

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 2 NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: GATTON PARK ROAD, REDHILL
DIVISION: REDHILL WEST AND MEADVALE



PETITION DETAILS:

Drivers speed on A242 Gatton Park - 24 crashes between 20-15-2019 including cars going into front gardens on two occasions. This road serves 2 schools. This road is not safe enough to support them. We want: 1. A 20mph limit from the Colesmead Road Junction, down the A23. There is an entrance to the Royal Alexandra & Albert School and many children walk up and use the Colesmead Road entrance to St. Bedes. 2. Speed cameras to enforce. Drivers come down the hill from Reigate and do not slow down. 2. Speed bumps. It may be an A road but it is a residential road. We deserve protecting. This is not a victimless crime, purely because there are no deaths/serious injuries. Residents are scared. Scared they will be killed or be a witness to another dying, scared of vehicles coming into their homes. We are being held hostage by these law breaking drivers. They do it because they can, because no action is being taken by the authorities who can help to stop this. By taking action. By imposing restrictions.

It is time to act.

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to place speed humps, a camera and 20mph speed limit on Gatton Park Road Redhill.

RESPONSE:

The A242 Gatton Park Road, Redhill is a main A-Class road running north of Redhill and links the A23 to the A25, providing access between Merstham and Reigate. At the A23 end, it has a row of residential properties on its southern side and Gatton Park on its northern side. There is a pedestrian crossing providing access to Gatton Park and the Royal Alexandra & Albert School. The speed limit on Gatton Park Road is 30mph and the Police are responsible for enforcing this limit.

The petitioners are requesting a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph. Surrey County Council has an approved Speed Limit Policy in place which sets out the criteria under which a reduction in speed limit by signs alone would be considered. The policy requires existing speeds to be measured over a 7 day continuous period using automatic survey equipment. The results of this survey are then compared to a threshold set out in the policy, and if the recorded mean speeds are below the threshold, then the council will consider reducing the speed limit by signs alone. For a reduction from 30mph to 20mph, using signs alone the threshold mean speed is set at 24mph.

The most recent 24 hours, 7-days a week speed survey to be carried out on this 30mph section of the A242 Gatton Park Road was carried out in June 2017 and recorded the following mean speed.

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Northeast bound – 35mph
Southwest bound – 32mph

The recorded mean speeds at that time were therefore higher than the threshold under Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy for a 20mph speed limit using signs alone. As a result, the installation of a 20mph speed limit using signs alone would not be effective at reducing vehicle speeds to 20mph along this road.

Following previous concerns raised by residents regarding vehicles speeds along this section of the A242 Gatton Park Road, funding has been allocated during this financial year to assess the location of the existing vehicle activated sign. An additional vehicle activated sign is also to be installed along this section of the A242 Gatton Park Road for drivers travelling in the southwest direction.

The petitioners have also requested safety cameras be installed, Surrey County Council's policy for safety cameras is that they are reserved for the very worst collision hotspots where there has been a significant history of personal injury collisions involving vehicles exceeding the speed limit. In order to further investigate the petitioners request for a safety camera, an analysis has been carried out of the personal injury collision data for traffic collisions that have occurred over the most recent 3-year period. This information is provided by Surrey Police and shows that there have been 3 personal injury collisions involving slight injury on this section of the A242 Gatton Park Road over the most recent 3 year period for which data is available (from 01/06/2017 to 31/05/2020). Surrey Police did not record vehicles exceeding the speed limit as a contributory factor in any of the collisions. Therefore, there are no plans to install a safety camera on the A242 Gatton Park Road and the installation of a safety camera would not be supported by Surrey Police.

In regards to the petitioners request for speed humps to be installed on this section of the A242 Gatton Park Road, a number of things need to be considered. This includes the presence of side roads, driveways and noise and vibration caused by speed humps as traffic travels over and between such measures. The A242 Gatton Park Road is a main A-Class road which provides direct access to the Reigate Fire Station and is therefore heavily used by Surrey Fire & Rescue Services as well as other emergency services. The impact of any traffic calming scheme on emergency services response times will also need to be considered.

Officers have visited the A242 Gatton Park Road and taking into account the issues raised above, it is not immediately apparent what would be the most appropriate form of traffic calming or whether traffic calming on a main A-Class road such as the A242 Gatton Park Road would be supported by the emergency services. Therefore, it would be necessary to carry out feasibility design to see what form of traffic calming would be feasible to install that would be effective and would be supported by the emergency services. It is therefore proposed that initial design work for traffic calming measures on this section of the A242 Gatton Park Road be added to the list of schemes awaiting feasibility studies, to consider the viability of various options for traffic calming for consideration by the local committee.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Note the officer's comment.*

- (ii) *Note the work being carried out during this financial year to upgrade the existing Vehicle Activated Sign and install an additional Vehicle Activated Sign on the section of the A242 Gatton Park Road between the junction of the A23 London Road and Colesmead Road.*
- (iii) *Agree that initial investigation and design work to establish the viability of traffic calming measures for the A242 Gatton Park Road (between the junctions of the A23 London Road and Colesmead Road) be added to the Integrated Transport Scheme List for consideration for future funding.*

Contact Officer:

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