

To: Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board
By: KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste
Date: 8th March 2022
Subject: Petition for a 20 mph speed limit and improved infrastructure on A25 Seal Road
Classification: Information Only

Summary: KCC officers have acknowledged the petition but as it is still live, it will not be logged or formally responded to until such time as it is officially closed. KCC are currently reviewing proposals for a speed limit reduction on A25 Seal Road.

Update

A petition to reduce the speed limit on A25 Seal Road and improve the infrastructure along this route has been acknowledged by Kent County Council, however as the petition is still live at change.org it will not be logged or formally responded to until it has been officially closed. In the meantime, a traffic consultant has reviewed options for potential improvement measures on A25 Seal Road and these have been shared with Seal Parish Council. We would need to identify a suitable funding source before any proposals could be taken forward.

When considering speed limits, we work to guidance published by the Department for Transport in their circular 01/2013 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. There are a number of criteria which help us to identify where a speed limit change may be suitable. Requests for 20 mph speed limits and zones are becoming more popular and as such, Kent County Council have recently completed two trials of town-wide 20 mph speed limits at Faversham and Tonbridge, the findings of which have now been published on our website:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/faversham20mph>

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/tonbridge20mph>

The results of these studies indicate that whilst 20 mph speed limits on residential roads are generally well-observed, this is not so often the case on arterial and distributor roads. 20 mph speed limits and zones should be designed to be self-enforcing. Given that Seal Road is an A class road being the A25, we would not look to install physical traffic calming measures such as speed humps or chicanes.

From an initial assessment, we would not consider this location suitable for inclusion in a 20 mph speed limit at this time. However, Kent County Council officers have visited the site and following discussions with Seal Parish Council and Cllr Roger Gough, officers are preparing proposals for a reduction in the speed limit of the existing 40 mph section of A25 Seal Road to 30 mph. This will be subject to a full public consultation in due course.

Conclusion

This report is for Members' information.

Contact Officers: Whitney Gwillim, Schemes Project Manager

The contact officers providing the update can be contacted on **03000 418181**