



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WAVERLEY)**

**RESPONSE TO PETITION: ROAD SAFETY FOR
PEDESTRIANS IN ROWLEDGE**

22 JUNE 2012

KEY ISSUE

To respond to a petition presented by Mr Graham Precious on behalf of residents of Rowledge held on 16 March 2012.

PETITION

The petition was presented as follows:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to create safe pedestrian access, particularly for parents and children, within the village of Rowledge.

Rowledge is a thriving village with a church, Primary School, two nursery schools, two pubs, three shops and a hairdresser. Many residents walk and cycle around the village, despite narrow roads and lack of pavements. They are forced to share the often winding, high-hedged, poorly signed roads with motor vehicles driving at speeds unsafe for the shared nature of the roads. A Village Plan exercise conducted in May 2011 identified road safety as the No.1 concern of villagers. We wish the Council to implement safe pedestrian routes, with particular focus on a short stretch of The Avenue from Chapel Road to The Long Road, to allow safe access from the East of the village to the Square, and Cherry Tree Road from Prospect Road to Boundary Road/School Road. If this is achieved, it will give the children a safe route to walk to school and residents safe access to the shops. We believe that without swift action, it is only a matter of time before the village suffers a serious casualty or fatality.

RESPONSE

The Committee would like to thank Mr Precious for presenting the e-petition on behalf of the local residents.

County Council officers will visit Rowledge to assess the highways issues in the village, particularly in the vicinity of the school. The officers will investigate how the situation could be improved for the pupils and parents walking to school. Officers will carry out an assessment of the possibility of having a school crossing patrol officer and having a 'Walking Bus' to the school.

Officers will also explore ways to improve the Rights of Way network for local residents in the village.

Officers have already communicated with several local residents in The Avenue to cut back their hedges. This will be monitored to ensure that hedges are cut back regularly.

Highway officers have visited the village and assessed the existing warning signs in The Avenue, Chapel Road and Cherry Tree Road. It is recommended that more warning signs should be erected on these roads to advise motorists of pedestrians. New warning signs could be funded from the existing signs budget depending on the total cost. Funding for any further highways improvements should be borne by the capital funding (ITS scheme) or from S106. Officers will identify whether there is any S106 funding available. Any approved plans for new signs will be forwarded to the County Council's contractors by the end of the summer.

A plan, showing the proposed improvements in the village, including possible sources of funding, will be presented at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to agree the response set out above.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None