

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



JOINT COMMITTEE (SPELTHONE)

DATE: **23rd March 2020**
SUBJECT: **Benwell Meadow Estate, Sunbury**
DIVISION: **Lower Sunbury and Halliford**

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition with 72 signatures has been submitted to the Spelthorne Joint Committee. The lead petitioner is John Turner.

The petition states:

Request for a 20mph limit on the Benwell Meadows Estate.

The covering e-mail with the petition reads as follows:

Attached are three pages of the signatures I have collected so far on the Benwell Meadow Estate.

There are 72 signatures from 63 houses. Only four said no and one of them said he supported the limit but did not want to sign a petition.

I know of several more people who will sign and I intend to continue collecting signatures as this is a way of letting people on the estate know what is happening, and they will not be able to say they were not consulted.

There are other clearly marked 20mph zones including the new estate built on the London Irish site and hopefully the contained nature of our estate (only two roads in/out) will boost our case.

I will post a letter to all the houses where there was no reply to inform them that I had called on them

There was a lot of discussion about how such a limit can be enforced, and whether or not drivers will ignore it - but, as one person pointed out - if the estate is a clearly marked 20mph zone and there are regular reminders on the road surface, then we will have good cause to report vehicles travelling at disproportionate speeds on the estate.

I was interested to read about Ealing's extension of its 20mph limits, and similarly Elmbridge's intentions to designate 20mph limits.

RESPONSE:

The Benwell Meadows Estate comprises Broomfield, Pine Wood, Furzewood, Brackenwood, and Meadows End. These residential roads in Sunbury form a network between Staines Road East and Downside.

There have been no incidents resulting in a casualty on any of the roads in the Benwell Meadows Estate for the past 20 years for which records are available. By way of comparison, in the latest full three year period for which records are available, there have been 18 incidents resulting in casualties in Green Street – one fatal, ten serious and seven slight. The Police record of incidents involving casualties is available to the public at www.crashmap.co.uk.

Unfortunately there are thousands of casualties on Surrey's roads every year. Surrey County Council prioritises investment in road safety measures at those sites with high frequencies of casualties. The Joint Committee has been developing speed management and casualty reduction schemes in the Lower Sunbury area to address casualty patterns in this area – including the Thames Street 20mph Zone a number of years ago, and the extensions of this Zone into French Street (this Financial Year 2019-20) and into the one-way sections of Green Street and Church Street (recommended for next Financial Year 2020-21).

The Benwell Meadows Estate is not a priority for investment in road safety or speed management measures at the present time, compared to other roads nearby in Sunbury.

The lead petitioner mentions a number of actual or potential 20mph projects. The new estate built on the old London Irish site is private. A number of London Boroughs have in recent years implemented area wide 20mph limits (with just signs). Unfortunately the evidence gathered to assess the effect of these initiatives suggests that 20mph limits (with just signs) have very limited influence on driver behaviour, with reductions in average speeds across the treated areas of less than 1mph. Further in some roads within area wide treatments, traffic speeds were observed to increase. There is no evidence that implementing 20mph limits (with just signs) reduce frequencies of casualties. This evidence was reported to the DfT by Atkins in a report that is available from the DfT website. In Elmbridge, it has been reported by the Surrey Advertiser that the Deputy Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council has an ambition for new 20mph projects across the Borough, but with little detail as to how this might be implemented.

20mph Zones are implemented with traffic calming to bring traffic speeds down. These have been shown to be very effective in reducing traffic speeds and also reducing frequencies of casualties. However the traffic calming needed to achieve traffic speed reduction can be very expensive. For example three additional road tables were needed to implement the Thames Street 20mph Zone – in addition to the existing road tables. These three road tables cost approx. £75,000 in total at the time. To achieve 20mph an affective traffic calming measure would be needed every 60m.

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Agree that the most appropriate response to this petition is to take no action at the present time.*

Contact Officer: Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager

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