

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

DATE: 11 MARCH 2022
SUBJECT: BROOK ROAD AND SANDHILLS SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS
DIVISION: GODALMING SOUTH, MILFORD & WITLEY (Cllr Paul Follows)

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition entitled “Brook Road & Sandhills Speed Limit Reductions” has been submitted by Sarah Nash, Clerk of Witley Parish Council. The petition has received over 100 signatures.

The petition reads:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Introduce a 20 is Plenty Scheme along the section of Brook Road which abuts King Edwards School and to consider a reduction in the speed limit in Sandhills from 40mph to 30mph.

Justification and further detail:

Brook Road is a connecting lane between the A283 in Wormley, and the A286 in Brook, passing through the hamlet of Sandhills. King Edwards School is located on the A283, and is also bounded by Brook Road, and there are vehicle accesses to the school from both.

FP 137 runs along the rear boundary of the school, and there are a number of pedestrian access points on to it. The footpath continues down Station Lane to Witley Station, which is used by many day pupils to King Edwards School, who cross Brook Road to access the station.

There are residential accesses onto Brook Road on both sides, with areas of roadside parking permitted, which other sections are restricted. Brook Road is a 40mph speed limit road, despite requests from the Parish Council to have this reduced to 30mph adjacent to the school, and through Sandhills – this was resisted by Surrey County Council. The parking often necessitates opposing traffic to speed up to seek refuge, and allow others to pass, which reduces concentration, and thus awareness of children crossing, morning and afternoon.

Witley Parish Council are in favour of introducing a ‘20-is-plenty’ scheme along the section of Brook Road which abuts the school, and to pursue again the reduction of the speed limit in Sandhills to 30mph. ‘20-is-plenty’ schemes have been proven to be very successful in many locations, and are a simple and effective method of improving safety for both children crossing, and motorists, who may not otherwise anticipate pedestrians crossing.

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council receives a large number of requests for measures to be installed on the highway to reduce vehicle speeds such as reduction of the speed limit. The number of requests
www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley

received vastly outweighs the funding available, therefore, funding for such measures is prioritised where their introduction would achieve the greatest benefit in terms of helping to reduce the number of personal injury collisions.

It is vitally important when assessing and setting speed limits that they are set correctly and that they are self-enforcing. If limits are introduced that are artificially too low statistics show that this leads to high levels of non-compliance of the speed limit which can lead to an unnecessary burden being placed on Police resources to carry out speed enforcement. It can also bring the speed limit into disrepute. Signing alone is not always sufficient to gain compliance. Therefore, the county council will only alter a speed limit if the existing average speed of vehicles is within the permitted tolerances or where engineering measures are introduced to physically reduce speeds down to the required levels, subject to the necessary funding being made available.

Attached is a link to the Surrey County Council policy on 'Setting local speed limits' which provides more information on how speed limits are set and managed.

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/28748/Setting-Local-Speed-Limits-Policy-FINAL-APPROVED-VERSION_accessible.pdf

The cost to assess and alter the existing speed limit in Brook Road and Sandhills and would be in the region of £20,000 upwards. This fee would include speed surveys, design fees, legal expenses, materials and labour and is based on other speed limit alterations carried out in the past in the borough. Please note that there is no guarantee that the current 40mph speed limit could be reduced and the results of the speed surveys would determine if this was possible or not.

It would be at the discretion of the local County Councillor Mr Paul Follows if he wished to consider this scheme alongside other existing schemes in the area as part of the Highways forward programme of works in the Godalming South, Milford and Witley division. If prioritised, a suitable amount of funding would need to be identified and then approved by the Waverley Local Committee before the scheme could be progressed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the report and officer's comments
- (ii) Note the potential cost of a scheme in this area
- (iii) Note that this is one of a number of schemes for the division and will need to be considered in priority order.

Contact Officer: Adrian Selby
