

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 1 MARCH 2021

SUBJECT: CHIPSTEAD LANE, LOWER KINGSWOOD – 20MPH

DIVISION: TADWORTH, WALTON & KINGSWOOD/ MERSTHAM & BANSTEAD SOUTH

PETITION DETAILS:

This petition is to protect Chipstead Lane and encourage traffic to adhere to a new 20mph speed limit. Currently this stands at 30mph, which is still too fast for the traffic using it. The lane is residential, with a children's park and a dog walkers' area. The lane is also used by skip lorries, cars, vans and various artic lorries for the ongoing development at Fidelity International.

The concerns about traffic using the lanes and having a 30mph plus speeds, is that children and adults on bikes use the lane alongside horses and walkers. This combination does not work and can be intimidating for the people using it.

By having a 20mph speed limit allows all using the lane, to consider other users and reduces the chances of any more near misses. The lane should be a pleasant experience for all to enjoy and use, and not used to race through at 30mph plus, where wild life is being hurt and the countryside being lost through loud roaring lorries, motorbikes and cars.

RESPONSE:

Chipstead Lane, Lower Kingswood runs east-west, connecting the A217 in the west with Hooley and the A23 in the east, and is also used to access Chipstead which is located to the north east of Chipstead Lane. The western end of Chipstead Lane is semi-rural in nature with the majority of residential properties being located on one side, with fields and a children's park on the other. A 30mph speed limit is in place along this section of Chipstead Lane, which extends from the junction with the A217 in the west, to just to the east of the junction with Millfield Lane. The road then becomes more rural in nature and the speed limit increases to 60mph.

It is acknowledged that residents are concerned about the speed of traffic and safety of Chipstead Lane. There are many more requests for reduced speed limits on roads throughout Reigate & Banstead, than it is possible to achieve, and these have to be prioritised. Those roads which have a history of personal injury collisions where speed is a contributory factor are prioritised to be considered first.

Surrey County Council holds personal injury collision data, provided by Surrey Police. An assessment has been carried out into the collision history on this 30mph section of Chipstead Lane, which has shown that during the latest three year period for which data is available (from October 2017 to September 2020) one personal injury collision, involving a slight injury, has occurred on this section of Chipstead Lane. This collision was a low speed shunt which occurred near the roundabout junction with the A217 and excessive vehicle speed was not recorded as a contributory factor in this collision.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/reigateandbanstead

If the existing mean speed of traffic on a road is travelling at 24mph or lower, then the speed of traffic using this road could be successfully reduced to 20mph using a traffic regulation order and a change of the existing speed limit signs. However, if the existing mean speed of traffic is greater than 24mph, then traffic calming measures would need to be introduced in order to successfully reduce the speed of traffic using this road to 20mph. In October 2018 a speed survey was carried out on Chipstead Lane, Kingswood which recorded mean speeds of 32mph in both directions. The results of this survey show good compliance with the existing 30mph speed limit. Traffic calming measures would need to be installed, in order to ensure that any 20mph speed limit could be successful in reducing the speed of traffic using this road to 20mph.

It is acknowledged that residents remain concerned about the safety and speed of traffic using Chipstead Lane. However, the installation of traffic calming measures in order to support a successful 20mph speed limit for Chipstead Lane would not currently prioritise above other roads which have a history of personal injury collisions where speed is a contributory factor. Despite this the County Council does take concerns about road safety seriously and road collisions across the County are continually monitored. If there should be any significant change or increase in the pattern of collisions, then the matter would be referred to the relevant Road Safety Working Group for action to be determined. This group consists of Road Safety experts from both Surrey Police and the County Council as well as engineers from Surrey Highways.

It is understood that residents, working with Surrey Police, have an active Community Speedwatch in place and this will help to raise driver's awareness of the existing speed limit and reduce vehicle speeds on Chipstead Lane.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- i. note the officer's comment and support the continuation of the Community Speedwatch.

Contact Officer: Anne-Marie Hannam, Senior Traffic Engineer
