

Report to: **Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

Date of meeting: **19 October 2015**

By: **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Title: **Petition requesting a 40mph speed restriction on Coopers Green Road, Uckfield.**

Purpose: **To consider the petition requesting a 40mph speed limit on Coopers Green Road, Uckfield; from Ringles Cross to Five Ash Down Village.**

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that;

- (1) A 40mph speed limit on Coopers Green Road, Uckfield is not a priority for the County Council; and**
 - (2) The C33 at Ringles Cross was approved at the Lead Member meeting on 14 September 2015 as a priority for a Local Safety Scheme in the 2015/2016 financial year. The Road Safety Team is presently investigating a set of safety improvements to help make this part of Coopers Green Road safer.**
-

1 Background Information

1.1 At the East Sussex County Council meeting on 14 July 2015 Councillor Galley presented a petition to the Chairman:

“Requesting a 40mph speed restriction on Coopers Green Road, Uckfield from Ringles Cross to Five Ash Down Village”.

1.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, that petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 It is acknowledged that there is some visible development on the C41 Coopers Green Road. However, the road has a relatively good safety record with only one slight injury crash being reported to Sussex Police in the latest three years. This crash was not directly related to the speed of the vehicle. A plan indicating the location of the crash is included as Appendix 1.

2.2 As the C41 Coopers Green Road has a relatively good safety record it has not been identified as a priority for a lower speed limit, or any alternative safety improvements in the 2015/2016 financial year. It has been added to our list of lower speed limit requests, to ensure its safety record will be checked to establish whether it will be a priority in future years.

2.3 There has been a number of injury crashes reported to Sussex Police on the C33 at Ringles Cross. As a result of those crashes, the C33 at Ringles Cross has been identified as a priority for a Local Safety Scheme from the Capital Funding that was made available for road safety by Public Health. Investigations are presently being progressed with a view to implementing these safety improvements in the 2015/2016 financial year. A plan indicating the location and severity of crashes in the latest 3 years at Ringles Cross is included as Appendix 2.

2.4 It is recognised nationally that the majority of drivers will travel at the speed they consider to be safe for the conditions of the road. In our experience changing the speed limit using signs and lines alone does not necessarily produce the corresponding reduction in driver speeds. This is also the experience of other local highway authorities nationally. A speed survey carried out on Coopers Green Road between the 15th and 23rd June 2015 recorded the average speed of traffic to be 41mph northbound and 43mph southbound, with 85th percentile speeds, (the speed not exceeded by 85 percent of drivers) of 48mph northbound and 51mph southbound. The results of the speed survey indicate that a 40mph speed limit on Coopers Green Road would be poorly complied with unless we introduced some engineering measures to help slow down traffic in accordance with a 40mph speed limit. Although we could agree in principle to a 40mph speed limit with some speed reducing measures on part of the C41 Coopers Green Road, it is not a priority for the County Council at the present time due to its relatively good safety record. The location of the speed survey and a summary of its results are included as Appendix 3.

2.5 Although a 40mph speed limit and engineering measures in Coopers Green Road are not a priority for the County Council, the petitioners may wish to approach Uckfield Town Council to determine whether they would support an application for the scheme to be match funded through the County Council's Community Match Initiative. A key consideration being whether there is any prospect of the match funding being raised locally.

2.6 The resources available for introducing speed restrictions are limited. A report considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment on 14 September 2015 did not identify Coopers Green Road to be a priority for funding from the Capital Programme for Speed Management. It did however identify the C33 at Ringles Cross to be a priority for a Local Safety Scheme in the 2015/2016 financial year.

3 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the Lead Member advises the Petitioners that a 40mph speed limit on Coopers Green Road is not a priority for the County Council at the present time. However, the petitioners may wish to approach Uckfield Town Council to establish whether there is enough interest to submit an application through the County Council's Community Match Initiative.

3.2 The Road Safety Team continues to progress with a Local Safety Scheme on the C33 at Ringles Cross where there have been more injury crashes reported to the Police in the latest 3 years. This approach will help to make a better contribution towards casualty reduction.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Michael Higgs
Tel No. 01273 482106
Email: Michael.Higgs@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor Roy Galley

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The Petition