

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS****DATE: 3 SEPTEMBER 2019**

LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, SOUTH EAST AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER, COMMUNITY PROTECTION, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: A25 GODSTONE ROAD, BLETCHINGLEY – SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

COMMUNITY VISION OUTCOME: Place**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

In November 2012 a speed limit order was made to decrease the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road, Chevington Villas and Sunnybank Villas in Bletchingley from 50mph to 30mph.

Speed surveys carried out in 2016 and 2018 show that existing mean speeds along this section of the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley do not comply with Surrey County Council's policy for a 30mph speed limit.

A Local Committee report was presented to the Tandridge Local Committee on 1 March 2019. This report concluded that there are no further supporting engineering measures that could be installed on this major strategic route that would result in mean speeds reducing to meet Surrey County Council's policy for a 30mph speed limit.

Therefore the report recommended that the existing 30mph speed limit in a section of the A25 Godstone Road where the mean speeds do not comply with the Surrey County Council Cabinet-approved speed limit policy be increased to 40mph. It also recommended that a section of the A25 Bletchingley Road, Godstone be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.

The Local Committee disagreed with the officer recommendations and local residents have also expressed their opposition to the proposals. Therefore the Committee agreed an alternative proposal be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Highways for consideration.

In line with the requirements of the 'Setting Local Speed Limits' policy agreed by Cabinet, the Cabinet Member is asked to determine whether to endorse the decision of the Local Committee on 1 March 2019 or proceed with progressing the changes to the speed limits proposed by Highways.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Cabinet Member is being asked to decide on the officer recommendations (i)–(iii) put forward to the Tandridge Local Committee on 1 March 2019, and recommendation (iv).

The wording for recommendation (iv) is slightly amended from the original wording considered by the Tandridge Local Committee on the 1 March 2019, in order to refer correctly to the chairmanship arrangements of the Local Committee for the current municipal year and in order to reflect that this decision is now being taken by the Cabinet Member for Highways.

- (i) Note the results of the speed limit assessments carried out on the A25 between Godstone and the Tandridge boundary.
- (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, Tall Trees 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'.

And;

Decrease the speed limit on the following roads from 50mph to 40mph to comply with all expert advice, in accordance with Surrey County Council's 'Setting Local Speed Limits' policy:

A25, Bletchingley Road, Godstone between the existing 30mph speed limit terminal signs at Godstone in line with property boundary between Priority Gates and 14 The Priory and a point 100m south-west of the junction with North Park Lane.

The un-named service road fronting the properties Tulip House and no. 1 Ivy House Cottages

- (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 Tandridge Local Committee Chairman, and the local divisional Member who is also the Vice-Chairman of the Tandridge Local Committee and the Cabinet Member for Highways to resolve any objections received in connection with the proposal.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The current speed limit of 30mph on this section of the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley (reduced from the original speed limit of 50mph) does not comply with Surrey County Council's Policy 'Setting Local Speed Limits'.

In the process of assessing the existing speeds on the A25 between the villages of Bletchingley and Godstone, it was found that another section complied with Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy for a reduction from 50mph to 40mph. It is therefore recommended that this be included in the required traffic regulation order.

It is acknowledged that the Local Committee disagree with the recommendations presented to them on 1 March 2019 and wish to proceed with an alternative option. These issues have therefore been submitted for decision by the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways.

DETAILS:

Background

1. In November 2012 a speed limit order was made to decrease the 50mph speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road as well as Chevington Villas and Sunnybank Villas in Bletchingley from 50mph to 30mph.
2. In July 2014, Surrey County Council's policy for determining speed limits was updated. Speed surveys were carried out in July 2016 and January/February 2018, by Surrey County Council and Surrey Police to assess the effectiveness of the speed limit reduction. The table below sets out the results of these speed surveys.

Table 1 – Results of speed surveys within existing 30mph speed limit

	Mean Speeds	
	Northeast bound	Southwest bound
Automatic speed survey (July 2016) carried out by Surrey County Council	41.8mph	39.2mph
Speed Detection Radar (January/February 2018) carried out by Surrey Police	41mph	37mph

3. The above results show that existing mean speeds along this section of the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley do not comply with Surrey County Council's policy for a 30mph speed limit. There are no suitable engineering measures that can be installed on this major strategic economic route to encourage greater compliance with the existing 30mph speed limit or result in reducing mean speeds by 6.8mph (i.e. 35mph) to at least meet Surrey County Council's speed limit policy for a signed only 30mph speed limit.

