Minute Extract from the Residents Committee 8 December 2016

38. Introduction of 20mph zone (Surbiton) Appendix C

Members considered the views of the Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee in relation to the results of the public consultation on the 20mph speed limit proposals across all residential roads in Surbiton Neighbourhood area, excluding Ewell Road, Upper Brighton Road, Portsmouth Road and Hook Road, within the Surbiton Neighbourhood.

The Committee noted the recommendation not to implement the scheme based on the low response rate of 4.5% from Surbiton addresses. Given that Surbiton wards’ results were both low and inconsistent, with two wards supporting the proposal and two wards opposing, it was deemed that this was an indication that there is no overall support for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit. However it was noted that there is significant support for the introduction in both St Marks and Berrylands wards thus extensions to current 20mph limits within these wards could be considered.

A number of residents addressed the Committee both in favour and against the blanket wide approach. Residents expressed their concerns about the blanket wide approach citing issues such as the difficulty for the police to enforce and concern it would detract from the roads that really do need the 20mph speed limitation.

Two Councillors spoke from the public gallery in favour of the blanket wide approach, stating that, contrary to officer statements, the consultation had more than a sufficient response rate. Based on the industry standard for conducting market research, it was argued that the 1125 questionnaire responses for the scheme indicated a 95% confidence level in terms of the 18,300 population of Surbiton, which was deemed sufficient justification. It was reasoned that implementation of the scheme would lower the likelihood of accidents and make the streets safer.

In addition a Councillor spoke from the public gallery against the blanket wide approach, stating that the 4.5% response rate was not sufficient justification for implementing the scheme. It was argued that a more targeted approach would be a far more effective and cost saving solution by identifying the specific roads that required the speed limit.

In their consideration of the report it was the view of the majority of the Committee that the blanket wide approach to the 20mph speed limit was not warranted. This was primarily due to the low consultation response but also because of members doubted the cost efficiency and necessity of the approach especially given the Council’s current budgetary constraints. It was the view of these Members that targeted and bespoke approaches to speed reduction that include traffic calming measures and focus on individual roads would be more efficient and cost effective than a blanket 20mph speed limit.

Resolved that –
1. the Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee’s comments of 7 December 2016, as reported, be noted;

Voting: Unanimous

2. the results of area wide consultation, as contained within the reports and in annexes 1 - 10, be noted;

Voting: Unanimous

3. a blanket 20mph speed limit is not implemented in the whole of the Surbiton Neighbourhood area at this time, due to the low response rate received to the consultation;

For: Councillors Johnson-Creek, Doyle, Bedforth, Bass, Cunningham, Paton, Pandya and Griffin (8)
Against: Councillors Reid, Rolfe, Self, Thayalan, Yoganathan (5)
Abstention: None (0)

4. the support received for the scheme in St. Mark's and Berrylands Wards be noted; and that the Committee refer consideration of individual 20 mph speed limit schemes for specific roads within in the Surbiton Neighbourhood back to the Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee subject to consultation and support. Once roads have been suggested by the Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee then schemes will be submitted for approval to the Residents Committee for a final decision.

For: Councillors Johnson-Creek, Doyle, Bedforth, Bass, Cunningham, Paton, Pandya and Griffin (8)
Against: None (0)
Abstention: Councillors Reid, Rolfe, Self, Thayalan, Yoganathan (5)