

# St Paul's Road, Wapshott Road, Bowes Road & Cornwall Way



## Proposed Traffic Management Measures



# Background

## Introduction

St Paul's Road, Wapshott Road, Bowes Road and Cornwall Way are local residential roads that all have a 30mph speed limit. The roads provide a through route between the busy A320 Chertsey Lane and the B3376 Thorpe Road.

Residents have expressed concerns that drivers regularly use the roads as a "rat-run" to avoid queues at the Thorpe Road railway level crossing and the Thorpe Road/Chertsey Lane/The Causeway/Staines Bridge roundabout.

Residents have also raised concerns about vehicle speeds and road safety.

## Traffic surveys

To assess the extent of the problem, traffic surveys were carried out over a 7-day period in May 2023 at the locations indicated below.



The results of these traffic surveys are summarised below:

Survey Number	Road Name	Average (mean - two way) speed	Vehicles travelling above 30mph	Average (mean – two way) daily flow
1	St Paul's Road	24.5 mph	11.8%	1292 vehicles
2	St Paul's Road	21.5 mph	1.7%	826 vehicles
3	Cornwall Way	18.9 mph	0.4%	856 vehicles
4	Wapshott Road	21.0 mph	0.8%	785 vehicles
5	Wapshott Road	20.4 mph	1.4%	895 vehicles
6	Bowes Road	15.8 mph	0.1%	177 vehicles
7	Bowes Road	18.0 mph	0.2%	1110 vehicles
8	Bowes Road	21.2 mph	2.1%	2096 vehicles

The following can be concluded from the results of the surveys:

- The volumes of traffic at some of the survey locations is greater than would be expected based on the number of properties within the estate, indicating that some drivers are using the roads through the estate as a “rat-run” as suggested by residents.
- Vehicles speeds are generally relatively low and there is a good level of compliance with the 30mph speed limit. However, a small number of inconsiderate motorists were recorded travelling at inappropriate speeds for residential roads of this nature.
- Vehicle speeds are highest in the section of St Paul's Road between the Wapshott Road and Thorpe Road junctions.
- A much greater number of vehicles enter and exit the estate using Bowes Road than they do using St Paul's Road.

## Safety record

The roads through the estate have a relatively good safety record.

In the 3 years from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2022 (latest available data), one personal injury collision occurred on roads within the estate. This collision (which resulted in “slight” injuries) involved 2 vehicles and happened at the junction of Farm Close and Wapshott Road in February 2022.

(There were no personal injury collisions at either the St Paul's Road/ Thorpe Road or the Bowes Road/Chertsey Lane junctions over the same period).

# Issues identified

The main issues of concern can be summarised as follows:

- The volume of traffic (due to drivers using the roads as an alternative route to avoid delays at the Thorpe Road level crossing and at the Thorpe Road/The Causeway/Chertsey Lane/Staines Bridge roundabout).
- The speed of traffic in some locations, especially in St Paul's Road between Thorpe Road and St Paul's Road (where the pedestrian access for children attending Magna Carta School is located).

## What options are there?

### Proposed measures

In response to the concerns raised by residents, Surrey County Council has proposed 2 alternative schemes (with a 3<sup>rd</sup> option of 'do nothing' and leave the roads as they currently are). These options are:

**Option 1** – Point road closures using features that prevent vehicles driving through the estate (whilst still allowing access for cyclists and pedestrians), along with introducing a 20mph zone.

**Option 2** – Traffic calming consisting of road tables and speed cushions, along with introducing a 20mph zone.

**Option 3** – 'Do nothing', leaving the estate as it currently is.

Options 1 and 2 are considered appropriate alternative schemes that would help improve road safety, reduce both vehicle speeds and volumes, and reduce the impact of traffic on residents' quality of life.

# Option 1 – Point road closures and 20mph zone

Option 1 proposes closing off the through route for vehicles except cyclists and pedestrians, between the A320 Chertsey Lane and the B3376 Thorpe Road by introducing point road closures.



Point road closures would reduce the amount of traffic using the roads by physically preventing rat-running. However, they would not necessarily reduce speeds at all locations and could cause inconvenience for some residents as well as impacting on emergency service vehicles.

Initially the point road closures would be installed on an experimental basis. This would then allow the impacts of the scheme and the views of residents to be assessed before deciding whether the closures should be made permanent or whether alternative measures should be considered.

Below are some examples of temporary and permanent point road closures:



Source: transportxtra.com



Source: Twitter/E17modalfilters



Source: Twitter/E17modalfilters

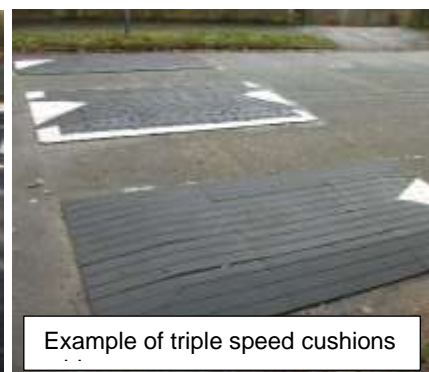
# Option 2 – Traffic calming and 20mph zone

Option 2 proposes the introduction of traffic calming in the form of road tables and speed cushions, at regular intervals along the roads through the estate. The plan below gives an indication of the type of layout the scheme could take.



Some advantages and disadvantages of vertical traffic calming:

- Will help reduce the speed of traffic, without impacting on access for residents or emergency service vehicles.
- May discourage some drivers from using the estate as a “rat-run”.
- Will not physically prevent drivers from using the estate as a “rat-run” and will be more costly to install than Option 1.
- Traffic calming measures are not popular with all residents, and concerns have been raised about issues with noise and vibration at some locations where road tables and speed cushions have been installed previously.



# What do you think?

We want to know what you think about the proposals, and which of the options you would prefer. The views that you express will influence what happens next. It is therefore very important that you complete a feedback form, which can be found on the consultation webpage.

We will be holding 2 drop-in events to give you the opportunity to find out more about the proposals and Officers will be available to answer any questions you may have. You are encouraged to come along to one of the events before completing a feedback form. However, if you are unable to attend either event then it is still important that you complete a feedback form so that your views can be considered.

The drop-in events will be held at The Hythe Centre (36 Thorpe Rd, Staines-upon-Thames, Egham TW18 3HD) at the following times:

- **2pm to 8pm on Wednesday 12 July 2023**
- **9am to 2pm on Thursday 13 July 2023**

Please submit your feedback form by Friday 8 September 2023 to ensure your views are considered as part of the consultation.

# What happens next?

The views provided by residents will be carefully considered together with comments received from other key stakeholders (such as the emergency services) before deciding how to proceed.

If it is decided that either Option 1 (closures) or Option 2 (traffic calming) should be introduced, then various processes will need to be completed (including detail design of the scheme and statutory procedures) before the measures can be installed. However, we would aim to have the measures in place by the end of March 2024.

Updates on the results of the consultation and the decision on how to proceed will be posted on the consultation pages on our website.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this leaflet. We hope you have found it helpful, and we look forward to receiving your views.