Local Committee decision

4. A Local Committee report was therefore presented to the Tandridge Local Committee on 21 September 2018, recommending that the speed limit be increased from 30mph to 40mph in accordance with Surrey County Council's Policy 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. There was strong local opposition to this proposal and a request for a further report to review the existing speed limits on the A25 between the Reigate and Banstead borough and Godstone.
5. This report was presented to the Tandridge Local Committee on 1 March 2019 and can be found on Surrey County Council's website at the following location:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/g5807/Public%20reports%20pack%20Friday%2001-Mar-2019%2010.15%20Tandridge%20Local%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

6. **ANNEX 1** shows the review of the existing speed limits on the A25 between the Reigate and Banstead borough border and Godstone. It also shows the results of speed surveys carried out along this section of the A25 and the recommended speed limits to meet existing Surrey County Council Speed Limit Policy.
7. As a result of the surveys, this report recommended that the existing 30mph on the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley shown in section 1 in **ANNEX 2** be increased to 40mph and section 3 in **ANNEX 2** be decreased from 50mph to 40mph.
8. The Local Committee rejected these recommendations and is seeking approval from the Cabinet Member for Highways for the following alternative options:

AGREED the whole report be rejected and the matter be reconsidered when officers are able to return with a positive new report that recommends (a) a Vehicle Activated Sign and a pedestrian refuge to support the speed limits of 30mph outside Chevington and Sunnybank Villas, (b) extending the 30mph speed limit in Godstone westwards to North Park Lane supported by the introduction of a Vehicle Activated Sign, a pedestrian refuge, better lighting, better signage and better road markings, and (c) a reduction in the speed limit in the middle section to 40 supported by additional Vehicle Activated Signs.

If resources are an issue, this can be mentioned in the new report and discussions can be had then as to how to address the shortfall.

Once these additional highway measures have been introduced their effects can be analysed after a period of time. If their effect is proved not to have been enough to reduce the speed adequately on that mad mile, average speed cameras could then be looked at to support a single average speed limit of 30mph from Godstone to the western boundary of Tandridge.

Tandridge Local Committee are prepared to discuss with the Cabinet Member for Highways at a future formal committee meeting.

9. Alternative engineering measures to support the speed limits recommended by the Local Committee were assessed within the 1 March 2019 report submitted to the Local Committee. This report concluded that there are no further supporting engineering measures that could be installed on this major

strategic route that would result in mean speeds reducing to meet Surrey County Council's policy for a 30mph speed limit. It should be noted that the implementation of average speed cameras can only proceed with the agreement of Surrey Police. The police do not support a 30 mph speed limit on this stretch of road and as such would not agree to the implementation of average speed cameras on this stretch.

10. It is acknowledged that since the March 2019 Local Committee, the Parish Council have permission for a new entrance on the A25 for access to the cemetery. Surrey County Council as a statutory consultee were consulted on this proposed new entrance. Surrey Highways assessed the application on safety, capacity and policy grounds and determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a material impact on highway safety issues.

CONSULTATION:

11. Surrey Police were consulted as part of the speed limit assessment process and fully support the officer's proposals. Details of which are in **ANNEX 3**.
12. Consultation has also been carried out with the following as part of the speed limit review. These consultees have objected to the proposals to increase the speed limit to 40mph:
 - Residents fronting the proposals
 - Bletchingley Parish Council
 - Godstone Village Association
 - Divers Cove
 - The Orpheus Centre
 - Tandridge District Councillors
 - County Councillors
13. The results of this consultation, and summary of comments received from district councillors and the Parish Council, are detailed in the report to the Local Committee on 1 March 2019.
14. The Local Committee also received a petition about the speed limits on the A25 between Bletchingley cemetery and Godstone, signed by 513 local residents, that was submitted to the September 2018 Local Committee. The petition and response is attached as **ANNEX 4**.
15. The local committee was invited to respond to a draft of this report at their meeting held on 21 June 2019. Their responses outlining the reasons why they wish to proceed with the alternative course of action, and why they feel there are grounds for an exemption to the agreed policy, is set out in **ANNEX 5**.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

16. Detailed information regarding the recommended speed limit change including personal injury collision data and results of traffic speed surveys can be found in the 1 March 2019 Local Committee Report.

