

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 2nd SEPTEMBER 2013

LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA TEAM MANAGER (NE)

SUBJECT: ASTON ROAD AND THE AVENUE

DIVISION: HINCHLEY WOOD , CLAYGATE AND OXSHOTT

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Aston Road and The Avenue are due to be resurfaced later this Financial Year as part of the Project Horizon programme. At the request of the Divisional Member, local residents have been consulted to ask whether they would like to keep or remove the existing traffic calming (speed cushions).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

- (i) Decide whether to remove or retain the speed cushions in **Aston Road**, Claygate, when this road is resurfaced later this Financial Year;
- (ii) Decide whether to remove or retain the speed cushions in **The Avenue**, Claygate, when this road is resurfaced later this Financial Year.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Officers would not expect the removal of the existing traffic calming to result in an increase in collisions or volume of traffic in these roads. Committee is encouraged to make a decision in the light of the results of the recent consultation.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 A number of roads in Claygate are due to be resurfaced as part of the Project Horizon programme, including The Avenue and Aston Road later this Financial Year. Both these roads are traffic calmed by speed cushions.
- 1.2 The Divisional Member requested local residents to be consulted to ask whether or not they would like to keep the speed cushions in Aston Road and The Avenue or remove them when these roads are resurfaced.
- 1.3 The cushions were originally introduced in the 1990s to mitigate the use of The Avenue, Aston Road and Cavendish Drive as through routes from Hare Lane to Oaken Lane. Residents were consulted at the time and opted in favour of the cushions.
- 1.4 There are no plans relating to the speed cushions in Cavendish Drive. There is no opportunity to change the speed cushions as part of the resurfacing

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scheme – only to keep all of them or to remove all of them. If Committee wished to modify the traffic calming in any way, it would need to provide funding to commission feasibility, detailed design and further consultation on a proposed new scheme of traffic calming.

1.5 Accordingly local residents have been consulted, together with Claygate Parish Council and Surrey Police.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 On 2nd August 2013 letters were hand delivered to 221 addresses on The Avenue and Aston Road, together with their respective side roads. A total of 153 responses were received by 21st August, a response rate of 69.2%. The results of consultation with local residents are summarised below in Table 1:

Table 1 Summary of the results of consultation with local residents

Preference	Aston Road	The Avenue
Keep the speed cushions	59 respondents (38.6%)	60 respondents (39.2%)
Remove the speed cushions	74 respondents (48.4%)	81 respondents (52.9%)
No opinion	20 respondents (13.1%)	12 respondents (7.8%)

2.2 The full details of the consultation responses, together with the comments submitted by respondents, are presented in Annex A.

2.3 Claygate Parish Council responded on 5th August as follows:

We discussed that at the last meeting of our H&T Committee, as minuted *"It was agreed that we must opt for retention of the calming measures as our policy is for traffic calming"*.

We continue to receive complaints regarding traffic speeds, and our periodic Community Speed Watches pick up plenty of evidence and plaudits from pedestrians, so it would be illogical to drop the policy.

2.4 Surrey Police do not object to the proposal. Their response is reproduced verbatim in Annex B.

2.5 The majority of respondents to the consultation favour the removal of the speed cushions in both The Avenue and Aston Road, when these roads are resurfaced later this Financial Year. Committee should not treat the consultation as a referendum. It is for Committee to decide whether or not to remove the speed cushions in either road, taking into account the consultation results, the views of Claygate Parish Council, and the views of Surrey Police.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 Committee may choose either to keep the existing traffic calming in The Avenue and Aston Road, or to remove the existing traffic calming when these roads are resurfaced later this Financial Year.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 As detailed above.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The Avenue and Aston Road are due to be resurfaced regardless of Committee's decision in respect of the traffic calming. Retaining the existing traffic calming would make the resurfacing of these roads slightly more expensive, but this would be a marginal increase compared to the cost of resurfacing.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 It is an objective of Surrey Highways to treat all users of the public highway equally and with understanding.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 The Local Committee is asked to consider the results of the consultation, and decide what it feels would be best for the local community.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 A well-managed highway network can contribute to reduction in crime and disorder as well as improve peoples' perception of crime.

9. CONCLUSION:

9.1 When the traffic calming was installed in the 1990s it was for traffic management reasons, rather than for road safety reasons. The effect of the existing traffic calming on constraining the speed and volume of traffic is limited; on-street parking in these two roads may have just as great a traffic calming effect. Therefore officers would not expect the removal of the existing traffic calming to result in an increase in collisions or volume of traffic in these roads.

9.2 It is now for Committee to decide whether or not to remove the speed cushions in either road, taking into account the consultation results, the views of Claygate Parish Council, and the views of Surrey Police.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 The Project Horizon team will be updated with Committee's decision, and will prepare to resurface The Avenue and Aston Road later this year.

Contact Officer: Nick Healey, Area Team Manager (NE)

Consulted: Divisional Members, in the identification of schemes for the Divisional Programmes.

Annexes: None.

Sources/background papers: None.
