

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)

DATE: **3 OCTOBER 2019**
 SUBJECT: **BENNER LANE – VEHICLE SPEEDS**
 DIVISION: **LIGHTWATER, WEST END AND BISLEY**

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition has been received from residents requesting the introduction of speed tables at the northern end of Benner Lane, West End, adjacent to the tennis courts and village hall.

The online petition contains 186 signatures and includes the following wording:

“There is a current plan to re-surface Benner Lane, due to the crumbling edges and general deterioration of the surface, caused in large part, by the volume of construction traffic passing along the road from the A319 junction to both the Martin Grant and Taylor Wimpey sites.

Benner Lane has an issue with speeding traffic, especially along the stretch from the junction with the A319 (Bagshot Road). Now would be an ideal time to introduce traffic calming measures, such as speed tables. Even if only two speed tables were positioned along the stretch from the junction with the A319 to Streets Heath, it would have a beneficial effect, as vehicles coming off the A319 tend to carry on at the same speed that they were proceeding at on the faster main road.

Speeding on this part of the Lane is particularly worrying as the children’s play area is sited here (next to the tennis courts). Also there is an outside nursery group (Tringham Forest School) which often uses the wooded area on the opposite side of the Lane from the tennis courts. For these reasons it is very important to slow traffic at this location”.

RESPONSE:

Benner Lane is on the list of sites to be considered for future resurfacing works. However, it is not included in this year’s programme or the programme of works that has provisionally been agreed for delivery in 2020/21 since other sites have been assessed as being of greater priority. As such, resurfacing works are unlikely to take place in Benner Lane until at least the 2021/22 financial year. In the meantime, the road will continue to be monitored as part of the highway inspection procedure and repairs will be arranged if any safety defects are identified.

Surrey County Council and Surrey Police have a partnership called Drive SMART which aims to tackle concerns over speeding and anti-social driving. As part of this initiative local speed management plans have been developed for each District and Borough to identify the sites with speeding problems.

In response to concerns previously raised about vehicle speeds, Benner Lane and Fellow Green are included on the Surrey Heath speed management plan. Vehicle speeds have therefore been monitored in Benner Lane, including in the northern section of Benner Lane where speeds have been found to be higher than would ideally be desired in a 30mph road (the latest survey undertaken in March 2018 recorded an average vehicle speed of 34mph near the tennis courts). However, unfortunately, this is the case in many roads around the Borough and there are over 100 sites included on the Surrey Heath speed management plan.

A number of measures have previously been implemented in Benner Lane to encourage improved compliance with the speed limit. These include the introduction of a number of vehicle activated signs. In addition, the county council and Surrey Police have worked in partnership with the school to operate a School Speed Watch and with residents to operate a Community Speed Watch group.

Whilst some residents may support the introduction of traffic calming features such as speed tables or speed cushions, these type of measures are not universally popular and their introduction involves a lengthy process and substantial costs (public consultation, design work and legal procedures all have to be completed before traffic calming can be installed). As a result, only a very small number of new schemes are introduced and these are generally at locations that have a poor safety record.

Benner Lane has a good safety record with no personal injury collisions having occurred in the any part of the road in the last 5 years. Unfortunately, there are many other sites on the Surrey Heath speed management plan which have a much poorer safety record. In this context, it would be difficult to justify the introduction of speed tables in Benner Lane as a priority and we currently have no proposals to install traffic calming measures in the road.

However, Benner Lane will remain on the speed management plan and vehicle speeds and road safety will continue to be monitored.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to note that:

- (i) Benner Lane is included on the Surrey Heath speed management plan and a number of measures have been implemented to help encourage better compliance with the speed limit.
- (ii) Benner Lane has a good safety record and there are currently no proposals to introduce any traffic calming measures.

- (iii) Vehicle speeds and road safety will continue to be monitored in Benner Lane as they are for all sites on the Surrey Heath speed management plan.

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