

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 17 JUNE 2020
 LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER
 SUBJECT: ABINGER LANE, ABINGER SPEED LIMIT ASSESSMENT
 DIVISION: DORKING HILLS

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A speed limit assessment has been carried out in Abinger Lane and Sutton Lane following the process set out in Surrey's policy Setting Local Speed Limits. As a result of this assessment it is proposed that the existing 60mph speed limit in a section of Abinger Lane, in a short section of Sutton Lane, and also in Evelyn Cottages be reduced to 20mph. It is also proposed that the speed limit in another section of Abinger Lane be reduced to 30mph. This report seeks approval for the changes to the speed limit in accordance with Surrey's policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to:**

- i. Note the results of the speed limit assessment undertaken.
- ii. Agree that, based upon the evidence, **the speed limit be reduced from 60mph to 20mph** in the section of Abinger Lane between Hollow Lane and a point 16m north-west of the north-west boundary of Rew Cottage; in the section of Sutton Lane between the junction with Abinger Lane and a point 67m west of the entrance to Abinger Manor; and in the entire length of Evelyn Cottages; and **the speed limit be reduced from 60mph to 30mph** in the section of Abinger Lane between a point 16m north-west of the north-west boundary of Rew Cottage and Raikes Lane, in accordance with the current policy;
- iii. Authorise the advertisement of a notice in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to implement the proposed speed limit changes, revoke any existing traffic orders necessary to implement the changes, and, subject to no objections being upheld, that the order be made;
- iv. Authorise delegation of authority to the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and the local divisional member to resolve any objections received in connection with the proposal.
- v. Note that if the scheme has not been successful, then further engineering measures or a return to the original higher speed limit may be necessary.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To enable changes to the speed limit on Abinger Lane, Sutton Lane and Evelyn Cottages in accordance with Surrey's speed limit policy.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Following representations from the divisional member for Dorking Hills and Abinger Parish Council it was agreed that Officers would carry out a speed limit assessment on Abinger Lane and Sutton Lane. The existing speed limits are shown in **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 Surrey's policy for determining speed limits was updated in July 2014. The aim of Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy is to set speed limits that are successful in managing vehicle speeds and are appropriate to the main use of the road. Reducing speeds successfully may reduce the likelihood and severity of collisions.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 A seven day automatic survey of vehicle speeds was carried out during September 2019 on Abinger Lane and Sutton Lane. Three speed surveys were carried out and the locations of the surveys are shown in **Annex 1**.
- 2.2 Existing mean speeds have been compared with the new speed limit requested by the local divisional member. The speed limit policy sets thresholds below which speed limits can be changed by signs alone. The following threshold applies to the roads being assessed:

Change to an urban or rural 20mph speed limit without traffic calming –
threshold = 24mph

If the measured existing mean vehicles speeds are above the threshold then a lower speed limit cannot be implemented without consideration of supporting engineering measures.

Table 1 records the results of the speed survey, compares these with the current limit and the new limit requested by the divisional member for Dorking Hills, and states whether they comply with the policy to reduce a speed limit by signs alone.

Table 1: Comparison of Measured Mean Speeds with Speed Limit

	Existing speed limit	Measured mean speeds	Requested speed limit	Complies with policy
Abinger Lane Location 1	60mph	19.4mph	20mph	20mph
Abinger Lane Location 2	60mph	23.3mph	20mph	20mph
Sutton Lane Location 3	60mph	22.8mph	20mph	20mph

- 2.3 Table 2 records the 85th percentile speeds measured by the speed surveys. 85th percentile speed is a speed at which 85% of traffic will be travelling at or below. Therefore 15% of traffic, or one vehicle in six, will be travelling at or above this speed.

