

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)**

**DATE: 2 March 2015**

**DIVISION: Reigate**

**PETITION**



**Say Yes to Reigate Hill Crossing, 607 Signatures**

Trying to cross Reigate Hill is a terrifying prospect. The path on the Yew Tree/Esso garage side of the road comes to an abrupt end outside the Reigate Manor Hotel at which point to continue down the hill you are forced to cross the road. That means you have to cross 2 lanes of traffic usually breaking the 30mph speed limit and all in a hurry so refusing to let you out. You have to run the gauntlet and keep your fingers crossed! Try this with small children, as a teenager walking to school on your own or an elderly person.

The council has been approached several times over the last decade but they have told us they are unable to put a crossing in due to lack of funding. My question is this: Does it take a death to make it happen and what price is a life? It is about time this heavily used road is made safer for our children.

I have set up an online petition to try to get a crossing. If you feel strongly about a need for a crossing in this spot, please sign the petition and share & tell all your friends, family and loved ones to support the cause please.

Should we not show our children & future generations that we are a proactive society in attempting to prevent these fatalities/injuries, rather than demonstrating a total complacency where there are clear safety issues that could quite easily be fixed?

Thanks for reading and I hope you feel able to support this very important & very real issue.

**Response**

The A217 Reigate Hill links the M25 to Reigate town centre. The speed limit at the Yew Tree/ESSO garage is 30mph, changing to 40mph approximately 175 north of Beech Road. Reigate Hill is subject to a double white line system which starts at Beech Road and extend northwards to the junction with Wray Lane/Gatton Bottom. There is a spot speed safety camera immediately south of Raglan Road.

There is a footway on the eastern side from the footbridge at the top of Reigate Hill extending south into Reigate town centre. However, there is only a short section of footway on the west

**Annex A**

side of Reigate Hill between Reigate Manor Hotel and Pilgrims Way footpath and no facilities to cross the road to the eastern footway.

A review of recorded personal injury collisions in the vicinity of the ESSO garage over the past 3 years shows that there have been 6 collisions, all at the junction with Raglan Road related to vehicle turning movements and all resulting in slight injury. None of the accidents involved pedestrians.

A petition was presented to Reigate and Banstead Local Committee in 2004 from local residents concerned about the difficulties faced by pedestrians wishing to cross Reigate Hill in the vicinity of the ESSO garage. Funding was allocated to enable a feasibility study to be carried, the findings of which were reported to Local Committee in September 2008.

Provision of a signal controlled crossing or a zebra crossing were considered but they were concluded to be over provision for the level of pedestrian movement. In addition, the existing width of the eastern footway was found to be too narrow to enable equipment poles to be introduced and maintain sufficient width for pushchairs or wheelchairs to pass. There were concerns over visibility of the signal heads/belisha beacons.

A 1.2m wide pedestrian refuge island located south of the access serving both the ESSO garage and the Reigate Manor Hotel was put forward as the preferred option. This was the only location identified where there was sufficient road width and also provided maximum visibility, but required acquisition of an area of land outside the public highway extents. Following a vote, it was resolved by a majority of Members not to proceed with this option and that no further work be undertaken on the scheme. The Members main concern was that the available road width and width of the proposed island, coupled with the heavy HGV usage of Reigate Hill, could result in accidents at a site where there were relatively few at that time.

Officers have carried out a review of the previous options and have attended a site visit with the divisional Member. The reasons why a controlled crossing facility could not be provided on this section of Reigate Hill have not changed and so these options are still not feasible.

Current guidance states that pedestrian refuge islands should be at least 1.6m in width, preferably 2.0m, to cater for wheelchair users. The proposal presented to Local Committee in 2008 was sub-standard in that the island was only 1.2m in width. At a location where vehicle flows are high and comprises a large proportion of HGVs, a 2.0m width island would be required. It is not possible to provide this width of island within the existing highway boundary.

Therefore it is not feasible to provide a pedestrian crossing facility on Reigate Hill in the vicinity of The Yew Tree/ESSO garage. It is appreciated that there is pedestrian demand to cross the road at this location and drivers may not be aware that pedestrians will be crossing at this point. It is proposed to install signs warning of pedestrians crossing on both approaches to the ESSO garage. This could be funded from the Local Committee's Integrated Transport Schemes allocation for signs and road markings.