North and five properties on Glebe Road which is a private road. The service road is two-way enabling residents/visitors to these properties to travel south along the A23 in order to access Merstham. There is also an access at the northern end of the service road which provides access to the A23 for drivers that want to travel north on the A23 towards Hooley. A footway runs along the length of the service road on the western side with a grass verge running along the eastern side, separating the service road from the A23. The A23 that runs alongside the service road is part of Highways England's trunk road network.

A review has been carried out of personal injury collisions that have occurred on the London Road North service road between July 2015 and the end of June 2018 (the most recent data available). During this period there were no personal injury collisions on this service road.

Surrey County Council does not hold any speed data for the London Road North service road. In December 2017 Reigate and Banstead Local Committee agreed to allocate some of their 2018/19 revenue budget to fund speed surveys, which are carried out using automatic traffic count equipment over a continuous 7 day period to comply with Surrey's Speed Limit Policy. London Road North service road will be added to the list of roads to be assessed in Reigate and Banstead. Once the location for the survey site has been identified and agreed with Surrey Police, the survey will be ordered. It should be noted that speed surveys should not be carried out if the results would be affected by other factors e.g. adverse weather conditions, or school holiday periods as this can lead to unrepresentative traffic speeds being recorded.

The results of the speed surveys will be reported to the Local Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and divisional Member. If measured mean speeds comply with Surrey's Policy "Setting Local Speed Limits" for a speed limit reduction to 30mph on London Road North service road, then a decision can be taken as to whether this speed limit reduction is added to the Integrated Transport Scheme list of schemes for consideration for future Local Committee funding.

The petitioners have requested traffic calming in the service road. Surrey County receive many more requests for traffic calming than there is the funding available to provide such measures. It should also be noted that there is no available funding identified for traffic calming measures to be installed at this time. The cost of construction of traffic calming would be considerably more than the total annual budget for such schemes in the Reigate and Banstead area.

Surrey County Council does not install camera signs in locations where there is no safety camera present. Surrey County Council's policy for safety cameras is that they are reserved for the very worst collision hotspots where there has been a history of personal injury collisions involving vehicles exceeding the speed limit. As set out above the most recent data shows that there has been no personal injury collisions on London Road North service road between July 2015 and the end of June 2018 (the most recent data available). Therefore there are no plans to install a safety camera on the London Road North service road.

In regard to the residents request for two-way arrows to be installed on the road surface, it is normal practice to install arrows on roads where there is a road centre line. Under existing government guidance road centre lines can only be installed on roads over 5.5m wide, the London Road North service road is under 5.5m wide in places and we are therefore unable to install two-way arrows as suggested.

There are give-way lines incorporating a centre line at the southern entrance to the service road on London Road North, and a two-way traffic sign at this entrance which inform drivers that this is a two-way road. It is appreciated that the existing two-way traffic sign is difficult to see and is hidden by vegetation. It is therefore proposed to investigate the feasibility of moving the sign to a more prominent location. If this is not possible then the vegetation around the existing sign will be cut back and the existing sign changed to a yellow backed sign.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) The Local Committee is asked to agree that a speed survey in London Road North service road is carried out to assess whether or not vehicle speeds comply with Surrey County Council's speed limit policy for a reduction to 30mph.
- (ii) The Local Committee is asked to agree that the feasibility of relocating the existing two way traffic sign is investigated and that if this is not possible improvements are made to the existing sign.

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