



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

DATE: **3 DECEMBER 2021**

SUBJECT: **STAFFORD ROAD**

DIVISION: **CATERHAM**

**PETITION DETAILS:**

Stafford Road in Caterham specifically from 224 to 310 is characterised by parking on both sides of the road with limited passing spaces. This results in a narrow road and any speeding even when only marginally over the current 30mph speed limit risks accidents or damage to vehicles as demonstrated by the accident on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 where a number of vehicles were damaged.

**Residents request the following**

1. Reduction in speed – Limit to 20mph.
2. Appropriate speed mitigation measures to ensure appropriate speed. i.e. Speed bumps.
3. Review feasibility of a one- way system due to lack of parking spaces.
4. Tandridge council to investigate additional off street parking for the flats which have been converted from elderly care to general needs housing.
5. Increased police speed monitoring until appropriate mitigation is put in place.

Residents struggle to report damage to vehicles due to the time on hold to 101 and no clear action taken. As such we have requested that residents confirm if their car has been damaged when parked on the road.

**RESPONSE:**

Stafford Road is a residential road running from Church Hill in the south to Burntwood Lane in the north. The speed limit on Stafford Road is 30mph.

**1 & 2 The petition is requesting that the speed limit is reduced to 20mph and that appropriate speed mitigation measures eg speed bumps are installed to ensure appropriate speeds.**

Three speed surveys have been carried out in Stafford Road since 2014 and the results of the surveys are shown in the table below:

Survey Date	Survey Location	Average Mean Speed northbound (mph)	Average Mean Speed southbound (mph)
November 2014	Outside 251 Stafford Road	25	28
June 2019	Outside 251 Stafford Road	26	27
August/September 2021	Outside 169 Stafford Road	25	24

**Table Showing Results of Speed Surveys on Stafford Road**

These results show good compliance with the existing 30mph speed limit. However, the recorded speeds do not comply with Surrey's policy for a signs alone speed limit reduction to 20mph. Therefore, in order to reduce the speed limit to 20mph additional measures such as road tables or speed cushions would be needed in order to reduce traffic speeds.

Such measures are not always popular with local residents. They can increase traffic noise and emissions as drivers tend to accelerate between measures. Large vehicles, in particular empty lorries, can be very noisy when going over road tables. When such schemes are progressed, consultation is always carried out with local residents and a scheme is only taken forward if a majority of residents are in favour.

When prioritising requests for improvements such as the installation of traffic calming, a number of factors are considered. The factor that is given the most weight is the personal injury collision history of the road. Surrey County Council has investigated the personal injury collision history of Stafford Road between November 2018 and October 2021 (the latest 3 years for which data is available). During this period there have been three reported collisions on Stafford Road resulting in personal injury. Two of these collisions occurred near the library and one involved a vehicle turning into Stafford Road from Burntwood Lane. Although Surrey County Council has a record of personal injury collisions reported to the Police, no date is collected on collisions which involve damage to vehicles or property only. In none of the recorded personal injury collisions did the Police Officer attending consider that exceeding the speed limit or travelling too fast for conditions were contributory factors in these collisions. The collision referred to by the petitioner does not appear on our collision history and may either have been damage only or was not reported to the Police at the time.

Considering both the collision history and traffic speeds, Stafford Road would not prioritise over other requests for the installation of traffic calming measures.

**3 The petition is requesting that Stafford Road is made one-way due to the lack of parking spaces.**

Experience elsewhere is that when roads are made one-way, traffic speeds tend to increase. This is because drivers do not need to slow down or stop when another vehicle comes the other way. The petitioners have expressed concern about traffic speeds on Stafford Road, therefore implementing a one-way system would not address residents' concerns and could increase traffic speeds on Stafford Road. In addition, if a road is made one-way, traffic is displaced onto neighbouring roads. For these reasons Officers would not recommend that Stafford Road is made one-way.

**4 The petition is requesting Tandridge District Council investigate additional off-street parking for the flats.**

Officers are not able to comment on the provision of off-street parking for the flats, which is a matter for Tandridge District Council.

**5 Increased police speed monitoring until appropriate mitigation is put in place.**

Officers will raise the concerns of the petitioners with Surrey Police, who are responsible for enforcing the 30mph speed limit on Stafford Road. However, it is unlikely that Stafford Road would prioritise over other roads in Tandridge for Police enforcement action as the measured average mean speeds are well within the 30mph speed limit.

It is appreciated that residents continue to be concerned about the speed and safety of Stafford Road, as well as damage that is being caused to their vehicles. The requests that have been received by residents within the petition are the responsibility of a number of different agencies, such as Tandridge District Council, Surrey Police and Surrey County Council. Therefore a Local Neighbourhood Engagement meeting will be held with the local residents and the various different agencies to discuss and agree a way forward.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Tandridge Local Committee is asked to note the report and that a Local Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting will be held.

**Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer, Tel: 0300 200 1003**

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