

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 26 June 2017

SUBJECT: PETITION – STEELS LANE, OXSHOTT

DIVISION: HINCHLEY WOOD, CLAYGATE & OXSHOTT

**PETITION DETAILS:**

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to create a safe pedestrian crossing on Steels Lane, Oxshott at the junction with Oakshade Road and Holtwood Road.

Large numbers of children and parents must cross Steels Lane at the junction with Oakshade Road and Holtwood Road to get to and from The Royal Kent CofE Primary School, Danes Hill Pre-Prep at Bevendean and bus stops for numerous secondary schools on Oakshade Road. At school drop-off and pick up times there is a great deal of traffic in all directions requiring pedestrians to look in five directions at once to cross safely because of the off shoot to Sheath Lane. At quieter times some drive quickly along the straight stretch or accelerate hard out of the junction so some measure of slowing traffic would increase the safety for people walking to school and school bus stops- something we all want to encourage.

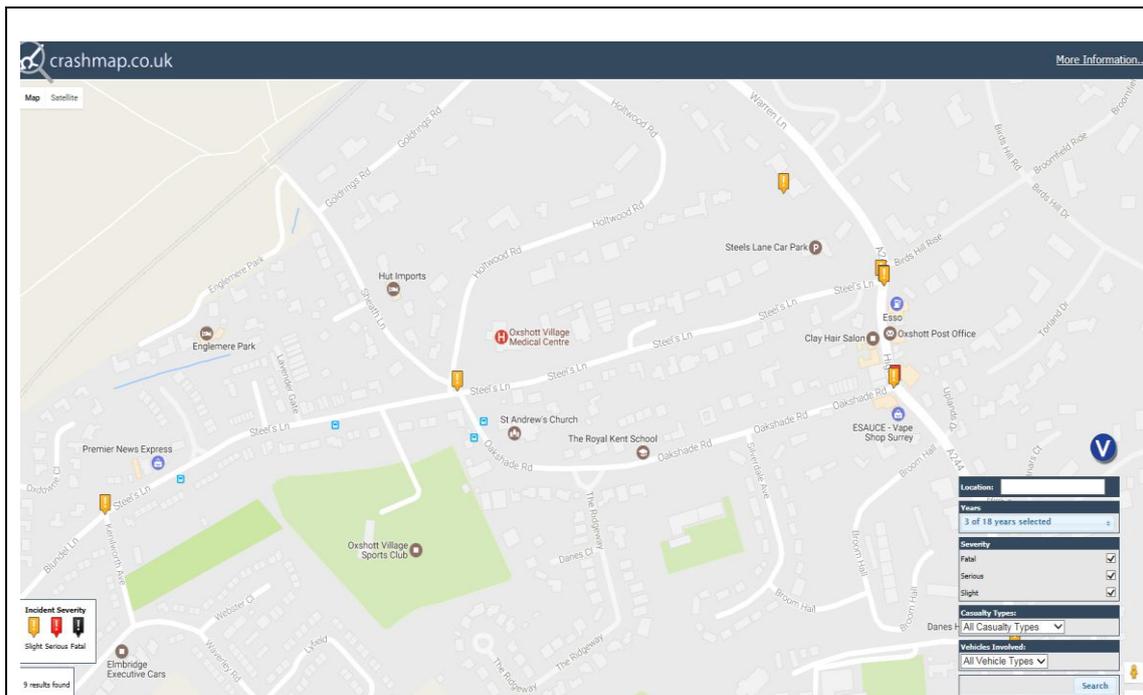
207 Signatures. Lead petitioner: Ruth Burns, Chair of Governors, The Royal Kent CofE Primary School

OFFICER COMMENT:**Safety**

Surrey County Council (SCC) currently receives funding to be used specifically to reduce road casualties. We monitor casualties in partnership with Surrey Police across the county and there are thousands of road traffic collisions every year that result in an injury, the vast majority of which are caused by human error. We focus our road safety resources on those sites where there are patterns of casualties, because we can then be reasonably confident of identifying whether an engineering intervention might help reduce the frequency of casualties at a particular site. We then prioritise investment in those sites with the highest frequency of casualties, where we believe an engineering intervention would be beneficial. Given the number of existing sites where there are patterns of casualties, when considering investment in road safety we are obliged to prioritise those sites with the greatest frequency of casualties, ahead of those sites with a lesser frequency of casualties. It is fortunate that the location in question does not have a recent history of collisions causing injury where a pattern and potential solution can be identified, but it does mean that that it would be difficult to justify specific road safety funding when compared with other locations.

The screenshot below is from <www.crashmap.co.uk> which is a website available to the public. It shows the same casualty database that SCC has access to, with records obtained from Surrey Police.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/elmbridge



This demonstrates that, in terms of casualties, the history at the junction on Steels Lane is relatively good compared to other local sites. The recorded incident occurred in June 2015, and involved a three-car shunt in the eastbound direction. 'Travelling too close' was recorded as the contributory factor.

Should committee funding be available to specifically address safety issues, it is recommended that other sites would be of higher priority.

Reducing risks, slowing traffic and improving the pedestrian environment

As well as schemes to specifically address problems evidenced by a history of injuries, Surrey County Council does introduce other local highways improvement schemes. For example, these may be to improve traffic flow, relieve congestion, provide facilities such as pedestrian crossings, or to address locations where residents have highlighted areas of concern. As the petition has highlighted, improved pedestrian facilities would benefit children and parents travelling to local schools and measures to slow traffic or increase driver awareness would also provide benefits. These types of schemes are promoted via the Elmbridge Local Committee.

The local committee maintains a list of potential schemes to be considered for funding. Details are available at (December 2016, Item 58/16 Highways Update):

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?CId=156&MId=5420&Ver=4>

At the current time there is no funding available to the local committee to progress the highway improvement schemes contained on the 2017-18 divisional programme. Measures on Steels Lane are not currently included on the list of schemes. Potential measures may include altering the junction to provide additional pedestrian facilities such as dropped kerbs and refuge areas, consideration of signalised crossing facilities, raising the junction onto a table to slow vehicles or additional footways.

Study works would be required to determine appropriate measures, including surveys of pedestrian movement, potential demand and vehicle speeds and volumes.

Other measures

Whilst the available funding is unlikely to allow progression of works to investigate crossing improvements at the current time, there are other potential improvement areas.

Road Safety – residents may be interested in the Drive Smart initiative, which has the aims of reducing road casualties, tackling anti-social driving and making the county's roads safer and less stressful for everyone. The below website includes information on reporting concerns, enforcement, education and Community Speed Watch initiatives.

<http://www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk/i-am-worried-about-the-safety/>

Road Safety Outside Schools – SCC's Sustainable Travel Team has previously met with the headteacher of The Royal Kent School to discuss safety initiatives. The site in the immediate vicinity of the school was walked with school representatives and Surrey Police were also in attendance. SCC would be happy to further advise local schools on the available safety initiatives and pedestrian training. Further information is available at the below website:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/school-road-safety>

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to consider whether investigation of measures on Steels Lane should be considered for inclusion on the potential schemes list maintained for the Committee and reviewed with consideration of funding and priorities when funding becomes available.

Contact Officer:

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