

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)



DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 2021

LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, HIGHWAY ENGAGEMENT & COMMISSIONING MANAGER

SUBJECT: A25 REIGATE ROAD, BETCHWORTH SPEED LIMIT ASSESSMENT

DIVISION: DORKING RURAL

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Speed limit assessments have been carried out in the A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth following the process set out in Surrey's policy Setting Local Speed Limits. As a result of the assessments, it is proposed that the existing 50mph speed limit in the section of the A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth between the junction with Station Road at the Betchworth roundabout and a point 47.5m west of the centre line of Tranquil Dale, be reduced to 40mph. This report seeks approval for the changes 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 limit assessments undertaken.
- (ii) Agree that, based upon the evidence, **the speed limit be reduced from 50mph to 40mph** in the section of the A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth, between the junction of Station Road at the Betchworth roundabout and a point 47.5m west of the centre line of Tranquil Dale, in accordance with 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 (or equivalent designated officer) in consultation with the Chairman and 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 changes to the speed limit on the A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth in accordance with Surrey's speed limit policy.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 A report was taken to Mole Valley Local Committee on 24 February 2021, part of which was to agree the Forward Programme of capital Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) in Mole Valley between 2021/22 and 2023/24. At that meeting the committee agreed to reduce the speed limit on the A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth following the results of speed surveys carried out in September 2018. The surveys were carried out on the A25 in Brockham and Betchworth just east of the junction of Old Reigate Road and just east of the entrance to the J & J Franks site. The location of the surveys is shown in **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 The section of the A25 Reigate Road where the speed limit will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph is between the existing 40mph speed limit 25m north east of the north eastern kerb line of Castle Gardens and the junction with Station Road at the Betchworth roundabout. The existing and proposed speed limits are shown in **Annex 2**.
- 1.3 Representations were made by the divisional member for Dorking Rural and Buckland Parish Council to also reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph on the A25 Reigate Road east of the Betchworth roundabout, as part of the scheme. It was agreed that officers would carry out a speed limit assessment on the section of the A25 Reigate Road between the junction with Station Road at the Betchworth roundabout and the existing 40mph speed limit 47.5m west of the centre line of Tranquil Dale.
- 1.4 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 speed limits successfully may reduce the likelihood and severity of collisions.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 Two seven-day automatic surveys of vehicle speeds were carried out during May 2021 and September 2021 on the A25 Reigate Road east of the Betchworth roundabout. Normally one survey would be carried out, however the Safer Roads Partnership carried out a Speed Detection Radar survey during the school summer holidays. The results of this survey indicated that this section of the A25 Reigate Road may not comply with a signs alone speed limit reduction to 40mph. For this reason, the seven-day automatic survey of vehicle speeds was repeated in September. The location of the surveys is shown in **Annex 1**.
- 2.2 Existing mean speeds have been compared with the new speed limit requested by the local divisional member. 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 from a rural single carriageway 40mph speed limit to a 40mph speed limit – threshold = 46mph

If the measured existing mean vehicle speeds are above the threshold then a lower speed limit cannot be implemented without consideration of supporting engineering measures.

Table 1 records the results of the speed surveys, compares these with the current limit and the new limit requested by the divisional member for Dorking Rural, and states whether they comply with the policy to reduce a speed limit by signs alone.

A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth	Existing speed limit	Measured mean speeds	Requested speed limit	Complies with policy
Survey Date May 2021	50mph	43.5mph	40mph	40mph
Survey Date September 2021	50mph	41.4mph	40mph	40mph

Table 1: Comparison of Measured Mean Speeds with Speed Limit

- 2.3 A plan detailing the proposed new limits is attached as **Annex 2**.
- 2.4 Recorded personal injury collisions on the road under consideration have been investigated. During the three-year period between July 2018 and June 2021 there have been six reported collisions. Five of these collisions resulted in slight personal injury, and one in serious personal injury. Of these collisions, four occurred on the circulatory carriageway of the Betchworth roundabout.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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 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 with the new speed limit, or the new lower speed limit could be raised to a higher speed limit.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 OPTION 1

Reduce the speed limit of the following road from 50mph to 40mph:

A25 Reigate Road between the junction with Station Road at the Betchworth roundabout and a point 47.5m west of the centre line of Tranquil Dale.

ITEM 8

3.2 OPTION 2

The speed limit remains 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 these works, together with the works to reduce the speed limit on the A25 Reigate Road from 50mph to 40mph between the existing 40mph speed limit 25m north east of the north eastern kerb line of Castle Gardens and the junction with Station Road at the Betchworth roundabout will be in the region of £6,000. If the Committee support Option 1 as set out in paragraph 3.1, the works can be implemented this financial year, funded from the Local Committee funding for Integrated Transport Schemes.

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 Buckland Parish Council who have contacted the Highway Service regarding the 50mph speed limit on the A25 Reigate Road in Betchworth.

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
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

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 results of the speed limit assessments conducted in the A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth. It is recommended that Option 1 is implemented, in accordance with Surrey's Speed Limit Policy, as set out in paragraph 3.1
- 9.2 Recommendations have been made based upon existing policy, in consultation with Surrey Police.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 The proposal to make a Speed Limit Order for the reduction in speed limit is advertised in the local press. Following the making of the Order, the contractor is instructed to install the necessary signing.

Contact Officer:

Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer, 0300 200 1003

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 September 2018 in the A25 Reigate Road, Brockham & Betchworth
 - Data from speed assessments carried out during May 2021 & September 2021 in the A25 Reigate Road, Betchworth
 - Surrey Police response to consultation
 - Surrey County Council's Policy Setting Local Speed Limits (July 2014)
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