

The Path House  
25 Church Lane  
Oxted  
RH8 9LD

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

Dear Mr Skellett,

We are writing to you with regard to traffic speeds in Church Lane, Oxted between the roundabout and the junction with the A25. Several local residents have observed significant numbers of vehicles far exceeding the current 30mph speed limit.

Following these observations, and in light of comments from local residents, a questionnaire inviting views was circulated to all households in Church Lane, Wheeler Avenue, Peter Avenue and Haywain during November this year.

The following statements highlight our concerns and the belief that action needs to be taken:

- 95% of residents who responded to our survey considered that speeding traffic in Church Lane was a serious issue that needed to be addressed. This increased to 100% for residents in the section where speeds are seen as greatest. (See Appendix E)
- Representatives from the three community areas on the road (The Cricket Club, The Royal British Legion and the First Church of Christ, Scientist) were similarly minded.
- The road is a route for school children who walk to school and there are bus stops used by them and elderly people.
- There are a number of driveways and two parking spaces which have concealed entrances or are on bends in the road.
- Church Lane is an access road to the station car park and is used by commuters hurrying to catch trains.
- There is a park bordering the lane, where numerous ball games are played and there are instances of children and balls straying onto the road. (see Appendix B)
- On the Southerly side of the road, the pavements are located at either end only. This forces people to cross the road close to junctions if they wish to walk on the pavement. At the Eastern end visibility is obscured due to a bend when crossing the road. (see Appendix H)
- There are narrow points on the road requiring HGV's delivering to Oxted, buses and other large vehicles to move into the middle of the road. Speeding cars have been observed at these points braking violently to avoid collision with oncoming traffic.
- We have regularly seen traffic appearing to exceed the speed limit with speeds up to 60 mph.
- The 30mph sign on the left on entry to Church Lane from the A25 is difficult to spot while negotiating the bend. There are no additional speed reminders at any other point on the road. (See Appendix I)

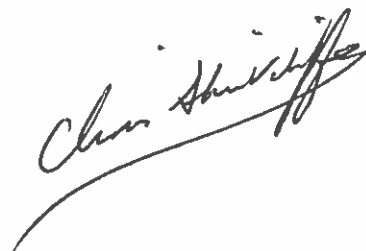
We believe that it is only a matter of time before speeding traffic in Church Lane causes serious injury and possible death. Our survey provides an opportunity for the council to note your constituents' concerns and take appropriate preventive action. Please find attached samples of comments made by local residents in addition to photographic evidence and other information. Should you wish, we would be happy to share our questionnaires with you on a confidential basis.

We look forward to hearing the council's response and to demonstrate a desire to ensure that Church Lane becomes a safe place for all people who use it. Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

 Geoff Knowles

Andy Lotter, Geoff Knowles, Chris Shirtcliffe.



This letter is from:

Mr Geoff Knowles

Tudor House

27 Church Lane

Oxted

Surrey

RH8 9LD

Mr Andy Lotter

The Path House

25 Church Lane

Oxted

Surrey

RH8 9LD

Mr Chris Shirtcliffe

Courtlands

23 Church Lane

Oxted

Surrey

RH8 9LD

## Appendix A

A small sample of the comments that have been returned from our survey. We have many more should you wish to read them.

Thanks for all you are doing

We have lived in Wheeler Avenue for the last eight years and have noticed an increase in speed along church lane. ~~and~~ both three children it poses a risk to their safety as we often walk from our house in to the town.

Thank you for taking on this problem, it is much needed.

I agree the traffic on church lane is to fast. When you pass buses and coaches it is often tight and if driving at speed could cause accidents.

WE AGREE SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE

Thank you for this initiative. I agree that church lane is becoming a race track!

Some drivers drive recklessly to high excessive speeds, particularly travelling West from the bus Police Station. This is very dangerous given the bends in the road and a number of hidden driveways. ~~From~~ It is very difficult to deter this behaviour.

Agree that traffic along Church ~~lane~~ frequently ignores speed limit - often substantially - and that SCC should be approached.

My preference would be to allow parking again - where it used to be permitted, on Market Park side, but for limited periods so that commuters can't use. Alternatively (or possibly as well) install road narrowing points, maybe one in each direction, where traffic going one way has priority over oncoming traffic - examples are in Hurst Green.

