

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 6 NOVEMBER 2020  
 LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER



SUBJECT: CHURCH LANE, DOCTORS LANE & HILLTOP LANE,  
 CHALDON  
 SPEED LIMIT ASSESSMENT

DIVISION: CATERHAM HILL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A speed limit assessment has been carried out in Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop Lane following the process set out in Surrey's policy Setting Local Speed Limits. As a result of this assessment, Chaldon Village Council are proposing to seek Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to reduce the existing 60mph speed limit in Church Lane, in a section of Doctors Lane, and in a section of Hilltop Lane to 30mph. This report seeks a decision on the changes to the speed limit in accordance with Surrey's policy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:****The Local Committee (Tandridge) 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 30mph** in Church Lane between the junction with Rook Lane and the Surrey/Croydon boundary; in the section of Doctors Lane between the existing 30mph speed limit and the junction with Church Lane and in the section of Hilltop Lane between the junction with Rook Lane and the junction with Pilgrims Lane, in accordance with the current policy, and subject to £20,000 of external funding being available both to fund this speed limit reduction, and to fund a speed limit increase should the reduction in speed limit be unsuccessful;
- (iii) If recommendation (ii) is agreed, to 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) If recommendation (ii) is agreed, to 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 is not successful, then a return to a higher speed limit may be necessary.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To decide whether to change the speed limit on Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop Lane in accordance with Surrey's speed limit policy and subject to external funding being available.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 Following representations from Chaldon Village Council it was agreed that Officers would carry out a speed limit assessment on Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop 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 July 2016 on Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop 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 Chaldon Village Council. 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 a rural village 30mph speed limit without traffic calming – threshold = 35mph
- 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.
- 2.3 Table 1 records the results of the speed surveys, compares these with the current limit and the new limit requested by Chaldon Village Council 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
Church Lane Location 1	60mph	25.2mph	30mph	30mph
Doctors Lane Location 2	60mph	24.8mph	30mph	30mph
Hilltop Lane Location 3	60mph	24.8mph	30mph	30mph

2.4 A plan detailing the proposed new limits is attached as **Annex 2**.

2.5 Recorded personal injury collisions on the roads under consideration have been investigated. During the 3 year period between June 2017 and May 2020 there have been no reported collisions resulting in personal injury.

2.6 As part of Surrey's Policy "Setting Local Speed Limits" speed surveys need to be carried out after a speed limit has been changed to measure the effectiveness of the new speed limit.

2.7 If the speed limit change is not successful in reducing mean speeds to a level below the threshold contained in Table 2 of the policy, in this case 32.8mph, then consideration needs to be given to what to do next. The Policy states that either engineering measures could be introduced to encourage greater compliance of the new speed limit, or the new lower speed limit could be raised to a higher speed limit.

2.8 Typical engineering measures to reduce traffic speeds are traffic calming measures such as road tables, speed cushions and kerb build outs, and Department for Transport regulations require that such measures are lit. There is no street lighting in these roads. Such measures are extremely costly, and are therefore unlikely to be able to be funded from the local committee budget.

2.9 Should the speed limit reduction not be successful, ie measured mean traffic speeds after implementation of the scheme are above 32.8mph, then a report will be brought to a future meeting of the Local Committee to decide whether the speed limit should be increased.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

#### 3.1 OPTION 1

##### **Reduce the speed limit of the following roads from 60mph to 30mph:**

Church Lane, between the junction with Rook Lane and the Surrey/Croydon boundary.

Doctors Lane, between the existing 30mph speed limit and the junction with Church Lane.

Hilltop Lane between the junction with Rook Lane and the junction with Pilgrims Lane

This speed limit reduction is subject to external funding being available both to fund the proposal, and also to fund a future speed limit increase should the reduction in speed limit be unsuccessful.

#### 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 reducing the speed limit will be in the region of £10,000. If the Committee support Option 1 as set out in paragraph 3.1, Chaldon Village Council propose to submit a bid for Community Infrastructure Levy funding to Tandridge District Council in order to fund the scheme.

5.3 Should the speed limit be reduced, and that reduction not be successful at keeping mean average vehicle speeds below 32.8mph, then funding needs to be available to increase the speed limit, should the Local Committee take that decision. This cost would be in the region of £10,000

5.4 It is recommended that the committee only give authority for this scheme if £20,000 of CIL funding is available. £10,000 to reduce the speed limit on Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop Lane and £10,000 to increase the speed limit, should the Local Committee decide to do so, if the speed limit reduction is unsuccessful. If the speed limit reduction is successful, the £10,000 CIL funding to increase the speed limit will be returned to Tandridge District Council.

**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 Chaldon Village Council and those residents of Chaldon, who have concerns regarding the 60mph speed limit in Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop 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 Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop Lane. It is recommended that the Local Committee decide whether to implement Option 1, in accordance with Surrey's Speed Limit Policy, as set out in paragraph 3.1, or leave the speed limits unchanged.

9.2 Recommendations have been made based upon existing policy, in consultation with Surrey Police.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

10.1 Chaldon Village Council will make a bid to Tandridge District Council for Community Infrastructure Levy funding. If that bid is successful, Surrey Officers will make a speed limit order to reduce the speed limits, which will be advertised in the local press, and the contractor will be instructed to install the necessary signing. Staff resources do not permit this work to be carried out before the 2021/22 financial year.

**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 July 2016 at Church Lane, Doctors Lane and Hilltop Lane
  - Surrey Police response to consultation
  - Surrey County Council's Policy Setting Local Speed Limits (July 2014)
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