

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 1 December 2014

DIVISION: Earlswood & Reigate South



Petition

We hereby the signed petition Surrey County Council to make safe the roads and pathways around Sandcross School. We are requesting that the following is dealt with as soon as possible.

Barriers to be extended

Reduce the speed limit to 20 during school times

Drain to be put in place at the crossing as huge puddle occurs when its wet

Drop the curb at crossing to allow disabled access to crossing and ease for buggies

Better enforcement of the road laws and parking laws

Response

This petition was considered by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding on 12 November 2014. The response below was approved by the Cabinet Member, who also agreed that the petition and response be considered at the next available Reigate and Banstead Local Committee meeting.

Response considered by Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding

Sandcross School is located in Sandcross Lane, Reigate at the junction with Whitehall Lane. Sandcross Lane is a 30mph road and forms part of a bus route. There are School warning signs with flashing wig-wag lights to warn of the operation of a school crossing patrol in place on both approaches to the school. Pedestrian guard railing has been provided by the pedestrian entrance and opposite Allingham Road. There are School Keep Clear restrictions in Sandcross Lane outside the school entrance and some double yellow line waiting restrictions.

The County has recently approved a Road Safety Outside Schools policy. The policy sets out an assessment process, led by the Sustainable Transport Team, which involves the school, the divisional member, the Area Team engineers, Road Safety Team engineers and Police road safety officers. Following the assessment, a report will be produced which will include recommendations on potential road safety education and/or highway improvements measures that could be implemented, subject to the allocation of funding. This report will be presented to the relevant Local Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and divisional member and to the school. The Local Committee will then need to decide whether to include any proposals for highway improvements on their Integrated Transport Schemes forward programme and allocate funding for design and implementation. (Note; A copy of the Road Safety Outside Schools Policy was attached for information).

It is proposed that the Sustainable Transport Team be asked to investigate road safety outside Sandcross School in accordance with the Road Safety Outside Schools policy later this financial year. This would highlight anything that the school may be able to undertake (such as "Park SMART" or walking buses) that may help to alleviate the situation alongside any additional highway measures that are considered necessary. The petitioners request for a 20mph speed limit during school times would be considered as part of this assessment. To help inform the consideration of a reduced speed limit, it is proposed to carry out speed surveys in advance of the assessment. This would need to be funded through the Reigate and Banstead's Local Committee's revenue budget.

The lack of dropped kerbs and the drainage issue has already been identified as part of the School Crossing Patrol assessment carried out earlier this year. It is proposed that Reigate and Banstead Local Committee be asked to agree to allocate funding from the Local Committee's Small Safety Scheme budget to enable the provision of dropped kerbs and drainage works to be progressed this financial year.

The petition does not specify how far it is considered the pedestrian guard railing should be extended. Department for Transport guidance on pedestrian guard railing recommends that it should be installed only where it is considered absolutely necessary to ensure safety. It is proposed that officers meet on site with the petitioner and a representative from the school to discuss the request. If additional guard railing is considered necessary to ensure pedestrian safety, the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee will need to agree to allocate funding from the Local Committee's Small Safety Scheme budget to enable the work to be carried out.

In terms of parking enforcement, Reigate and Banstead Council and Surrey Police have formed a Joint Enforcement Team (JET) in the borough to better tackle antisocial and dangerous parking. The JET team consists of Police Officers, PCSO's and Civil Enforcement Officers. The team have commenced regular visits to Sandcross School and have issued a number of Penalty Charge Notices for parking offences. Whilst the team cannot be outside every school in the borough twice a day to monitor the school run, Sandcross School has been prioritised for enforcement in future months. The team will work with the school and county council to help identify any safety improvements. Any changes to parking restrictions can be taken forward as part of the boroughs 2015 Parking Review.

Additional Information to be considered by Local Committee

The petitioner has indicated that in addition to the need for dropped kerbs and drainage at the pedestrian crossing point, that many of the existing drains in the local vicinity are blocked with stones and leaves. Leaves are also reported to be covering up the yellow lines. Street sweeping is a Borough function and is carried out in residential roads on a regular basis. The borough also carries out additional sweeps to clear roads that suffer from significant accumulation of leaves, with leaf sweeping continuing until early January each year. Members of the public can request an additional leaf sweep through the borough's website.

The Community Highway Officer for the area has carried out an inspection of Sandcross Road and cleared all but one gully. The remaining blocked gully near the access to Reigate Garden Centre has been added to the list for cleaning by the additional jetting machine when it is next in the area. Officers also have asked the borough to carry out an additional leaf sweep in Sandcross Road.

The petitioner has also commented that the yellow lines in Sandcross Road are faded in places. The Parking Manager has agreed to arrange for these lines to be inspected and refreshed as appropriate. Consideration of the extension of the existing waiting restrictions will be carried out as part of the review of safety outside the school and any amendments could be included as part of the next Borough-wide parking review. Changes arising from the next review are programmed to be considered by Local Committee in March 2015 and would then be taken forward to statutory consultation.

Parking enforcement officers have attended the school at least 5 times this term to date and have issued 2 Penalty Charge Notices to vehicles parked on waiting restrictions. It is planned to scale up the level of enforcement in this area as the Joint Enforcement Team (JET) incorporates more schools into its enforcement programme.

With the Local Committee's agreement, it is proposed that the following action be taken to address the concerns raised by the petitioner:

- (i) The Sustainable Transport Team be asked to investigate road safety outside Sandcross School in accordance with the Road Safety Outside Schools policy;
- (ii) A speed survey be carried out in Sandcross Lane in the vicinity of the school, funded from the Local Committee's revenue budget;
- (iii) Design and implementation of dropped kerbs and drainage measures be carried out, funded from the Local Committee's Small Safety Scheme budget; and
- (iv) If considered necessary, additional pedestrian guard railing or bollards be provided, funded from the Local Committee's Small Safety Scheme budget.

In order to progress these matters, officers will arrange a meeting with the petitioner and a representative from the school at the earliest opportunity.

This page is intentionally left blank