Traffic has certainly got out of control on Church lane. It is obviously a residential street and so 30 mph but this has no effect on local road users so I feel it is time to make changes before a serious accident happens as there are now several young families living on the street.

## Appendix B

A real life example.



Captured on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 17:05

The child was playing in a team game in the park. The ball was kicked into the road. The child ran into the road to fetch it, and a car coming off the roundabout braked hard to avoid the child who was looking in the wrong direction. The child jumped onto the pavement by the bus stop. The car steered around the ball which was close to the kerb. By the time the picture was taken the car had proceeded past the child and the ball was then kicked back into the park. A few metres to the left the ball are a set of goalposts.



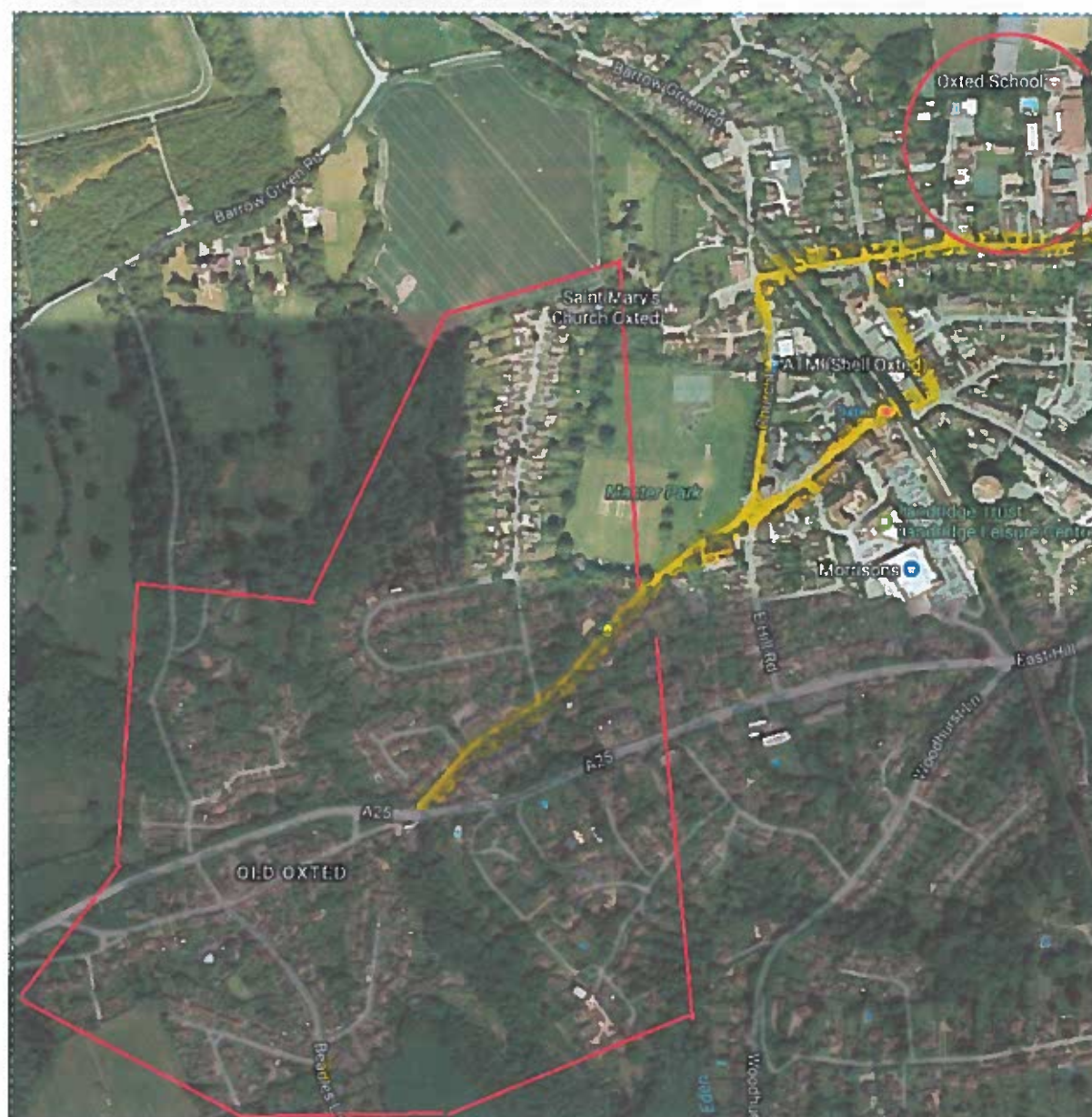
## Appendix C

Some of the concealed driveways.



