Proposed Speed Limit Reduction to 30mph
in various roads in Caterham Valley.

Statement of Reasons

There have been several concerns raised by residents and the Local Member about the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and other vulnerable road users in the vicinity of Caterham Viewpoint.

Department for Transport guidance advises that the lowest speed limit on a rural road should be 40mph, however, in this case, the speed data shows that the average speed of vehicles is much closer to 30mph than 40mph, setting the speed limit to 40mph may give road users the impression that 40mph is the most appropriate speed by which to travel along these roads, leading to an overall increase in vehicle speeds, an undesirable outcome.

Another issue is that there is the popular dog walker/rambler destination directly adjacent to Tupwood Scrubs Road/Gravelly Hill in the form of Viewpoint. As the proposed roads are not serviced by pedestrian footways, this means that more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians/horse riders and cyclists can regularly be found travelling along the carriageway itself. With the fatal collision which occurred in 2020 where the driver failed to navigate the sharp bend at Viewpoint, a 30mph speed limit will greatly improve the safety of these more vulnerable road users, as well as encourage more sustainable travel forms to the area, such as walking, if the speed limit is viewed as safer by the public.

Therefore, it is proposed to reduce the speed limit from de-restricted to 30mph on the following roads in Caterham Valley:

- D1440 Tupwood Scrubs Road
- D1441 Gravelly Hill
- D1442 Weald Way
- D1442 Woodland Way
- D1441 War Coppice Road

A reduction in the speed limit from de-restricted to 30mph on those roads comply with Surrey Highways Policy on Setting Local Speed Limits and is supported by the Police.

Guidance from the Department for Transport emphasises that research into signed alone reductions in speed limits does lead to small reductions in traffic speeds. Therefore, signed speed limit reductions are most appropriate where measured traffic speeds are close to the proposed speed limits. Research has shown that if average speeds fall by 1mph then the collision rate will fall by approximately 5%. Therefore, it is proposed to reduce the speed limits on the above-mentioned roads to 30mph to both reduce speeds and the severity of collisions.