



**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE
PETITION – ROAD SAFETY
CHRISTCHURCH INFANT SCHOOL
11 MAY 2006**

KEY ISSUE

To advise the Committee that a petition has been received from the parents of children at Christchurch Infant School. They are concerned about road safety and request at least two of the following:

- 1) A lower speed limit for example 20 or 30 miles per hour,
- 2) A pedestrian crossing,
- 3) Speed bumps.

SUMMARY

The petition has 50 signatories and has been organised by a parent of a pupil who attends the school.

ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER

Foxhills and Virginia Water – Mrs Elise Whiteley

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- a) That the Committee notes the concerns of the petitioners,
- b) that the lead petitioner is advised that no further action is planned at this time

1. Background

- 1.1 Christchurch Road is the B389 and forms part of the classified road network in Surrey. It is heavily trafficked, and is a key local distributor.
- 1.2 The properties along Christchurch Road are generously set back from the carriageway. There are footways on both sides of the carriageway, extending the entire length on the northern side.
- 1.3 The school is for young children who do not travel to school on their own, nor are permitted out of the school unaccompanied.
- 1.4 There are substantial yellow backed warning signs advising drivers that they are approaching a school from both directions. These are supplemented by flashing school wig-wag lights.

2. Petition detail

- 2.1 The petition has 50 signatories and implies that it has the support of the Head teacher. A copy of the petition is available upon request.
- 2.2 The petition claims that the worst part of the day for parents are pick up and drop off times, and that Christchurch Road is responsible for this.
- 2.3 The petition calls for a reduction in the speed limit, with other associated road safety improvements.

3. Accident history

- 3.1 There have not been any injury accidents near the school since 1992.

4. Petitioners' suggested improvements

- 4.1 A full speed limit review was undertaken earlier this year. This concluded that the appropriate speed limit is 40mph. This has the support of Surrey Police road safety Officers. It should be remembered that 40mph is the maximum speed permitted but it is still the responsibility of the driver to travel at a speed appropriate to the conditions. The full speed limit review is included in Annex 1.
- 4.2 In view of the very recent review, it is not proposed to undertake a further assessment. It should be noted that in common with many schools, considerable parental parking actually contributes to reducing vehicle speeds.
- 4.3 Due to the limited road width it is not possible to install a pedestrian refuge island. The introduction of a controlled crossing (pelican etc) would have little real benefit as demand is limited to two very short periods each school day.
- 4.4 Traffic calming is not possible on roads which have a speed limit in excess of 30mph. It is not practical or necessarily desirable to traffic calm (with speed bumps) all roads where such requests are made. Christchurch Road is a classified local distributor of significant local importance.

5. Safe Routes to School

- 5.1 Surrey County Council Road Safety Officers have regular dealings with many schools in Runnymede. Officers offer advice and road safety training. A "School Speed Watch" has been planned for Christchurch Infant school with SCC and Surrey Police. This will enable carefully supervised children to be involved in speed monitoring with Surrey Police with the intention of educating any offending drivers.

6. Divisional Member

- 6.1 The Divisional Member is promoting the introduction of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for Christchurch Road from her Members' allowance. This is subject to a separate report on today's agenda. If funding is approved, and the feasibility study confirms it is technically possible this will act as a further reminder to drivers that there is a school.

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Background Papers: None

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Initials: NH

Annexes: 1