## Appendix D

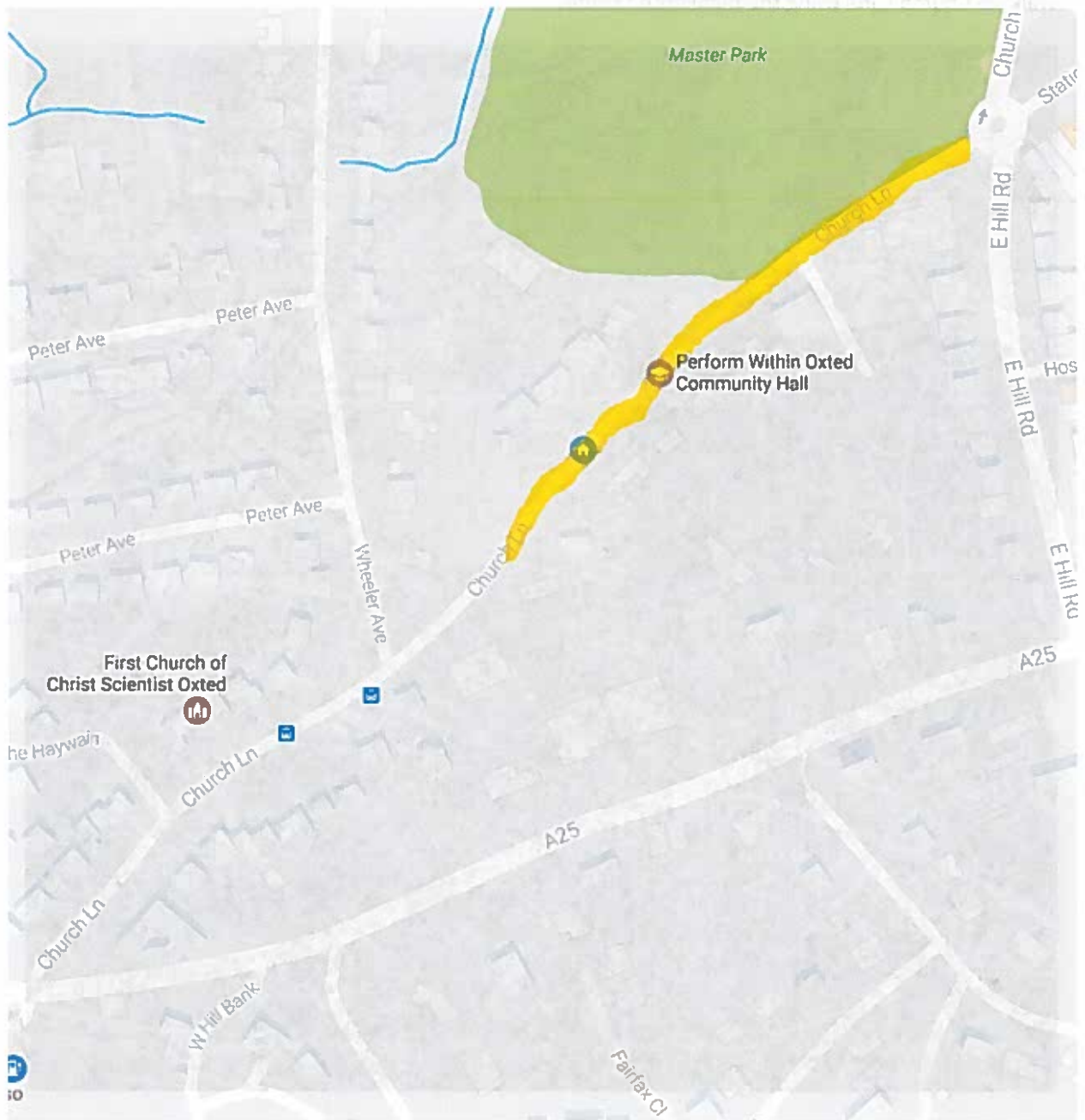
Children walking route. Any children living in the red catchment area who attend Oxted School tend to walk up Church Lane using the highlighted route.





