

Petition response (tabled)

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)****DATE: 15 JUNE 2016****SUBJECT: PETITION – IMPROVE ASHTEAD’S A24 VIA A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION****DIVISION: ASHTEAD****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To consider a petition with 434 signatures presented by Jayne Mansfield.

Petition’s details:

The A24 near the top of Bramley Way in Ashtead needs a pedestrian crossing. With The Greville School and the new nursery The Burrow at the entrance to Ashtead Park, there are a number of children and parents crossing the busy A24 every day. Currently the speed limit is 40mph along this road and does not reduce to 30mph until just before The Street. By reducing the speed limit and including a pedestrian crossing near Bramley Way, it would provide a safer environment for those walking to and from The Greville and The Burrow nursery. Additionally those using Ashtead Park and the A24 bus stops would also be less at risk with a decrease in the speed limit. It would also reduce noise and spray during wet weather, creating a much nicer environment to walk in thereby encouraging more people to travel by foot.

RESPONSE**Pedestrian Crossing**

The A24 Epsom Road, Ashtead is a single carriageway road providing the main route between Leatherhead and Epsom. The section of the A24 Epsom Road in the vicinity of the junction with Bramley Way has residential property on the western side with Ashtead Park, the nursery and bus stop on the east and is subject to a 40mph speed limit. The Greville Primary School, which in September 2015 expanded from 1 form entry to 2 forms of entry, is located on the western side of the A24 Epsom Road, the main entrance for which is located on Stonny Croft. The number of pupils at the school is currently over 500, expecting to increase to a maximum of 660 pupils by 2018.

There is a continuous footway on the eastern side of the A24 Epsom Road, however on the western side the footway ends just to the south of the junction with Bramley Way for a distance of approximately 300m. Pedestrians currently use an informal crossing point, in the form of a pedestrian island with dropped kerbs and tactile paving, to cross the A24 Epsom Road, just to the south of the junction with Bramley

Way and in front of an existing bus stop. Pedestrians use this informal crossing point to access the footway on the eastern side of the A24 Epsom Road, Ashtead Park, the nursery and the bus stop on the eastern side, as well as The Greville Primary School, the bus stop and residential property on the western side.

A review of reported personal injury collisions shows that one personal injury collision has occurred on the A24 Epsom Road in the vicinity of the junction with Bramley Way, during the most recent 3 year period for which data is available (from 01/04/13 to 31/03/16). However this collision did not involve a pedestrian and speed was not recorded as a contributory factor by Surrey Police.

Due to the expansion of The Greville Primary School, the lack of footway on the western side of the A24 Epsom Way just to the south of the junction with Bramley Way and the pedestrians having to cross the A24 Epsom Road in order to access Ashtead Park, The Burrow Nursery and the bus stop. Officers recommend that the provision of a pedestrian crossing be included on the list of schemes to be considered for future funding by Mole Valley Local Committee and prioritised according to the County Council's transport objectives. It should be noted that initial design of any crossing is carried out in one financial year followed by construction the following year, subject to Local Committee approval.

The 40mph speed limit on A24 Epsom Road begins just to the north of the junction with Bowyers Close and continues to the boundary with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, just to the north of the junction with Woodview Close. Analysis of recorded personal injury collisions over this section of the A24 Epsom Road during the most recent three year period for which data is available 01/04/2013 to 31/03/2016 shows that there were 10 slight personal injury collisions. None of the recorded collisions involved pedestrians, six of the collisions were at the junction with Craddocks Avenue. Speed was recorded by the Police as a possible factor in one of the 10 recorded collisions.

Speed limits are set in accordance with Surrey's speed limit policy, which also sets out the process for assessing speed limits. Experience has shown that lowering a speed limit by signage alone will not guarantee that average speeds (the measure used to determine speed limits) will be reduced. If a speed limit is set much lower than the existing traffic speeds then some motorists may ignore the limit unless the character of the road or environment indicate otherwise.

Surrey does not hold any recent data on traffic speeds on A24 Epsom Road. It is proposed that Officers carry out speed surveys to determine if an extension of the existing 30mph speed limit would comply with Surrey's speed limit policy. If compliant with the policy and following consultation with the divisional Member, the request could then be added to the Integrated Transport Schemes list for consideration for future funding.

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