

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: PETITION – SAFER SCHOOL RUN AT BURSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL, SMALLFIELD

DIVISION: LINGFIELD



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To consider a petition containing 231 signatures – by Mrs Catherine Coulson.

Following on from a recent accident outside Burstow Primary School in which a mum was knocked over. The School Run does at sometimes feel very daunting, the school has over 400 students, that makes for a lot of precious lives to look after, getting to and from school. There are measures in place by the school which help but more needs to be done. Railings are needed that reach round the corner of the Wheelers Lane junction onto Redehall Road up to the Lollipop Lady. I also feel a Pedestrian Crossing at the Width Restriction in Wheelers Lane is essential especially as many parents and children visit the local shops after school. I passionately feel that road safety needs to be addressed, before someone else, possibly a child is hurt. School Runs are one of the busiest times of the days for parents and carers and it needs to be safe for all of us.

<https://www.change.org/p/surrey-county-council-highway-charter-a-safer-school-run-at-burstow-primary-school-smallfield>

The comments received in support of this petition are attached, as is a letter of support from the Acting Headteacher.

RESPONSE:

Burstow Primary School is located at a crossroads junction, with Redehall Road the main road running through Smallfield running north to south, Plough Road running west and Wheelers Lane running east. Burstow Primary School is accessed via Wheelers Lane.

There is currently a 20mph zone on Redehall Road and a section of Wheelers Lane. This is supported with traffic calming in the form of a raised table at the crossroads junction, speed cushions on Redehall Road on the approaches to the school and a pinch point/priority give-way on Wheelers Lane outside the school. The school currently has a School Crossing Patrol on Redehall Road just north of the junction with Wheelers Lane.

A review of the recorded personal injury collisions in the vicinity of the school between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2016 (the latest date for which data is available) has been carried out and the results are given below.

Year	Slight	Serious	Fatal	Total
2013 (from September)	0	0	0	0
2014	1	0	0	1
2015	0	0	0	0
2016 (to end August)	0	1	0	1
Total	1	1	0	2

A collision involving a parent outside the school resulted in a serious injury and is included in the table above. Surrey Police recorded the driver carrying out a poor turn or manoeuvre and driving carelessly as contributing factors in this collision. The collision involving a slight injury contained in the table above occurred in Plough Road near to the crossroads junction; this collision involved 2 vehicles and occurred on a Saturday.

Following the recent collision outside the school a Road Safety Outside Schools meeting was held on 18th October 2016, from 8am until 9:30am. The following was observed during this meeting;

- A large proportion of parents and pupils parked outside the shops on Redehall Road and crossed Redehall Road away from the existing School Crossing Patrol, on occasion crossing between parked cars.
- A number of drivers, including those using the local shops and parents dropping children off at the school, parked on the existing double yellow lines at the crossroads. A number of these drivers also carried out three point turns in Wheelers Lane outside the school.
- A number of parents and pupils did not use the pinch point/priority give-way facility on Wheelers Lane, instead choosing to cross Wheelers Lane closer to the crossroads junction.
- Due to the existing traffic calming and congestion during the school peak time vehicle speeds are reduced.
- A large number of vehicles, including HGVs, turn right out of Plough Lane on to Redehall Road during the school peak.

The recommendations following the outcome of this Road Safety Outside Schools meeting were as follows;

- Refresh 40m of double yellow lines outside the Post Office in Wheelers Lane.
- Ask Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (who operate on-street parking enforcement for Surrey County Council in Tandridge under an agency agreement) to carry out enforcement of the existing waiting restrictions.
- Work with Burstow Primary School to highlight to parents/carers the importance of using the existing School Crossing Patrol rather than crossing Redehall Road outside the Post Office.

- Carry out a review of the existing signage on the approach to the school.

The petitioners are requesting additional pedestrian guard railing is installed on Wheelers Lane and Redehall Road, and the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the pinch point/priority give-way.

Pedestrian guard railing is provided to prevent pedestrians walking into the carriageway at certain locations. It is not a measure that is successful at preventing vehicles from mounting the footway, and in certain locations becomes a maintenance liability due to frequent damage from vehicles.

The existing footway at the crossroads is too narrow to install pedestrian guard railing. Existing pedestrian guard railing outside the school in Wheelers Lane has reduced the footway width to an extent which makes it difficult for pedestrians with pushchairs to use, resulting in pedestrians choosing to walk in the carriageway rather than use the narrow footway. To extend this guard railing to the crossroads could further encourage pedestrians to walk in the carriageway at this point.

Surrey County Council receives a vast number of requests for pedestrian crossings to be installed, especially outside schools, however the number of requests received outweighs the funding available. Therefore funding for such measures is prioritised where their introduction would achieve the greatest benefit in terms of helping to reduce the number of personal injury collisions. As shown from the review of recorded collisions, no personal injury collisions have occurred at the existing pinch point/priority give-way facility.

The collision that occurred in July 2016 was very unfortunate. However, the circumstances of this collision mean that it could have occurred at any location and there is no pattern of similar collisions at this junction. Despite this the County Council does take concerns about road safety seriously and road collisions across the County are continually monitored. If there should be any significant change or increase in the pattern of collisions then the matter would be referred to the relevant Road Safety Working Group for action to be determined. This group consists of Road Safety experts from both Surrey Police and the County Council as well as engineers from Surrey Highways.

For the reasons given above there are no plans to install pedestrian guard rail in either Wheelers Lane or Redehall Road, or a formal pedestrian crossing in Wheelers Lane.

The recommendations made following the Road Safety Outside Schools meeting will be progressed, during the 2017/18 financial year.

Contact Officer: Anne-Marie Hannam, Senior Traffic Engineer, South East Area Team

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