

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 17 JUNE 2020



LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER

SUBJECT: A24 DEEPDENE AVENUE, DORKING – SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FROM 50MPH TO 40MPH

AREA(S) AFFECTED: DORKING SOUTH & THE HOLMWOODS

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

At the Mole Valley Local Committee held on 22 January 2020, a petition was presented by residents requesting that the speed limit be reduced on the A24. Previous requests have also been received from Mole Valley District Council for the existing 50mph speed limit on the A24 Deepdene Avenue to be reduced, following the opening of the Deepdene Trail. Speed limit assessments have been carried out on the A24 Deepdene Avenue, 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 50mph speed limit, from the existing 40mph just to the south of the junction with Deepdene Drive, to the North Holmwood roundabout junction be reduced to 40mph. This report seeks approval for the change 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 assessments undertaken, shown in **Table 1**.
- ii. Agree that, based upon the evidence, **the speed limit be reduced from 50mph to 40mph** on the A24 Deepdene Avenue, between the existing 40mph speed limit just to the south of the junction with Deepdene Drive and the North Holmwood roundabout junction, as shown in **Annex 2**, 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 change, revoke any existing traffic orders necessary to implement the change, 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 the change in the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph, on the A24 Deepdene Avenue, Dorking in accordance with Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 At the Mole Valley Local Committee meeting held on 22 January 2020, a petition was presented by residents requesting that the speed limit be reduced on the A24. Previous requests have also been received, from officers of Mole Valley District Council, to reduce the existing 50mph speed limit on the A24 Deepdene Avenue from the existing 40mph limit (just to the south of the junction with Deepdene Drive) to the North Holmwood roundabout junction, following the opening of the Deepdene Trail.
- 1.2 Following the submission of the petition, it was agreed by the Mole Valley Local Committee that a scheme to reduce the existing speed limit on the A24 Deepdene Avenue, between the existing 40mph limit to the junction with the North Holmwood roundabout, be added to the Integrated Transport Scheme list for possible future funding and also that other sources of funding be sought.

2. ANALYSIS:

Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy

- 2.1 Surrey County Council has a Speed Limit Policy in place to set speed limits that are successful in managing vehicle speeds and are appropriate for the main use of the road. Under the Speed Limit Policy, the Area Highways Team will lead on assessing a potential change to a speed limit. Following an assessment of the existing mean vehicle speeds, the results of this assessment and recommendations (in accordance with this policy) will be presented to the Local Committee, who will then decide whether or not the speed limit change should go ahead.
- 2.2 Following the request received by Mole Valley District Council officers to reduce the existing 50mph on the section of the A24 Deepdene Avenue, as shown in **Annex 1**, three automatic 24hour a day, 7 days a week speed assessments were carried out in March 2019 at the locations shown in **Annex 1**.
- 2.3 Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy sets thresholds for existing mean vehicle speeds below which a speed limit can be reduced using signs alone, without the need for engineering measures. The existing mean vehicle speed threshold for a reduction in speed limit from the existing 50mph to 40mph is 46mph. The existing mean vehicle speed threshold for a reduction in speed limit from the existing 50mph to 30mph is 35mph. **Table 1** below shows the results of the speed assessments and shows that each of the existing

measured mean average vehicle speeds meets the threshold within SCC's Speed Limit policy for a speed limit reduction to 40mph.

Table 1: Comparison of measured mean speeds with SCC Speed Limit policy for a reduced speed limit

	Existing speed limit	Measured mean speeds (Northbound)	Measured mean speeds (southbound)	Complies with policy
A24 Deepdene Avenue - Location 1	50mph	35.6mph	39.8mph	40mph
A24 Deepdene Avenue - Location 2	50mph	38.3mph	39.1mph	40mph
A24 Deepdene Avenue - Location 3	50mph	39.8mph	41.1mph	40mph

- 2.4 A plan showing the extent of the proposed new 40mph speed limit is shown in **Annex 2**.
- 2.5 Surrey County Council holds personal injury collision data, which is provided by Surrey Police. An assessment has been carried out, of the number of personal injury collisions that have occurred on the A24 Deepdene Avenue between the existing 40mph speed limit and the junction with the North Holmwood roundabout junction. This assessment shows that, along this approximately 2.5km stretch of road there has been, 11 collisions resulting in slight injury, 1 collision resulting in serious injury, and 1 collision involving a fatal injury during the most recent 3 year period for which data is available (from 01/10/2016 to 30/09/2019). Speed has not been listed as a contributory factor in any of these collisions.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 Option 1

Reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph:

On the A24 Deepdene Avenue from the existing 40mph speed limit just to the south of the junction with Deepdene Drive, to the North Holmwood roundabout junction, as shown in **Annex 2**.

Option 2

The speed limit remains unchanged.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Consultation has been carried out with Surrey Police, who have no objection to the proposed 40mph speed limit as set out in Option 1 and **Annex 2**.

5. FINANCIAL 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 £13,000. This includes the cost of removing the existing lit 50mph terminal signs just to the south of the junction with Deepdene Drive, and installation of new lit terminal signs on A24 Deepdene Avenue at the North Holmwood roundabout junction. It also includes the cost to replace the existing 50mph repeater signs with 40mph repeater signs. There is no funding currently available within the Integrated Transport Schemes budget for these works this financial year.
- 5.3 However, Mole Valley District Council's Neighbourhood CIL can be used to fund highway projects that are supported by the local community and which are feasible, but which are not currently a priority for funding from the Local Committee budget. Local members can also provide financial support for such projects, through their allocated capital ITS budget. The Local Divisional Member has allocated £2,600 from his capital ITS budget available, to support a Neighbourhood CIL bid for funding for this project.
- 5.4 If the Committee support Option 1 as set out in paragraph 3.1, the South East Area Team will submit a Neighbourhood CIL bid to Mole Valley District Council for the remaining funding. Should the bid be successful works to reduce the existing speed limit on Deepdene Avenue from 50mph to 40mph as shown in **Annex 2** can be implemented this financial year.

6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications
Equality and Diversity	No significant implications
Localism (including community involvement and impact)	No significant implications
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications
Public Health	No significant implications

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 7.1 This report sets out the results of a speed limit assessment for A24 Deepdene Avenue, Dorking after a request was received from Mole Valley District Council for the speed limit to be reduced following the opening of the Deepdene Trail, and the petition presented to the Mole Valley Local Committee on 22 January 2020.
- 7.2 If the Neighbourhood CIL bid is successful, it is recommended that Option 1 is implemented.

8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 8.1 Should the Local Committee decide to proceed with Option 1, a Neighbourhood CIL bid will be submitted to Mole Valley District Council for the remaining funding for this scheme.
- 8.2 Should the Neighbourhood CIL bid be successful, the proposal to make a Speed Limit Order for the reduction in speed limit will be advertised in the local press. If there are no objections to the Order to reduce the speed limit, the Order will be made and the contractor will be instructed to install the necessary signing.
- 8.3 If the Neighbourhood CIL bid is not successful, the scheme to reduce the speed limit on the A24 Deepdene Avenue, Dorking will remain on the Integrated Transport Scheme list for possible future funding.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Surrey Police

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Speed limit survey site locations and existing speed limits

Annex 2 – Proposed new 40mph speed limit.

Background papers:

- Petition to Mole Valley Local Committee 22 January 2020, “Reduce the speed limit on the A24 South up the hill from the Cockerel roundabout until past the old Kuoni site, from the current 50 mph to a safer slower speed reflecting the residential area”.

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