

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)****DATE:** 27 FEBRUARY 2017**LEAD****OFFICER:** ADRIAN HARRIS, ENGINEER, PARKING PROJECTS TEAM**SUBJECT:** PETITION RESPONSE – SILVERDALE AVENUE, OXSHOTT**DIVISION:** HINCHLEY WOOD, CLAYGATE AND OXSHOTT**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Concerns have been raised about traffic and parking in Silverdale Avenue associated with people accessing Danes Hill School.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to note the contents of this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not applicable.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 A petition supported by 32 residents of Silverdale Avenue, Oxshott, has been received raising concerns about traffic and parking in Silverdale Avenue. The title of the petition is:

Petition by the Residents of Silverdale Avenue in Oxshott to the Elmbridge Local Committee of Surrey County Council regarding the intolerable and potentially dangerous situation that currently exists relating to traffic and parking in the road.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 Following receipt of the petition officers from the parking team and the area highway team, and the chairman and vice chairman of the Elmbridge local committee met with the Bursar of Danes Hill School, to seek solutions to the problems mentioned within the petition, and to work with the school to resolve any problems where possible.
- 2.2 A feasibility study had already been undertaken (2016, reported to the local divisional member) to look at ways of improving the access into the main entrance of the school, and it was agreed that the current arrangement of said access means that it is difficult for visitors to exit the school onto the busy Leatherhead Road at the moment. Therefore it was considered that improving this access would be the most feasible way of reducing the temptation for motorists to use public roads, such as Silverdale Avenue and Broom Hall for parking during school pick up and drop off times.

- 2.3 It was appreciated that Danes Hill School is a very important part of the community in Oxshott, and the Bursar was keen to assist wherever possible to work with Surrey County Council and the local community to enable improvements.
- 2.4 Following detailed discussions it was agreed that a phased approach would deliver the most benefits over the shortest realistic programme, as follows.
- 2.5 Phase 1 – to improve awareness of the school entrance, and improve safety for motorists and pedestrians, it was agreed that additional signage and changes to road markings around the school should be introduced as a first step. These should be introduced by the end of summer 2017.
- 2.6 Phase 2 – to improve the physical layout of the highway around the school by widening the access to provide a two lane exit from the school onto Leatherhead Road. A suggested layout was put forward as part of the feasibility report, and it is anticipated that the county council will develop a detailed design in order to develop accurate costings and works required.
- 2.7 Although still subject to agreement, it is unlikely that phase 2 would be implemented during 2017 due to contractor resource and scheduling requirements, and a timetable for these works will be published when available.
- 2.8 The Bursar also confirmed that the school were working on proposals to improve the layout of parking and traffic lanes within the school grounds to improve the 'pick up and drop off' facility therein.
- 2.9 Parking in roads near schools is unfortunately not an uncommon problem and we must be realistic about what measures can be taken to reduce these issues. It is generally acknowledged that there will always be some level of disruption during relatively short periods of the day, but we must also ensure the location is safe, and minimise congestion wherever practicable.
- 2.10 We have recently completed a review of parking in Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon and Oxshott. As part of the review we asked local stakeholders including county and borough councillors, and local resident and business groups for their views about on street parking in their area, along with any suggestions about what we can do to help. Silverdale Avenue in general was not mentioned as a problem as part of the consultation, and we did not have records of historic complaints reflecting a parking issue here either. However, as you will have noticed, we have recently made a few changes to the on street parking restrictions nearby, all of which we think would have helped lessen the extent of parking issues on Silverdale Avenue. These changes include:
 - 2.11 The introduction of double yellow lines at the Silverdale Avenue / Oakshade Road junction - this helps improve access and safety at this location.
 - 2.12 The introduction of single yellow line passing places on Oakshade Road - this should help traffic flow within the local network thereby reducing congestion on Silverdale Avenue.
 - 2.13 The removal of a significant amount of restrictions within Holtwood Road and Goldrings Road, thereby reducing the pressure on Silverdale Avenue for longer term parking.

- 2.14 Notwithstanding the above, most of the restrictions in nearby roads have been in place for a significant number of years, and it is therefore not true that the new parking restrictions we have introduced have caused the problems in Silverdale Avenue. The only restrictions that we have recently introduced that reduced the number of parking places locally are on Oakshade Road, where we effectively lost about five spaces, but these were only mainly used at 'school times' and are offset many times over by the number of spaces gained by removal of restrictions elsewhere.
- 2.15 There are restrictions on most (but not all) surrounding public roads and these are considered necessary. Oakshade Road is a bus route and directly fronts the Royal Kent School, so it is important to have some restrictions to aid safety and traffic flow, but it is also worth noting that a significant portion of this road is still uncontrolled. Silverdale Avenue is a low trafficked road located between the two schools; therefore it is always going to be identified by parents as an ideal parking place for the school pick up and drop off activity.
- 2.16 The charge of 20p for up to 30mins parking in the borough council operated car park is unlikely to present a significant barrier for use for many parents; it is simply the case that it is closer and more convenient to park on nearby roads. It would be for the borough council to review the charges in the car park if they feel it necessary to do so.
- 2.17 The footpath leading from Broom Hall to the school is not owned or operated by the school, or the county council, and as such we are unable to prevent its use, even if this were determined to be desirable.
- 2.18 Parking in Elmbridge is currently reviewed under a three year rolling programme, with a different part of the borough being looked at approximately every six months. Bearing in mind the comments in the Petition, we will look at the problems on Silverdale Avenue the next time parking in Oxshott is reviewed, which should be towards the end of financial year 2017/18, subject to committee approval.
- 2.19 When undertaking the parking review, we will also seek the input from Danes Hill School to ask their views on the parking situation, and work with them wherever possible to find a solution.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 It is an objective of Surrey Highways to treat all users of the public highway equally and with understanding.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 None.

9. CONCLUSION:

9.1 Given the concerns relayed within the petition, we are working on a number of solutions to help improve traffic and parking in Silverdale Avenue and Broom Hall, by working with the local community and taking a joined up approach.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Phase 1 proposals to be designed and implemented by summer 2017, subject to committee approval and available funding.

Contact Officer: Adrian Harris, Engineer, Parking Team / Peter Shimadry, Senior Engineer, Area Highway Team (NE)

Consulted: Not applicable

Annexes: None

Sources/background papers: None.
