

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL**



SURREY

JOINT COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

DATE: 10 December 2018
SUBJECT: PETITION – Gresham Road

DIVISION: Staines

PETITION DETAILS:

Implement measures to reduce and calm traffic on Gresham Road and surrounding roads

The Spelthorne Joint Committee received a petition from Mr Richard Buckland which contained 211 signatures and was concerned about the excessive level of traffic going through Gresham Road and associated roads in the area.

Excessive and increasing traffic is causing:-

- 1) Long queues of traffic forming at both ends of Gresham and associated roads.
- 2) Increased pollution.
- 3) Increased traffic noise.
- 4) Increase of potential for accidents
- 5) Anti-social driving/behaviour e.g. loud music, blocking carriageway, arguments.
- 6) Illegal activities e.g. speeding, driving along pavement to bypass blockages. We are particularly concerned about the risk to the many children that attend the local schools in the area of Gresham Road.

Our suggestions are as follows:-

- 1) Move any corporate pick-up and drop-off shuttles to the car park at the Station entrance on Kingston Road. This is off the main road and is designed for buses picking up and dropping off.
- 2) Traffic signs enforcing the speed limit.
- 3) Speed bumps to be reassessed for height, condition, position.
- 4) Traffic lights at Kingston and/or Laleham Road
- 5) Bollards on the pavements.
- 6) Police presence during rush hours to prevent illegal and anti-social activities.

OFFICER COMMENT:

Gresham Road provides a link between Kingston Road (C248) and Laleham Road (B376). It is subject to a 30mph speed limit and has existing traffic calming in the form of speed cushions.

Situated at the north end of Gresham Road is Staines Preparatory School, towards the middle is a pedestrian access to Staines Station and a car park. Near

www.surreycc.gov.uk/spelthorne

this access is located a taxi rank and off-carriageway private shuttle pick up point for employees. South of the station there is an industrial estate in Drake Avenue.

Surrey Highways, in partnership with Surrey Police, identifies locations with a poor safety record by analysing collision data and trends. Locations of community concern are also considered, when residents, elected members or community surveys have highlighted locations where it is thought that there may be a traffic problem. Assessment potentially leads to the development of measures such as physical changes, enforcement, or educational campaigns. Residents may raise concerns relating to driver behaviour or anti-social activity to Surrey Police as the sole enforcement authority.

The council does currently receive a small amount of funding to be used specifically to reduce road casualties. These resources are focussed on sites where there are patterns of casualties that could potentially be addressed through engineering interventions. We are obliged to prioritise those sites with the greatest frequency of casualties, ahead of those sites with a lesser frequency of casualties.

Surrey Police records details on road collisions where personal injury has resulted. The junction of Gresham Road and Kingston Road was the subject of a road safety scheme in 2016. This followed identification of a history of collisions causing injury at the junction, mainly involving vehicles turning out of Gresham Road colliding with vehicles travelling on Kingston Road. A scheme was promoted to alter the junction, to improve visibility for drivers in Gresham Road and Kingston Road.

Staines Preparatory School has also been the subject of a Road Safety Outside Schools Audit. This was in response to the junction changes nearby and also a recent RTA where a vehicle hit the school wall. Speed was not recorded as a contributing factor. A recommendation from the audit was the installation of an additional pair of speed cushions. It was also observed that some of the existing speed cushions appeared to have been worn down and might not act as a deterrent, particularly with larger cars. To date there has been no funding available to progress these recommendations.

Available collision data for the most recent three year period has been reviewed for the section of Gresham Road in question. There have been no collisions resulting in personal injury where speed was recorded as a contributory factor. This indicates that the traffic calming has been successful in terms of road safety.

As such, there is currently no provision within the road safety programme for measures on Gresham Road, when compared with other locations.

As well as schemes to specifically address problems evidenced by a history of injuries, Surrey County Council does introduce other local highways improvement schemes. For example, these may be to improve traffic flow, relieve congestion, provide facilities such as pedestrian crossings, or to address locations where residents have highlighted areas of concern. Schemes may also aim to improve the quality of life and general environment for residents, as well as address safety concerns. These are the types of schemes promoted via Spelthorne Joint Committee.

Should committee be minded to prioritise Gresham Road for further measures, the first step would be to undertake a feasibility study to establish the existing conditions and behaviours to enable the development of suitable measures. These may include physical measures such as traffic calming, building out of kerbs, or change of priority. Assessment would consider the likely impacts on local residents as well as on the road network.

Any vertical traffic calming or changes to permitted vehicle movements require statutory consultation and it should be noted that features such as humps, cushions or tables are not always universally popular, with particular concerns being related to noise and vibration. There is also the issue of potential re-routing of traffic to less appropriate roads. It is also worth noting that any measures to alter road layouts are likely to be prohibitively expensive based on likely committee budgets, although external funding may be an option.

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Committee is asked to decide:

(a) to allocate funding for a feasibility study, (b) to place this suggestion on the prioritisation list for future consideration, or (c) to do nothing at this stage.

Contact Officer:

Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager (NE)

Tel: 0300 200 1003

This page is intentionally left blank