West Horsley Parish Council

Speed Reduction Scheme – Ockham Road North, from Green Lane to East Lane

Background

Residents of Ockham Road North have been campaigning for a speed reduction from 40mph to 30mph for some 20 years. Hence this became a WHPC priority project for delivery using S106 funding from Thakeham Homes (Manor Farm).

As part of the Manor Farm S106 agreement a contribution of £20,000 was secured to amend the existing Traffic Road Order (TRO), extending the 30mph speed limit north on Ockham Road North to Green Lane; and an additional contribution of £80,000 was ring fenced to install traffic calming measures for 750m along Ockham Road North.

The scheme designed by Surrey Highways consists of a change of speed signs from 40 to 30 and seven speed cushions, with associated lighting (a Surrey Highways regulation stipulates that any speed calming measures must have street lighting).

The cost of delivering the traffic calming measures has increased significantly since the initial contribution was sought, and now stands at circa £350,000.

Surrey Highways is looking to reallocate contributions agreed by Thakeham Homes for other projects across East Horsley to enable the work to be completed. It now has approval from Guildford Borough Council and Thakeham Homes to amend the S106 agreement, and for £240,000 to be diverted from other projects across East Horsley, to fill the shortfall in delivering this project.

Although we were aware of the shortfall in funding to deliver this scheme, it is important to note that neither West or East Horsley Parish Councils have been officially consulted on the proposed changes to the S106 allocations, nor given an opportunity to share their views on the whether this scheme will deliver value for money.

It is also important to note that should the Persimmon Homes development get planning approval there are more speed calming measures proposed for this same stretch of road, consisting of road widening, central reservations and raised tables. The two schemes combined, will see a significant amount of street furniture going in along a 750m stretch of road.

Recommendation

In light of the significant increase in cost to deliver this scheme, and the possibility of additional traffic calming measures if the Persimmon development goes ahead, we recommend that the Council requests that Surrey Highways revisits the scheme design to consider if all the proposed measures are necessary, or if less intrusive measures could be introduced to the same effect.

Prepared by Cllr McKenzie, 15 March 2024