

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 6 MARCH 2020
 SUBJECT: Road Safety on Godstone Road, Whyteleafe
 DIVISION: Caterham Valley

PETITION DETAILS:

To consider a petition containing 223 signatures – by Mrs Davina Matlock
(The total number of signatures on change.org is 305, however only signatures from Surrey and the local area have been included in the final figure)

With another tragic fatality on Godstone Road it is time to make the government responsibility and action.

There are Lorries, cars, quad bikes and motorbikes speeding down this residential main road with no thought or care for the damage or devastation they are causing. The 30 - 40 speed limit is too high along this road and is not being adhered to and speed cameras are not working and traffic lights break down or lights are jumped. There are not enough traffic lights along the whole of Godstone Road and drivers often jump amber and red lights. There are a number of schools surrounding Whyteleafe and Kenley and Warlingham area there are not safe routes leading to school bus stops or enough crossings to make this dangerous road safe.

We want to see a reduction of speed limit on this road, plus Hillbury Road, more crossings at regular intervals, more aggressive speed monitoring, more speed cameras and an update of existing crossing at Whyteleafe which has been reported on more than one occasion as being out of action.

RESPONSE:

Officers would like to offer their condolences to the family and friends of the pedestrian who sadly died in the collision that took place on the A22 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe close to the junction of Hillside Road on 9 January 2020. Officers are unfortunately not able to comment on the circumstances of this collision as it is the subject of an ongoing police investigation.

The petitioner is asking that the speed limit on the A22 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe and Hillbury Road is reduced. The speed limit on the A22 Godstone Road between Wapses Lodge roundabout and a point just south of the junction with Salmons Lane is 40mph. The speed limit from this point north to the Surrey boundary with Croydon is 30mph.

Surrey County Council has a policy “Setting Local Speed Limits” that sets out how speed limits can be reduced. The policy can be downloaded from the Surrey County Council webpage at the following address:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/outside-schools>

In September 2017 speed surveys were carried out near Well Farm Road and near Court Bushes Road on the 40mph section of the A22. The results of these surveys showed good compliance with the 40mph speed limit, mean speeds were below 40mph in each direction at both locations. The results did not comply with Surrey's Policy to reduce the speed limit to 30mph with a traffic order and signs.

In June 2019 speed surveys were carried out near the fixed speed camera on the 30mph section of road. The mean speeds were 26mph in each direction, showing good compliance with the speed limit. However these speeds do not comply with Surrey's Policy to reduce the speed limit to 20mph with a traffic order and signs.

Supporting engineering measures such as traffic calming would be required to lower these speed limits, to encourage drivers to drive at any new lower speed limit. However there are unfortunately very limited measures that can be installed on this A road which has high traffic flows, and which is regularly used by the emergency services. For these reasons there are no current plans to reduce the speed limit on the A22 Godstone Road in Whyteleafe as is suggested.

There is no recent speed survey data available for Hillbury Road and no funding is currently identified to carry out speed surveys on this road.

The petitioner is requesting that more crossings are provided on the A22. On the section of the A22 Godstone Road between Wapses Lodge roundabout and the roundabout at the junction of Whyteleafe Hill and Hillbury Road there are two formal pedestrian crossings controlled by traffic lights. One of these crossings is located just to the south of the junction with Salmons Lane. The other crossing is located between the Hillbury Road roundabout and St Lukes Road outside the parade of shops on the east side of the A22. There is an informal crossing on the A22 just north of the junction with Station Road. This crossing consists of a central pedestrian refuge island with dropped kerbs and tactile paving on the pavements on either side of the island.

At the March 2018 meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee there was a public question requesting that additional crossing points be provided on the A22 Godstone Road in the vicinity of Hillside Road. Following that question a scheme for feasibility design into the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the A22 Godstone Road between Station Road and Salmons Lane was added to the Integrated Transport Scheme list for consideration for future funding. Officers will continue to seek funding for this scheme.

The petitioner is requesting that more aggressive speed monitoring is carried out on the A22 Godstone Road. The enforcement of the speed limit on the A22 is a matter for the Police.

The petitioner is requesting that more speed cameras are provided on the A22 Godstone Road. There is an existing fixed speed camera on the A22 Godstone

Road adjacent to the petrol station just north of Salmons Lane. The speed survey data collected in June 2019 shows that this camera is operating effectively.

The Council's approach for permanent fixed speed cameras is that they are reserved for the very worst collision hotspots where there has been a history of collisions involving speeding. The reason for this is that new fixed cameras are very costly to install, and then require ongoing maintenance by the council and ongoing processing of offences by the police. Consequently the County Council cannot afford to expend limited resources on cameras for all the roads for which they are requested, and instead we reserve them for the most dangerous roads where they are needed the most.

An investigation has been carried out into the recorded personal injury collisions on the section of A22 Godstone Road between the Hillbury Road/Whyteleafe Hill roundabout and Wapses Lodge roundabout, collisions on the roundabouts have not been included. During the three year period December 2016 to November 2019 (the latest dates for which data is available) there have been 14 reported personal injury collisions. Of these collisions 5 resulted in serious injury and 9 resulted in slight injury. The Police officer attending the scene of the collision did not consider that exceeding the speed limit, or travelling too fast for conditions was a contributory factor in any of the collisions.

Although the County Council strive to reduce collisions on Surrey's roads this road has not been identified for additional engineering measures through Surrey's Road Safety Working Group. This group consists of Road Safety experts, Highway Engineers and the Police, and considers clusters of collisions where engineering measures may be effective at reducing collisions. This section of the A22 has not been considered by the Road Safety Working Group. For the reason given above there are no current plans to install additional fixed speed cameras on the A22 Godstone Road in Whyteleafe as is suggested.

The petitioner has expressed concerns about the signalised pedestrian crossing in Whyteleafe not working. The Traffic Signals Team has provided information about the crossing between Hillbury Road and St Lukes Road. This crossing has a remote monitoring system so that engineers are aware when there is a fault with the crossing equipment. The crossing was not working on five occasions since April 2019. On each occasion contractors attended the same day to restore the traffic lights at the crossing.

Officers acknowledge how distressing it can be for residents to experience collisions in their neighbourhood. To address some of the concerns raised, a scheme for feasibility design into the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the A22 Godstone Road between Station Road and Salmons Lane is on the Integrated Transport Schemes list for consideration for future funding.

Surrey County Council is currently investing significant funds into the maintenance and improvement of the highway over the next five years, and this includes supporting sustainable transport such as walking. There is currently a large number of requests for schemes of this nature, and these need to be prioritised. Whilst officers are unable to provide a date when this feasibility work could be

ITEM 4

carried out, this scheme is identified as a supported project. This petition has helped to demonstrate support for this project.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the Officers response.

Contact Officer: Zena Curry, Traffic Engineer, South East Area Team, 03456 009 009.