

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 17th March 2020
 SUBJECT: Cottimore Lane, Walton
 DIVISION: Walton

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition with 40 signatures has been submitted to Surrey County Council's Local Committee for Elmbridge. The lead petitioner is Geoff Farndon.

The petition states:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Aid the end of excessive vehicle speed in Cottimore Lane, KT12.

Further detail provided with the petition reads as follows:

Cottimore Lane encourages regular excessive speed from drivers. This is because of its long straight stretch from Terrace Road to Carlton Road; the impression of greater width because of the dirt strip between kerb and pavement; and not least, because other roads in the area have already been calmed or are configured differently. A place making process – starting with speed reduction – is much needed to make residents feel safer and less stressed about speeding vehicles.

RESPONSE:

Cottimore Lane and Ambleside Avenue form a through route connecting Terrace Road to Rydens Road. There is also a significant residential hinterland accessible from these two roads. There used to be a grass verge on the north-eastern side of the straight section between Terrace Road and Carlton Road. This grass verge has become the "dirt strip" mentioned by the petition and is now used for unlawful parking.

The latest traffic survey data available for Cottimore Lane was undertaken in September 2019. These results suggest an average speed of 28mph, and an 85th percentile speed of 34mph. A small proportion number of drivers were recorded to be travelling significantly in excess of the speed limit. These results suggest that most drivers respect the 30mph speed limit, and that the drivers breaking the speed limit are doing so knowingly and deliberately.

The highest recorded daily two-way traffic volume was a little over 6,000 vehicles. It is likely that a fair proportion of these vehicles are through traffic, but the traffic survey results do not enable any objective assessment of this.

In the last full three years for which records are available, there has been a single incident resulting in a slight casualty in the long section of Cottimore Lane between Terrace Road and the convenience store at 133 Cottimore Lane, adjacent to the south-eastern junction with Cottimore Crescent. In the same period there have been four incidents resulting in casualties in the short section between the convenience store and the junction with Ambleside Avenue. This cluster of casualties could be reviewed by the Casualty Reduction Working Group. This is a regular partnership meeting of Surrey County

ITEM 5

Council's and Surrey Police's Road Safety Teams. Surrey County Council's Road Safety Team has a modest budget for minor improvements to try to reduce frequencies of casualties.

If Committee were minded to invest in road safety measures in Cottimore Lane, the short section between the convenience store and Ambleside Avenue would be the highest priority from a casualty reduction point of view. The section between Terrace Road and Carlton Road would be a low priority.

The traffic survey results suggest that there is not a significant problem with drivers' speeds compared to other locations in Surrey. Unfortunately, it is commonplace for a minority of drivers to choose excessive speeds in residential locations. Most drivers appear to be respecting the speed limit. This means that Cottimore Lane is a low priority for investment from a speed management point of view.

The petitioners could contact Surrey Police to discuss their concerns about speeding drivers. Surrey Police are the only agency with powers of enforcement to respond to speeding drivers.

As the petition mentions, one factor that would tend to encourage higher speeds is the fact that the section between Terrace Road and Carlton Road is straight and reasonably wide. If all the parked vehicles in this section were fully on the carriageway, a natural traffic calming effect would be provided without any significant investment. This would also enable the grass verge to be restored, improving the local environment, and potentially providing new opportunities for street tree planting. Officers are already in discussion with the Divisional Member about options to improve these previous grass verges.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Approve the restoration and protection of the previous grass verge between Terrace Road and Carlton Road, subject to funding being allocated;*
- (ii) *Refer the short section between the convenience store and Ambleside Avenue to the Casualty Reduction Working Group for review.*

Contact Officer: Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager
