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**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL
COMMITTEE
PETITION –
19 SEPTEMBER 2008**

KEY ISSUE

To advise the Committee that a petition has been received.

SUMMARY

The petition has 66 signatories and has been mostly signed by parents of children at the school.

The petition states “We support the need for a safer crossing place in The Avenue, New Haw, for our children to be able to travel to and from school safely”.

ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER

New Haw – Mrs Mary Angell

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

1. BACKGROUND

The lead petitioner, Ms Clare Hickford, wrote in her letter accompanying the petition:

I represent a group of 66 families (see attached petition) from these schools. I would like to bring a situation to your attention.

We are very concerned about our children's safety travelling to and from school. With the 'Safe Routes to School' initiative "to ensure that pupils can make their journey to school in a benign environment", we know that this matter is taken seriously, but we feel that more could be done, than is currently the case.

Although a school crossing patrol is provided for children crossing over Queen Mary's Drive, many of us travel up King George's Drive, crossing over to the school site at the end of The Avenue, close to triangular junction. There are dropped kerbs here so it is intended as a crossing point. However, the majority of the time, there are cars parked completely or partially across it, or mounted on the pathway, making crossing difficult and dangerous. Most of the time you need to step into the middle of the road before you can even see if it is safe to cross!

It is around this area that Mrs Bisacre (Head of the Grange School) informed us that within the last few months a child has been hit by a car. This child, thankfully, was not badly hurt, but it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident if motorists continue to behave in such an inconsiderate manner.

These vehicles are "causing a safety issue" and "restricting access", and as such should be priorities under Runnymede BC parking policies. We would therefore urge you to mark these dropped kerbs with 'Keep Clear' or other relevant markings, preferably covering a wider area, so that it becomes obvious that it is not a suitable place to park. Some of us have tried asking people not to park here, but it has little effect. A permanent and obvious message is required. It would also be beneficial to see Police enforcing parking restrictions in this area.

By supporting us in this matter, we will know that you take our children's safety very seriously. We hope that you will give this the careful consideration that it deserves and invite you to come and witness the situation for yourself. Our families' safety is very important.

Thank you for taking a few moments of your time to read this letter. I would appreciate a response as soon as possible as this matter requires quick action.