## Appendix E

Location of majority of observed speed issues in Church Lane.





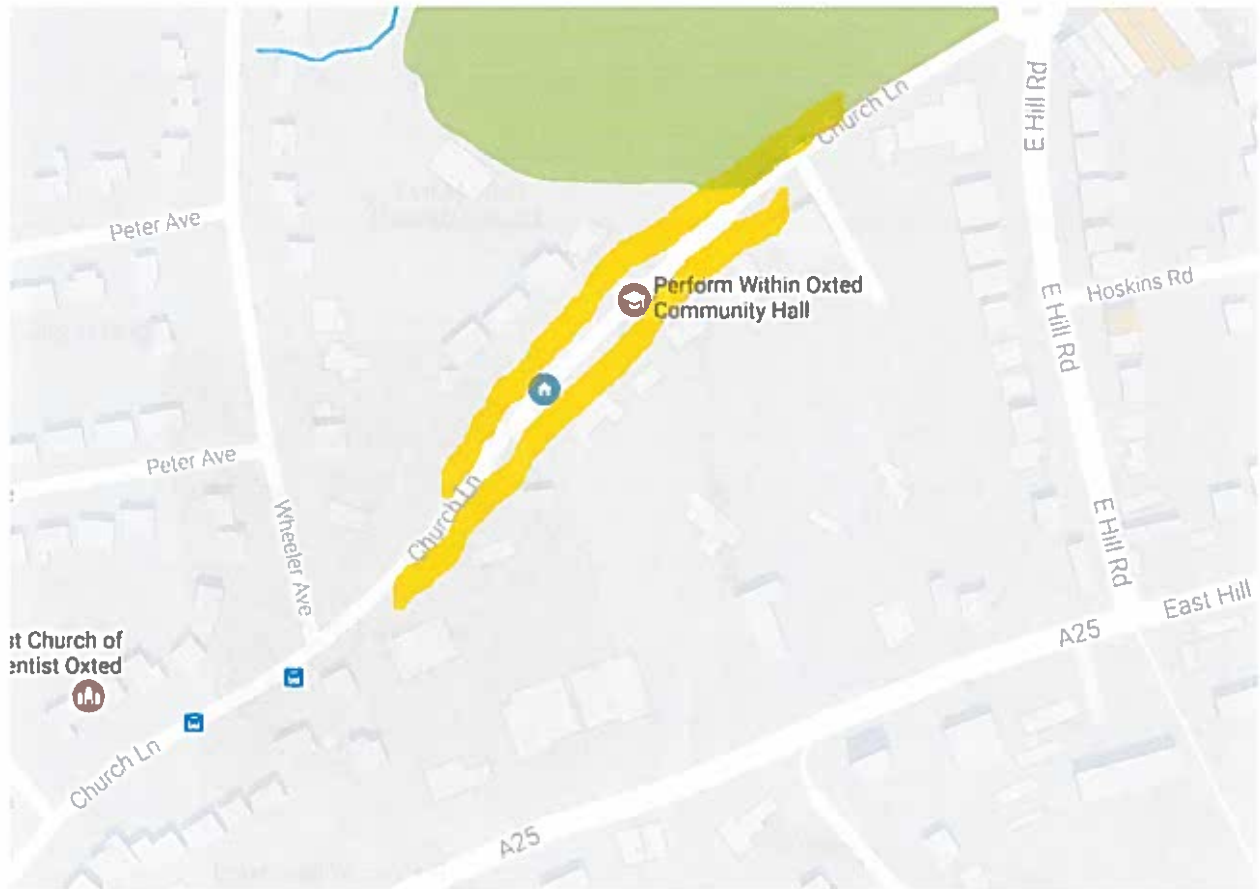
## Appendix F

Roads surveyed.



