

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 21 September 2018
 SUBJECT: A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley
 DIVISION: Godstone

PETITION DETAILS:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Urgently review Godstone Road from Bletchingley cemetery to Knights Way, Godstone to include the following provisions

- The 30mph limit remains where it currently is at the Bletchingley village gateway coming from Godstone;
- The Solar Vehicle Activated Sign opposite the cemetery be relocated to the Bletchingley village gateway (coming from Godstone);
- The Community Speedwatch be allocated a site between the cemetery and Chevington Villas;
- The 30mph limit at the Godstone gateway end be relocated to the staggered junction with Waterhouse Lane and North Park Lane;
- The middle section between Bletchingley and Godstone be reduced from 50mph to 40 mph;
- Additional highway measures be undertaken to support the changes including street lighting, pedestrian refuges, road chevrons, repeater signs and better road marking in particular the entrance to Knights Way.

RESPONSE:

Godstone Road in Bletchingley runs between High Street, Bletchingley at the junction with Outwood Lane and Church Lane and Bletchingley Road in Godstone at the junction with North Park Lane. Bletchingley Road continues east from North Park Lane to joins Needles Bank, which forms part of the Godstone one-way system. These roads are part of the A25, which forms part of Surrey's principal road network.

It should be noted that the report titled "A25 Godstone Road, Bletchingley Speed Limit Review" specifically relates to the section of the A25 south west of the existing 30mph signs in line with the property boundary between 14 Sunnybank Villas and Waterhouse Villa.

Six items of correspondence have been received, including a submission from the local Tandridge District Councillor. All of these are in support of some of the issues raised in this petition.

- **The petitioner requests that the 30mph speed limit remains where it currently is at the Bletchingley village gateway coming from Godstone.** A review of the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley forms the subject of a separate report presented to this Tandridge Local Committee. It is acknowledged that this issue has been subject to previous reports and a petition.
- **The petitioner requests that the solar Vehicle Activated Sign opposite the cemetery be relocated to the Bletchingley village gateway (coming from Godstone).** The solar Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) is located on the pavement of the eastbound carriageway of Godstone Road opposite the bus stop outside the cemetery. This is an appropriate location as it provides a visual reminder to drivers travelling at speeds greater than 30mph to slow down in advance of the Rabies Heath Road junction. The VAS also provides a warning for drivers to slow down in advance of the fixed speed camera located opposite the car park of The Bletchingley Arms. There are already 30mph speed limit signs at the village gateway and the VAS is a reminder for drivers once they have already travelled past the fixed speed signs. For these reasons there are no plans to relocate this VAS to the gateway sign, as is suggested.
- **The petitioner requests that the Community Speedwatch be allocated a site between the cemetery and Chevington Villas.** Community Speedwatch is a nationwide initiative that is managed by the Police. Officers are not able comment on the location of Community Speedwatch sites.
- **The petitioner requests that the 30mph limit at the Godstone gateway end be relocated to the staggered junction with Waterhouse Lane and North Park Lane.** This is a new and additional request to the review of the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley, which is the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Committee. Changing a speed limit requires a Traffic Regulation Order, to enable the Police to enforce any changed speed limit. This is subject to a statutory consultation process.

Surrey County Council has a policy “Setting Local Speed Limits” that sets out how speed limits are set on local roads. It is proposed that, in line with this policy, a speed survey is carried out on the A25 Godstone Road between North Park Lane and the Godstone gateway to measure existing traffic speeds. The results of the survey will establish whether the road complies with Surrey’s policy for a signed only speed limit reduction to 30mph. It should be noted that the limited budget set aside for speed surveys has already been allocated for this financial year 2018/19. It is proposed that this road be added to a list of surveys to be carried in the 2019/20 financial year, subject to funding.

The results of the speed surveys will be reported to the Local Committee Chairman, who is also the divisional member, and the Vice-Chairman. If measured mean speeds comply with Surrey’s Policy “Setting Local Speed Limits” for a speed limit reduction to 30mph on Godstone 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 petitioner requests that the middle section between Bletchingley and Godstone be reduced from 50mph to 40mph.** This is a new and additional request to the review of the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley, which is the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Committee. Officers are aware that residents of both Bletchingley and Godstone had requested that the 50mph section of the A25 between the two villages be reduced to 40mph.

A speed survey was carried out in July 2018 on the 50mph section of Bletchingley Road. The results of the speed survey show average mean vehicle speeds as follows:

North west bound 48.6 mph
South east bound 47.4 mph

The results of this speed survey show good compliance with the existing 50mph speed limit, and would not comply with Surrey County Council's speed limit policy for a signed only speed limit reduction to 40mph.

- **The petitioner requests that additional highway measures be undertaken to support the changes including street lighting, pedestrian refuges, road chevrons, repeater signs and better road markings in particular the entrance to Knights Way.** These are new and additional requests to the review of the speed limit on the A25 Godstone Road in Bletchingley, which is the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Committee. There are no proposals to change the speed limit on the 50mph section of Godstone Road as the measured speeds do not comply with Surrey's Policy for a signed only speed limit reduction to 40mph.

The first step will be to carry out a speed survey in line with our Policy to establish whether the measured mean speeds comply with Surrey's Policy for a signed only speed limit reduction. The proposal for a speed limit reduction on Bletchingley Road, Godstone could be added to the Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) list of schemes for possible future funding if the measured mean speeds comply with Surrey's policy for a signed only speed limit reduction.

If the measured mean speeds do not comply with a signs alone speed limit reduction then consideration could be given, subject to funding, to the provision of additional highway measures. Surveys would be carried out a period of time after the installation of those measures to assess whether the measures were effective in reducing the mean speeds in order to comply with the policy for a reduction in the speed limit.

The Tandridge Forward Programme of schemes for design and construction is made up from schemes on the ITS List and this programme is presented to the Tandridge Local Committee each year for decision. The County Councillors are responsible for deciding which schemes to prioritise and where to allocate resources. County Councillors will take into account representations from the public, the advice from the engineers which includes assessment of collisions, and the availability of funding.

It should be noted that the cost some of the requests eg provision of street lighting is likely to exceed the total annual budget for such schemes in the Tandridge area.

The South East Area Highway Team receives large numbers of requests for road safety measures on the public highway network, and has very limited funding for such measures. Therefore this request would need to be prioritised against other requests for the limited funding available.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Agree that a speed survey in A25 Bletchingley Road, Godstone is carried out to assess whether or not vehicle speeds comply with Surrey County Council's speed limit policy for a signed only speed limit reduction to 30mph.

Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer, South East Area Team, 03456 009 009.