

**JOINT COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)**

DATE: 06 July 2021

ITEM 6: Petitions and Petition Responses

SUBJECT: Rosemary Lane, Thorpe

PETITION DETAILS:

The Runnymede Joint Committee has received a petition stating, "We, the undersigned residents of Thorpe, call on Surrey County Council Highways Department, to revise the speed limit in Rosemary Lane from the current 30mph to 10mph. Due to the number of recent housing developments and those proposed to take place in the near future, the numbers of cars using this road has dramatically increased and will continue to do so. The road is narrow enough to be a single lane track in parts, with no footpath and limited passing areas, reducing the speed limit to 10mph would make the road much safer for both vehicles user and pedestrians."

Lead petitioner: Mr Spencer Doran.

Number of signatures: 31

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council (SCC) and Surrey Police have a partnership called Drive SMART which aims to tackle concerns over speeding and anti-social driving. As part of the initiative, local speed management plans have been developed for each District and Borough to help identify the sites with the worst speeding problems.

When residents raise concerns about speeds in a road, a survey is undertaken to assess the extent of any speeding problem and the safety record is also examined. This information is then used to determine whether the location should become a high priority site on the speed management plan and targeted for action.

Rosemary Lane is not an existing site on the Runnymede speed management plan and vehicle speeds have not previously been monitored. In response to the concerns raised by the petition, a speed survey will therefore be undertaken in Rosemary Lane. The results of the survey will then be assessed by specialist road safety officers from the county council and Surrey Police.

Rosemary Lane would only become a priority site and targeted for action if the assessment identifies a problem with excessive speed and road safety relative to other sites on the speed management plan. In these circumstances, options for reducing vehicle speeds would then be considered to determine what type of action would be most appropriate. This could potentially be enforcement or engineering measures, and a reduction in speed limit is an option that could potentially be considered. However, it would not be possible to introduce a 10mph speed limit

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as requested in the petition since the lowest speed limit that be legally imposed on the public highway is 20mph.

The lead petitioner will be notified of the outcome of the assessment once it has been completed. However, there is likely to be a delay of several months until the speed survey can be undertaken. This is because the activity has been suspended due to the impacts of the pandemic and, whilst surveys are due to resume shortly, there are a significant number of outstanding requests to be completed.

In the meantime, we would reassure residents that Rosemary Lane has a good safety record with one personal injury collision having occurred in the road since 2012 (earliest available data). This collision occurred in 2014 and involved slight injuries.

In response to the specific concerns raised about the impacts of developments, if there are substantial new developments proposed then, as part of the planning process, detailed traffic assessments will have to be undertaken to assess their impacts on the surrounding highway network. As the highway authority we would also be consulted on the highway aspects of the planning applications.

If measures are required to mitigate the impacts of development on the highway then the developer would be required to provide these as a condition of any planning consents. However, the measures would have to be justifiable under current planning guidance.

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Committee is asked to note:

- (i) A speed survey will be undertaken to measure vehicle speeds in Rosemary Lane. The results of the survey will then be assessed in conjunction with the road safety record for the location.
- (ii) If the assessment identifies a problem with excessive speeds and poor road safety relative to other sites on the Runnymede speed management plan then Rosemary Lane would be categorised as a high priority site. Options for reducing vehicle speeds would then be assessed to determine what type of measures(s) would be most appropriate and effective.

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