

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2013

LEAD OFFICER: VICTORIA JEFFREY, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: PETITIONS

DIVISION: MOLE VALLEY



### **THE STREET, FETCHAM**

**This petition of 49 signatures was submitted by Mrs Dorothy Lawrence**

The petition requested that:

- (i) the reported uneven condition of the road where Cock Lane joins the Street be addressed.
- (ii) the reported poor maintenance in The Street be addressed.
- (ii) the introduction of traffic calming measures and a reduction in the 30mph limit, noting the use of the road by children for Fetcham Village Infant School and Oakfield Junior School.

#### **Response from SCC Highways Team:**

The Street in Fetcham (the D2644) links Cobham Road to the north with Bell Lane and School Lane to the south. The Street is currently subject to a 30mph speed limit.

#### **Road condition and maintenance**

##### Planned maintenance

In 2012 a full engineering survey was completed for the majority of Mole Valley's road network. The surveyed roads were prioritised to determine the worst roads in Mole Valley. A public consultation exercise was held which allowed members of the public to nominate their own worst roads. Engineers then worked with Mole Valley Local Committee to determine, within the funding constraints, the optimum five year programme for the Mole Valley area.

In July 2013, Mole Valley Local Committee agreed a five year carriageway planned maintenance programme. Cock Lane is included on the list of those schemes proposed for construction from July 2013 to March 2014 subject to allocation of resources.

Surrey CC is responsible for cleaning drains on the public road. Drains are normally cleaned once a year and records show The Street was last cleaned in November 2012. Mole Valley District Council is responsible for street cleaning services including sweeping of highways and pavements and leaf fall clearing in Autumn/Winter

#### Inspection of roads and reporting of defects

Regular inspections of council-maintained roads are carried out, following guidance in the Well-maintained Highways Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance. However, it is appreciated that defects may arise between these inspections. Information from members of the public is welcomed and Surrey CC and its contractor assess reported situations and prioritise remedial works as necessary.

#### Actions

The Street is not on the list of roads to be surfaced as part of the five year carriageway planned maintenance programme. However it may be added to the programme for local structural repair, with the support of the local Divisional Member and subject to available funding.

The Community Highways Officer for the Fetcham area inspected The Street in the week commencing Monday 12 August 2013. A number of defects were identified, including surfacing and blocked drainage in the area of the junction with Cock Lane as highlighted by the petition. These defects have been reported to Surrey CC's contractor for remedial actions.

### **Traffic speeds in The Street**

#### Speed surveys

A traffic survey was carried out in The Street by Surrey CC's Highways Team in September 2012. The mean vehicle speeds, which are the measures used when assessing speed limits, are recorded as 29mph for both southbound and northbound traffic.

Experience has shown that lowering a speed limit on its own will not guarantee that average speeds will be reduced. If a speed limit is set much lower than the existing traffic speeds then some motorists may ignore the limit unless the character of the road or environment indicate otherwise. The police have limited resources to enforce speed limits. Surrey's speed limit policy recommends that a speed limit should only be reduced by the use of signing alone where existing speeds are close to the proposed new limit. Given the speeds recorded on The Street, a reduction in the speed limit would not comply with Surrey's speed limit policy without the introduction of speed reducing measures.

Analysis of recorded personal injury accidents over the last three years to June 2013 shows that there were four personal injury accidents in The Street. Speed was recorded by the Police as a possible factor in one of the accidents, at the junction of The Street and Cock Lane.

## Actions

Funding has been allocated by the Mole Valley Local Committee to implement a trial advisory 20mph speed limit in Fetcham. This will include the southern end of The Street and sections of School Lane and Bell Lane in the areas of Fetcham Village Infant School and Oakfield Junior School. The advisory limit will be implemented through the installation of flashing wig-wag signals and appropriate signing, and will operate at the start and end of the school day in term time only. This will alert drivers to the presence of schoolchildren as well as increased numbers of cyclists and vehicles, including those stopping to drop off or pick up children. Advisory 20mph speed limits do not require the making of speed limit orders and so the limit is not enforceable. Surveys will be carried out to determine the effectiveness of the measures. It is envisaged that the measures will be in place in Autumn 2013. Surrey Highways has received a number of requests for the speed limit to be reduced in the Fetcham area, in particular in School Lane and Bell Lane. A petition was presented to Local Committee in March 2011 requesting a 20mph speed limit in Bell Lane and a public written question was submitted to Local Committee in September 2012 which requested a reduction in the speed limit in The Street. As a result, Officers have added the proposal to introduce a 20mph zone in Fetcham which would include Bell Lane, School Lane and The Street to the Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) list, for assessment and prioritisation. No funding has been allocated to date, but Officers, in consultation with the Local Committee, will be developing the Mole Valley ITS forward programme for 2014/15 – 2015/16. A report to a future meeting of the Local Committee will seek approval of the ITS forward programme.

*MVLC 11 September 2013*

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