Table 2: Comparison of Measured 85th Percentile Speeds with Speed Limit

	Existing speed limit	Measured 85 th Percentile Speeds	Requested speed limit	Proposed speed limit
Abinger Lane Location 1	60mph	24.0mph	20mph	20mph
Abinger Lane Location 2	60mph	28.5mph	20mph	30mph
Sutton Lane Location 3	60mph	28.0mph	20mph	20mph

- 2.4 In Abinger Lane the 85th percentile speeds as measured at location 2 are 28.5mph, and one vehicle in six is travelling at this speed or above. If the speed limit were reduced to 20mph, one vehicle in six would be exceeding the speed limit. It is therefore proposed that the speed limit on the section of Abinger Lane between a point 16m north-west of the north-west property boundary of Rew Cottage and Raikes Lane be reduced to 30mph and not 20mph. It should be noted that there are no residential properties accessed from this section of Abinger Lane.
- 2.5 In Sutton Lane the 85th percentile speeds are 28.0mph, and one vehicle in six is travelling at this speed or above. Consideration was given to reducing the speed limit on the section of Sutton Lane between Abinger Lane and a point

ITEM 7

67m west of the entrance to Abinger Manor to 30mph. This was so the road past the recreation ground and the entrance to the residential properties Abinger Manor and Abinger Manor Cottage were included within the proposed lower speed limit. However Surrey's policy states that "The length of road over which a speed limit change is being considered should be at least 600m. This should ensure against too many speed limit changes that could be confusing to the motorist within a short stretch of road. This section of Sutton Lane, between Abinger Lane and a point 67m west of the entrance to Abinger Manor is 220m, which is significantly shorter than 600m. For this reason it is proposed that the speed limit in this section of Sutton Lane is reduced to 20mph, in order to tie in with the proposed 20mph speed limit in Abinger Lane, as well as provide a 20mph limit past the recreation ground and entrances to Abinger Manor and Abinger Manor Cottage.

- 2.6 It is also proposed that the speed limit on the entire length of Evelyn Cottages is reduced from 60mph to 20mph. Speeds on this road were not measured given the short length of road in question.
- 2.7 A plan detailing the proposed new limits is attached as **Annex 2**.
- 2.8 Recorded personal injury collisions on the roads under consideration have been investigated. During the 3 year period between February 2017 and January 2020 there have been no reported collisions resulting in personal injury.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 OPTION 1

Reduce the speed limit of the following roads from 60mph to 20mph:

Abinger Lane, between the junction with Hollow Lane and a point 16m north-west of the north-western boundary of Rew Cottage.

Sutton Lane, between the junction with Abinger Lane and a point 67m west of the entrance to Abinger Manor.

Evelyn Cottages, entire length.

Reduce the speed limit of the following road from 60mph to 30mph:

Abinger Lane, between a point 16m north-west of the north-western boundary of Rew Cottage and the junction with Raikes Lane.

3.2 OPTION 2

The speed limits remain unchanged.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Consultation has been carried out with Surrey Police, who support the proposed speed limit reductions as set out in Option 1.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The cost of changing any speed limit includes legal advertisement costs associated with the statutory process, together with the costs of design and implementation.
- 5.2 The cost of these works will be in the region of £10,000. If the Committee support Option 1 as set out in paragraph 3.1, the works can be implemented this financial year, funded from the divisional member's allocation for Capital Maintenance.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The Highway Service is mindful of its needs within this area and attempts to treat all users of the public highway with equality and understanding.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 This report addresses the concerns of those residents of Abinger Common, and parents of pupils at Surrey Hills School who have contacted the Highway Service regarding the 60mph speed limit in Abinger Lane.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report/ Set out below.

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

A well-managed highway network can reduce fear of crime and allow the Police greater opportunity to enforce speed controls.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 This report sets out the speed limit assessments conducted in Abinger Lane and Sutton Lane. It is recommended that Option 1 is implemented, in accordance with Surrey's Speed Limit Policy, as set out in paragraph 3.1.
- 9.2 Recommendations have been made based upon existing policy, in consultation with Surrey Police.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Subject to funding being allocated by the divisional member, the proposal to make a Speed Limit Order for the reduction in speed limits is advertised in the local press. Following the making of the Order, the contractor is instructed to install the necessary signing.

Contact Officer:

Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer, 03456 009 009

Consulted:

Surrey Police

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Plan showing Speed Limit Proposals

Annex 2 – Plan showing Proposed New Speed Limits

Sources/background papers:

- Data from speed assessments carried out during September 2019 at Abinger Lane and Sutton Lane
- Surrey Police response to consultation
- Surrey County Council's Policy Setting Local Speed Limits (July 2014)