

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 2 March 2015

DIVISION: Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood

Public Question:



A DANGEROUS JUNCTION Brighton Road A217/CANONS LANE, BURGH HEATH

It is possible to make 6 different manoeuvres at this extremely dangerous junction. The configuration of the road must be changed and the speed of traffic reduced.

Southbound vehicles performing U turns block the visibility of northbound vehicles waiting to turn right into Canons Lane. Their visibility is compounded by the increase in vehicles favouring dark tinted windows and the large number of vans.

Vehicles waiting to turn right out of Canons Lane heading north bound on the A217 often have an unacceptably long wait due to the queues of U turning vehicles.

At certain times of the day the queue of U turning traffic snakes out of the central reservation gap and is stationary in the outside lane of the A217 forcing traffic behind to swerve to avoid collisions.

All vehicles sitting in the central reservation gap are nose to nose with headlights distorting their vision. They are then required to edge forwards into the path of fast moving traffic, which is extremely dangerous.

The arrows on the road suggest that U turn is an acceptable manoeuvre and therefore drivers causing the problems are unwilling to change their behaviour. These arrows should be removed. An elongated traffic island to better separate the two U turning flows from traffic in and out of Canons Lane is highly desirable as shown in BHRA's response to the Local Transport Strategy Proposal. Or there could be a new U turn away from the existing junction, further north after the Aberdour exit allowing parents to make U turns away from Canons Lane thereby making it safer for drivers turning into Canons Lane from the south, not having their view blocked by said vehicles.

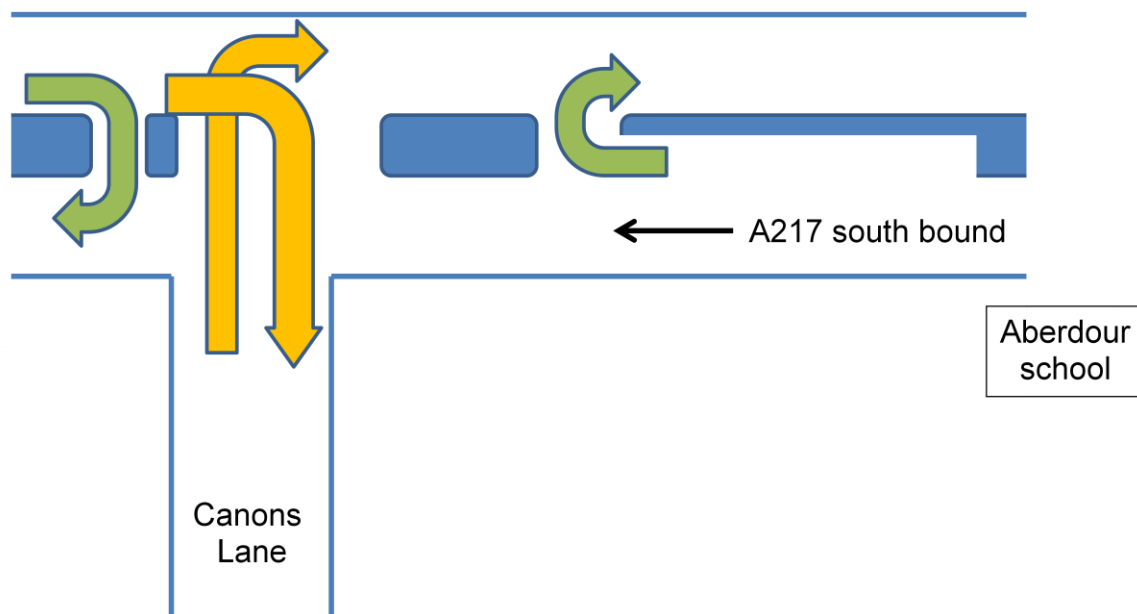
Cars travelling south on the A217 speed up as they pull away from the junction with Tattenham Way. A speed sign that comes on when drivers go above the speed limit would be a useful reminder especially if it was situated after Aberdour school entrance. It should be sited in the central reservation. Perhaps the speed should be reduced to 30mph as this is a school area.

The speed of vehicles on the A217 is the primary issue.

Making the Canons Lane /A217 intersection safe

This access point to the A217 is used by more than half of the houses in Burgh Heath as well as parents from Aberdour School bringing children to and from the school. North bound journeys from Canons Lane requiring a right turn involve a pause in the central refuge where there is an immediate clash with three other streams of traffic: that turning into Canons Lane from the south, that attempting to make a U-turn to reach the shops at the Parade (to the left of the diagram) and U-turning traffic from the north. The latter has a most serious effect at the beginning and end of the school day when vehicles from Aberdour School attempt U-turns to make north bound journeys. Not only is there considerable uncertainty about the intended paths of vehicles but visibility is seriously impaired.

This is a proposal for elongated traffic islands to separate the two U-turning flows from traffic in and out of Canons Lane. These are highly desirable, they command local support and are simple to implement. They are shown below.



Separating the U-turning traffic flows at the Canons Lane/A217 intersection

QUESTIONS –

- Can we have a speed camera on the incline past Aberdour School to slow the oncoming traffic.
- Could the configuration of the junction be changed to establish road safety for the many children being conveyed to and from the school.

Patricia Sherren (Mrs)
Chairman Burgh Heath Residents' Association

www.surreycc.gov.uk/Reigate&Banstead

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:

The safety of this junction was recently discussed at the Reigate and Banstead Road Safety Working Group meeting on 20 November 2014. These meetings involve the county council's road safety team, local area highways officers and police road safety officers, and take place every six months in order to discuss collision hotspots and road safety interventions across the Borough.

The county council's database of personal injury collisions recorded by the police was checked and it was found that there had been only one slight injury road casualty at the junction of the A217 with Canons Lane in the last five years. This involved a southbound cyclist who was hit by a car emerging and turning left from Canons Lane in 2010. Information on personal injury collisions can be obtained from www.crashmap.co.uk. It is accepted that drivers have to take extra care when undertaking any manoeuvres tuning into and out of Canons Lane especially during the busier period at school journey times. However the collision history does not indicate a very high risk of collision compared to many other sites in Reigate and Banstead. Consequently it was concluded that investment in changing the configuration of this junction would not be justified based on the likely reduction in casualties due to the fact that there haven't been any collisions associated with vehicles u-turning or turning right in the last five years.

The stretch of the A217 Brighton Road from the junction with Fir Tree Road to the junction with the M25 is the subject of a bid for investment to the Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership for the provision of average speed cameras to enforce the existing 40 mph speed limit. This would replace the three existing "Gatso" brand bi-directional spot speed cameras on this stretch that are becoming obsolete. A decision on the award of the funding is due in late March 2015 after which, if successful, it is hoped that the average speed cameras could be installed during the next financial year 2015/16. The average speed cameras would encourage compliance with the speed limit along the whole length in both directions as opposed to only within the vicinity of the existing spot speed cameras in one direction at a time. This would include the stretch of the A217 Brighton Road at its junction with Canons Lane, and so would reduce the likelihood of excess speeds and collisions at this site.

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