

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)**

**DATE:** 17 JUNE 2013  
**LEAD OFFICER:** JOHN LAWLOR, AREA TEAM MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC QUESTIONS  
**DIVISION:** MERSTHAM & BANSTEAD SOUTH



**QUESTION 1**

**Rocky Lane, Gatton Park – Mr & Mrs Long**

“We have lived at Whitehall House, Rocky Lane, Gatton Park (opposite the entrance to the Royal Alexandra and Albert School) for the last seven years and have witnessed several accidents and damage to our property during this period, the most recent being Wednesday 27 May 2013. This is the third time a car has ploughed through our garden fence after losing control on a dangerous bend, on a lane with no speed limit. The current weather conditions did not affect this accident and we have also helped a motorcyclist who skidded on this bend last year.

The police and fire brigade have been called to each incident, and we are currently in contact with the police regarding traffic calming and monitoring.

I reported this problem to Surrey County Council three years ago and a promise this would be looked into never materialised. The only time I have found Highways officials to be concerned regarding this narrow lane is prior to the annual London to Brighton bike race. I personally approached these officers and was told to contact the Highways department – again, unsatisfactory as two further accidents since this was reported three years ago.

Last summer we were delighted to see new signage erected at the entrance to Rocky Lane and hoped this would be a 30 mph limit – unfortunately the sign was to indicate no speed limit on Rocky Lane and on the reverse 50 mph limit on Gatton Bottom which is too fast. The only signage is a partly concealed black and white chevron, hidden by the foliage of the garden of Thatched Lodge which is visible in only one direction.

Surrey promotes a “Safe Routes to Schools” policy and my children walk twice a day in this lane, along with other children from a state school with approximately 1,200 pupils. There is a morning and afternoon rush of school traffic on this narrow quiet lane, yet no triangular “School” sign, speed restrictions, “Slow Down Children Crossing” sign or “Dangerous Bend” sign. I have previously spoken to the headteacher of Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Mr Spencer-Ellis, who informed me he had asked Surrey County Council for traffic calming to no avail.

The lane is used as a cut through from Gatton Bottom at one end (no speed limit sign) and from the A23 London Road at the other end (unsuitable for heavy goods

vehicles) and is extremely busy during the rush hours. We live in a hamlet and there is only one property and one farm on the rest of this lane.

Please can the Local Committee look into addressing this problem?"

**The Chairman responds on behalf of the Local Committee:**

Rocky Lane links the A23 to the south with Gatton Bottom to the north. The national speed limit applies to Rocky Lane. Rocky Lane is a narrow, rural road with a number of bends. Drivers that are driving with due care and attention should be driving at an appropriate speed to negotiate both the narrow road and the bends.

Analysis of recorded personal injury accidents over the three year period January 2010 to March 2013 shows that there were 6 slight, and 1 serious injury accidents on Rocky Lane. None of these accidents involved pedestrians, 4 involved pedal cyclists and occurred on dates of the London to Brighton cycle ride in 2010 and 2011. Speed was recorded by the police as a possible factor in one of the slight injury accidents that did not involve pedal cyclists.

Mr and Mrs Long's concerns have been discussed with officers from Surrey Police. Both council officers and police officers are mindful of pedestrian safety at all times. The police have advised that they would not support a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph.

Officers would not recommend a reduction in the speed limit or traffic calming measures. However it is proposed that investigations are carried out into improving the signing and lining on the section of Rocky Lane in the vicinity of the entrance to the Royal Alexander and Albert School.

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**Contact Officer:**

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