

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 7 MARCH 2016



SUBJECT: PETITION – REQUEST FOR A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON THE A217 BRIGHTON ROAD, BANSTEAD IN THE VICINITY OF BURGH WOOD

DIVISION: BANSTEAD, WOODMANSTERNE & CHIPSTEAD AND NORK & TATTENHAMS

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To consider a petition containing 1019 signatures (as at 22 February 2016) – by Eva Hellings.

Details of petition:

The A217 near the top of Burgh Wood in Banstead needs a crossing. Hundreds of people cross dangerously every day at this point, many of which are children from the local schools because it is too far to walk, to the nearest crossing for little legs or for the elderly.

There is no other way to enter Banstead town centre for us to take our children to school safely. Driving is not an option as there is not enough parking. In fact many parents from Banstead Infants and Juniors drive to the Nork roads to park up and then cross here. The Horseshoe in Banstead near the schools have sensibly had the pavements widened for safety but now there is even less parking.

We are constantly being encouraged to walk to school but this is not a safe option, yet I have crossed here each school day for the last 7 years and will continue to do so for the next 7 years until my youngest finishes at our most local Junior school.

Seven years ago I wrote to the local residents association to ask if anything could be done. I was told there needed to be more fatalities before the criteria would be ticked to push for a crossing so they could not pursue my request for help. I wonder which of my 4 children the council would like to see dead before they feel a crossing is needed.

I have stood in the middle of the A217 after crossing half way and heard a crash behind us to turn and see a coach having crashed into a car just where we had been standing...Isn't that close enough. This is just one of many close misses I know people have experienced here.

I would like the council to please take this seriously at last. There is space for a bridge or traffic lights...either of these would be amazing.

RESPONSE:

The A217 Brighton Road is a dual carriageway with two lanes of northbound traffic and two lanes of southbound traffic separated by a grassed central reservation. Banstead Town Centre, where Banstead Infant and Junior Schools, St Anne's Primary School and Priory Preparatory School are located along with shops and other local businesses to the east of the A217 Brighton Road. The residential area of Nork is to the west of the A217 Brighton Road, and this road effectively severs this community from the facilities in Banstead Town Centre.

The junction of the Brighton Road with The Drive and Garratts Lane is under signal control, and these signals have a pedestrian phase, which provide a safe crossing of the A217. There is an informal crossing point on the A217 just north of Burgh Wood, adjacent to the footpath that leads to The Horseshoe. There is a tarmac strip in the central reservation and a dropped kerb on the eastern footway of the A217 Brighton Road.

A review of reported personal injury collisions on the A217 Brighton Road in the vicinity of Burgh Wood between December 2012 and November 2015 shows three collisions involving slight personal injury. All of these collisions were between two vehicles and none of them involved pedestrians.

Officers are aware that road safety and pedestrians crossing the A217 Brighton Road at this informal crossing point has been of concern to local residents for a number of years. The request for a formal crossing point has already been identified as a priority project. It is included in both the Reigate and Banstead Transport & Forward Programme that forms part of the Surrey Transport Plan, and also in Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Funding has been secured, from developer contributions collected in the area, for feasibility design for a signalised crossing on the A217 Brighton Road in the vicinity of Burgh Wood to be carried out during the financial year 2016/17. It should be noted that no funding has been allocated for the implementation of a signalised crossing at this location, the cost of which is likely to be in the region of £150,000.

The provision of this signalised crossing is currently being appraised for inclusion in the Epsom to Banstead Sustainable Transport Plan (STP) bid to the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). All potential schemes are appraised against the LEP objectives by Surrey's Transport Policy Team before being included as part of the bid. It is not yet certain that this scheme will be included in the bid to the Coast to Capital LEP, and even if the scheme were included there is no guarantee that the bid would be successful. However if the scheme for a crossing were included in a bid to the LEP that was ultimately successful, then the crossing could be implemented using funding from the LEP.

Progress on the Epsom to Banstead STP bid is the subject of a separate report to this Local Committee.

Contact Officer:

Philippa Gates, Assistant Engineer, South East Area Team Tel: 03456 009 009