

# SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

**DATE: 1 MARCH 2021**

**SUBJECT: DORKING ROAD, TADWORTH – ROAD SIGN TO WARN OF DEER CROSSING**

**DIVISION: TADWORTH, WALTON & KINGSWOOD**

### **PETITION DETAILS:**

Dorking Road (Tadworth/Walton on the Hill, Surrey) is in a rural area with a resident deer population. Deer are in danger crossing the road and also pose a risk to drivers.

There are currently no road signs alerting drivers to deer crossing on the road and an application to remedy this has been rejected by the council.

We call on the highways department of Surrey County Council to reverse their decision and install road signs. This will help protect the lives of deer; help prevent road accidents and help maintain a wildlife corridor in the area.

### **RESPONSE:**

The B2032 Dorking Road, Tadworth is a rural road which runs from the junction with Pebble Hill Road and Headley Common Road, to the Tadworth roundabout at the junction with the A217 Brighton Road. Dorking Road runs alongside both Walton Heath and Banstead Heath.

An investigation has been carried out into the collision history on Dorking Road. Surrey County Council has a record of collisions resulting in personal injury which is provided by Surrey Police however, no record is kept of collisions which only involve damage to vehicles and private property. This investigation has shown that during the latest three year period for which data is available (from October 2017 to September 2020) there have been twelve collisions on Dorking Road, however none of these collisions involved a wild animal.

Surrey County Council is only permitted to install signs on the public highway if they are contained within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016. There are a large number of warning signs within the TSRGD that can be installed on the public highway network, including a warning sign with a picture of a deer on it to warn road users of the hazard of wild animals in the road ahead.

However, Surrey County Council is currently carrying out a programme of decluttering in line with Department of Transport guidelines. This is to ensure that road users are not distracted from important information by unnecessary signs, to reduce visual intrusion and to minimise maintenance costs.

A way forward could be for residents to carry out a deer survey with the Deer Aware organisation guidance, to help inform if the prioritisation for a warning sign changes.

Taking into account both the collision history, and the decluttering programme, a sign of this type is not currently prioritised and there are no current plans to install deer warning signs on Dorking Road as the petitioners are suggesting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Committee is asked to note the officer's comment.

---

Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer

---