

Cabinet Member for Highways & Community Resilience Decisions

6 June 2023

TITLE: TRAFFIC CALMING CHIPSTEAD VILLAGE**Statement:**

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Introduce a 20mph speed limit or zone throughout Chipstead Village. Install ANPR cameras (for average speed) on the boundaries of the village at the main points where cars are entering to specifically use the village as cut through.

Justification:

The speed and high volumes of traffic passing through Chipstead have been a major concern for local residents for many years. The roads affected by through traffic/rat-running to avoid A23, A217, A237 and M25. The main roads affected are High Road, Coulsdon Lane, How Lane, Doghurst Lane, Hazelwood Lane, Elmore Road and Outwood Lane. These country lanes are unlit residential roads with very few pavements.

Submitted by: Amanda Davies

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council very much sympathises with concerns over high vehicle speeds - these can increase the risk and severity of collisions, deter more walking and cycling, and contribute to more noise and air pollution. More information on how the County Council works with Surrey police on managing vehicle speeds can be found on our website here: [Managing speeds on Surrey's roads - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/road-traffic/road-traffic-safety/managing-speeds-on-surrey-s-roads)

The County Council's policy on speed limits can be seen via this link: [Setting local speed limits policy - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/road-traffic/road-traffic-safety/setting-local-speed-limits-policy)

This policy explains that changing to a lower speed limit on its own will not necessarily be successful in reducing the speed of traffic to a sufficient level if the prevailing mean speeds are much higher than the proposed lower speed limit. If a speed limit is set too low and is ignored, then this could result in in poor compliance and could bring the system of speed limits into disrepute.

In September 2021 the County Council Cabinet approved a policy on the use of safety cameras (speed and red-light cameras) that was agreed with Surrey Police. This policy asserts that it should not be expected that enforcement will be implemented to support a new lower speed limit that does not comply with the county council's speed limit policy, otherwise this could result in large numbers of prosecutions, and this could place an unreasonable burden on police enforcement and court prosecution resources. This could also provoke a public backlash if there were large numbers of prosecutions that most perceive to be unfair.

Therefore, changes to the highway for example through narrowing, providing vertical traffic calming or re-aligning the road may be required to successfully lower vehicle speeds in addition to any lower speed limit if the existing speeds are very much higher.

Due to its proximity to the London Borough of Croydon as well as the A23, A217, A237 and M25, drivers use the B2032 Outwood Lane/Chipstead Valley Road and other roads within

the village to access the London Borough of Croydon as well as the A-Class roads in the area. As a result, road safety concerns have been raised by residents and Chipstead Residents Association about the speed and volume of vehicles using these roads over several years. As a result, there have been several traffic surveys carried out.

In November 2015 the Chipstead Residents Association commissioned speed surveys on several roads within Chipstead Village, and the results of these surveys are shown in the table below (showing mean average speeds).

Road Name	Survey Site 1	Survey Site 2	Survey Site 3
Coulsdon Lane	25.9mph		
Doghurst Lane	18.7mph		
Elmore Road	29.6mph		
Hazelwood Lane *	21.4mph	22.3 mph	
High Road	26.7mph	25.6 mph	34.2 mph
Hollymead Road	29.0mph		
How Lane	24.6mph	22.6 mph	
Portnalls Road **	33.9mph		

*Additional surveys were carried out in Hazelwood Lane in June 2017 at different survey sites in Hazelwood Lane. Concerns were raised by the Police that the results from the original sites were not representative of the traffic speeds on the road. The results from these surveys were 28.7mph and 31.3mph (mean average) respectively.

**Survey site in London Borough of Croydon not Surrey

Several further surveys were commissioned by Surrey County Council in September 2017 and the results of these surveys are shown in the table below (showing mean average speeds).

Road Name	Direction 1	Direction 2
Coulsdon Lane (near "Bracken Lodge")	27.4 mph (EB)	25.7 mph (WB)
Hazelwood Lane (Railway Bridge)	19.8 mph (NB)	21.9 mph (SB)
Hazelwood Lane (near "Rosthwaite")	30.9 mph (NB)	31.6 mph (SB)
Hazelwood Lane (near "Highfield")	30.0 mph (NB)	27.3 mph (SB)
Walpole Avenue	24.9 mph (NB)	25.8 mph (SB)
High Road	28.5 mph (NB)	26.7 mph (SB)
Hollymead Road	29.7 mph (EB)	31.9 mph (WB)
How Lane	31.4 mph (NB)	30.4 mph (SB)

Surrey County Council's existing speed limit policy "Setting Local Speed Limits" advises that if the measured mean speeds are at or below 24mph a successful 20mph speed limit could be installed using a Traffic Regulation Order and signs alone. However, if the measured mean speeds are above 24mph supporting engineering measures would need to be installed to achieve vehicle speeds close enough to 20mph in these roads. The results in the table above show that traffic calming measures would be needed on all the roads listed apart from Doghurst Lane.

In February 2022, the County Council Cabinet established the Countywide Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) budget, as part of a range of proposals to support Members in having more influence on promoting schemes that would benefit their residents. This budget gives Members the ability to promote one scheme for consideration within their division

every year, for prioritisation on to the Countywide ITS programme. The value of schemes for this programme is limited to £350,000 to enable as many communities to have this opportunity as is possible. The County Councillor for Banstead, Woodmansterne and Chipstead, Luke Bennett has nominated a 20mph speed limit on all roads throughout the village of Chipstead for consideration for the 2024/25 Financial Year Countywide ITS programme.

As a result, this scheme will be technically assessed for feasibility and deliverability, alongside schemes promoted by other Surrey County Councillors. Once all of the technical assessments are complete each of the schemes will be prioritised using the agreed prioritisation process. The prioritisation process scores each nominated scheme against the following criteria: Congestion, Accessibility, Safety, Environment, Economy, and Affordability & Deliverability. The criteria take into consideration how the proposed schemes support the Council to meet its strategic priorities relating to Greener Futures and Climate Change, and delivery of the Surrey Transport Plan, as well as recognising the importance of schemes that are a local priority. Once all of the schemes put forward by Members have been technically assessed and have gone through the prioritisation process a decision will be made by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience in September 2023 regarding those schemes that are to be funded in the 2024/25 financial year.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to fund all of the schemes put forward for funding by the County Councillors in any given year, however, should any scheme not prioritise, the same scheme could be nominated for consideration in a future year.

For the past two years each Divisional County Councillor has been allocated £100,000 of capital funding, of which £70,000 should be used for highway maintenance and the rest can either be used for maintenance or small-scale highway improvement works, such as speed reduction measures. The County Council Leader has confirmed the intention to enable Members to have a similar level of funding for these important works in 24/25. Officers will speak to the Divisional Member to identify if any low cost measures would be suitable and a local priority, if the submission for the Countywide Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) budget is unsuccessful.

Kevin Deanus
Cabinet Member for Highways & Community Resilience
6 June 2023

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