

Surrey County Council advice on speed limits in Clandon

Following discussions on the possibility of lowering the speed limit in Clandon the Parish Council has been sent a copy of internal Surrey County Council correspondence on their policy in this area.

Recent surveys have shown that average speeds on the Street, West Clandon are currently above the present 30 limit. It is thought that further measurements would be made as the first step in the assessment of an appropriate speed limit.

A Surrey Highways Department Officer has written to clarify that policy does not as had been previously thought preclude 20mph limits on A roads. It does however rather caution against them stating 'The desire for lower speeds has to be balanced against the need for reasonable journey times and the position of the road within the county council's Strategic Priority Network'.

As regards the A287 through Clandon:-

"The policy allows the introduction of a 20mph limit where speeds are currently at or below 24mph. Where speeds are above this the policy requires that measures are introduced to reduce speeds to accompany a 20 limit.

'These may include traffic calming such as narrowing the road, chicanes, priority give-way arrangements, central islands, gateways, or vertical traffic calming. Speed reducing features could also form part of improved facilities for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, children and older people. However some forms of traffic calming will not be appropriate on major routes with large traffic flows and heavy vehicles, and it may be the case that speed reducing features and a reduction in speed limit is not always viable or desirable for some strategically important roads'

The Parish Council is suggesting 20mph speed limits at three locations. The minimum distance for a speed limit is usually 600m but may be reduced where local features provide an obvious change in the environment."

Surrey County Councillor Keith Taylor has also made it apparent that any projects to introduce physical speed limitation measure such as those described above would be expensive and would only proceed if they were judged a higher priority than other similar schemes currently competing for funds at present. There are understood to be over 50 such schemes at present with about 14 likely to receive funding.