17. Because the existing mean speeds are well above the existing 30mph speed limit, the difference between the 30mph speed limit currently in place and the mean speeds creates an increased risk of a rear end collision or an inappropriate overtaking manoeuvre, due to drivers driving at the 30mph limit.
18. Surrey Police do not support Community Speedwatch to operate on this section of the A25 due to the mass non-compliance with the existing speed limit. However, they would be able to support the proposed 40mph limit by authorising Community Speedwatch to operate in this section.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

19. The cost of the recommended amendment to the speed limit from 30mph to 40mph is budgeted within the Integrated Transport Schemes programme for 2019/20.

The estimated cost is £16,000 (relocating existing signs, new power supply new traffic regulation order).

The cost implications for future maintenance for the recommended option are minimal, because the new signs and road markings would be replacing existing assets and therefore not adding any significant ongoing maintenance pressure.

20. The cost of carrying out the alternative option, as set out under section 8 of this report, brought forward by the Tandridge Local Committee, if feasible, is estimated to be in excess of £250,000 (including design costs, Vehicle Activated Signs, pedestrian refuges, Traffic Regulation Order, relocation of existing signs to new locations, removal of existing signs and road markings, and installation new street lights). There would be a further additional cost estimated in excess of £100,000 should average speed cameras also be installed. Funding for these measures is not currently identified.
21. The cost of ongoing maintenance and lifecycle replacement for the above measures are likely to be over £100,000 for a 30-year maintenance period. This high cost pressure is mostly for the new street lights and the Vehicle Activated Signs.
22. Should the alternative option not be successful at reducing the existing vehicle speeds, the installation of average speed cameras will cost in the region of £100,000.
23. The cost of ongoing maintenance and lifecycle replacement for the above measures are likely to be over £200,000 for a 30-year maintenance period.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY:

24. The costs of implementing the proposed speed limit changes are planned for and can be met from within existing budgets.

25. The alternative traffic scheme, with an estimated total cost in excess of £0.35 million, has not been budgeted for. Without alternative funding identified this would create a pressure against the capital programme requiring additional borrowing. In addition the maintenance costs will increase ongoing revenue pressures.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER:

26. If the request to change the speed limit is approved, changes to speed limits are introduced through the making of a Speed Limit Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The process for making the Order includes advertising/consultation, and a period needs to be allowed for objections and representations to be made. Any objections will be considered in line with the County Council's Constitution. It is possible, if there are unresolved objections, that a public inquiry will need to be held.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY:

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

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

28. The potential implications for the following Council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
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.
Environmental sustainability	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report.

CORPORATE PARENTING/LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IMPLICATIONS:

29. There are no Corporate Parenting or Looked After Children implications resulting from changes to speed limits on the public highway.

SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ADULTS IMPLICATIONS:

30. There are no safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications resulting from changes to speed limits on the public highway.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

31. There are no environmental sustainability implications resulting from changes to speed limits on the public highway.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

32. This section of the A25 is not within an air quality management area, and there are no air quality management areas within the Tandridge District.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

33. If the Cabinet Member for Highways agrees with the officer recommendation of this report, the speed limit of a section of the A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley as shown in section 1 **ANNEX 2** will be increased from 30mph to 40mph. A section of the A25 Bletchingley Road, Godstone as shown in section 3 **ANNEX 2** will also be decreased from 50mph to 40mph.
34. If the Cabinet Member for Highways decides to endorse the alternative option as set out by the Tandridge Local Committee, then proposals within the alternative option will need to be added to the list of schemes awaiting feasibility assessment. Funding will need to be sought or deletion/deferral of planned works carried out in order to fund the works needed for the alternative option.
35. Should the Cabinet Member for Highways decide to keep the existing speed limits as they are now, Surrey Police will not support Community Speedwatch operating within this section of the A25.
36. The Tandridge Local Committee will be informed of the outcome of this report.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

- Residents fronting the proposals
- Bletchingley Parish Council
- Godstone Parish Council
- Godstone Village Association
- Divers Cove
- The Orpheus Centre
- Tandridge District Councillors
- Surrey Police
- Surrey County Councillors

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Review of existing speed limits from boundary with Reigate and Banstead Borough to Godstone

Annex 2 – Proposed new speed limits from Bletchingley to Godstone

Annex 3 – Surrey Police comments

Annex 4 – Petition and response from September 2018

Annex 5 – Local Committee feedback

Sources/background papers:

- Tandridge Local Committee Report, 9 December 2011, “A25 Godstone Road, Speed Limit Assessment”.
 - Tandridge Local Committee Report and petition, 21 September 2018, “A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley, Speed Limit Review”
 - Tandridge Local Committee Report, 1 March 2019, “A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley, Speed Limit Review”
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