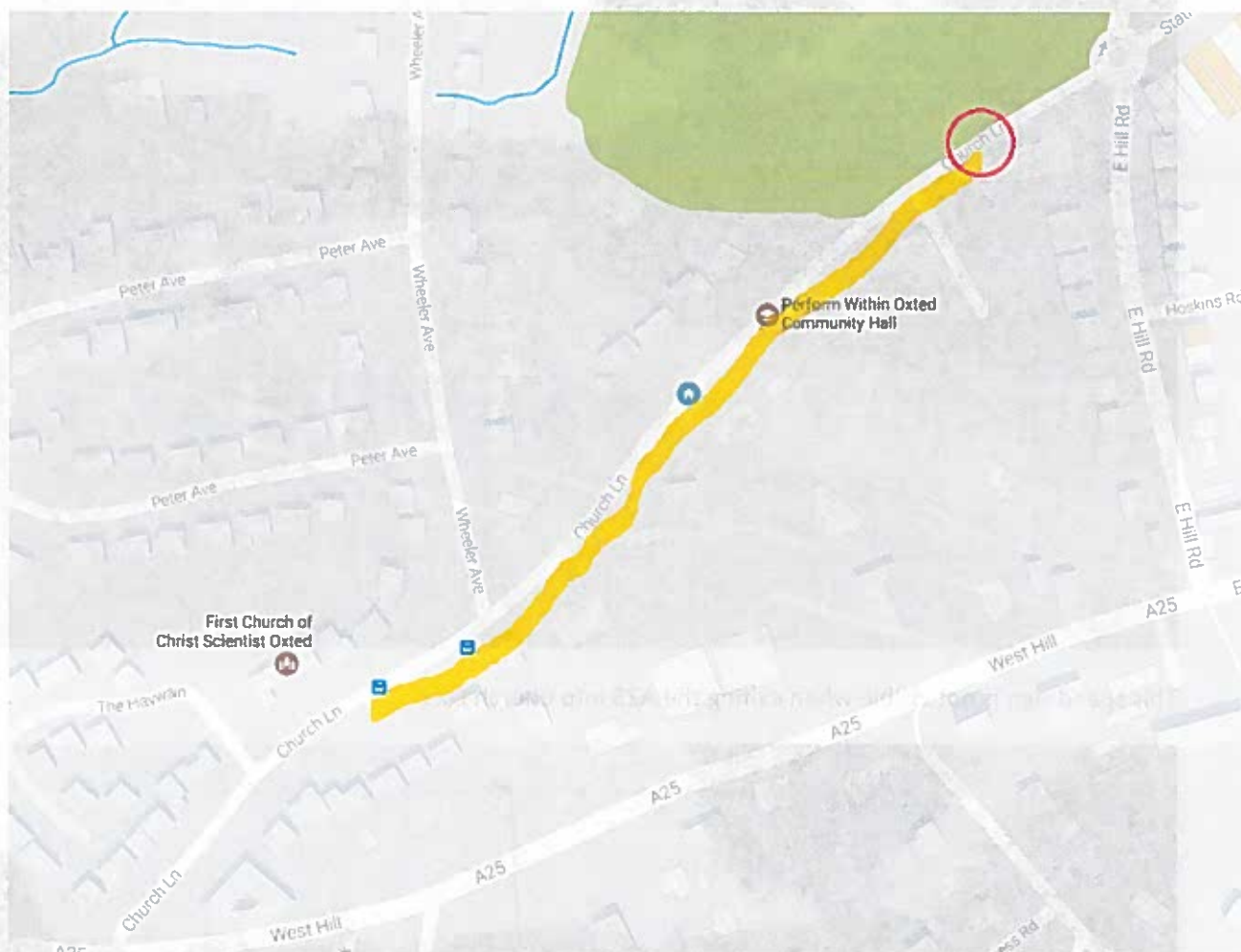
## Appendix G

Possible places for speed monitoring.



## Appendix H

Lack of pavements. The circle indicates a forced crossing point where there is a lack of visibility towards the roundabout.



## Appendix I

The only two speed signs.



This speed sign is not visible when exiting the A25 into Church Lane.



When standing in a different position, you can see the sign is twisted around and covered by foliage.