

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE:

SUBJECT: PETITION – Bowes Road, Walton on Thames, traffic calming

DIVISION: Walton South &amp; Oatlands

**PETITION DETAILS:**

A petition has been arranged on-line at <https://www.change.org/p/bowes-road-petition>. The petition is addressed to Dominic Raab (MP), Cllr John O'Reilly, Cllr Tony Samuels, and Cllr Colin Kemp, and reads as follows:

*Bowes Road - Traffic Calming Measures*

*Why further traffic calming measures are necessary.*

*1- Bowes Road is residential road. The volume of traffic (including large articulated trucks) travelling down this road in both directions is now extensive. This will only continue to grow in the short to medium term with the planned local developments, including that of Stompond Lane, unless Surrey County Council take some action.*

*2- Bowes Road is used as a direct (rat run) cut through to Sidney road, given this is the only road with through access between Winchester Road in the town centre and Rydens Road, a distance of just over 0.5 miles. All other roads leading off Hersham have no through paths forcing all traffic to cut through Bowes road only.*

*3- The present traffic calming measures on this road are wholly inadequate and have no impact on the speed of the traffic across it. Cars, trucks and buses come down this road at great speed (often in excess of 30mph) making (a) pulling in and out of driveways extremely dangerous and (b) crossing the road during school term treacherous. This is particularly acute as cars and large vans (with no affiliation to Bowes Road) often park on both sides of the road forcing oncoming traffic to swerve in and out as they traverse along the road hindering line of site. Additionally the space between the calming bumps on the road are long, allowing plenty of opportunity for oncoming traffic to gain speed including the buses that come down Bowes Road.*

*4- The small roundabout at the end of Bowes road is both dangerous to cross and a potential bottleneck for clear flow of traffic leading to traffic backing up along Bowes road for periods at a time with engines and exhausts running. This is both detrimental to health and well being as well as possible damage to outside of properties.*

*5- Surrey county council have carried out no reviews or taken any action in regards the points raised in 1-4 above, citing lack of funding as the main reason. It is only by raising a petition and sharing this with our local and newly re-elected member of parliament Dominic Rabb can the residents take some action and seek to influence both Elmbridge and Surrey County Council regards introduction of further traffic calming measures and 20 mph speed restrictions on Bowes Road to address the*

www.surreycc.gov.uk/elmbridge

*current problems.*

*I want to thank you for considering the above and your support in this petition.*

Lead petitioner: Bardia Dorudi

Number of signatures submitted: 58

**OFFICER COMMENT:**

Most of the signatories are residents of Walton on Thames. The petition has also been signed by residents of Penarth, Southport, Loughborough, Bolton, Camberley, Machynlleth, Wokingham, London, and St Ives.

The arrangements at the junction of Kings Road and Crutchfield Lane with Hersham Road, the two mini roundabouts in Hersham Road, and the traffic calming in Bowes Road were all introduced as part of the same scheme in the early 1990s. The scheme was introduced in response to a persistent pattern of serious and fatal road traffic collisions at the junction of Kings Road, Crutchfield Lane and Hersham Road. It was recognised at the time that in closing Kings Road, that traffic would be diverted into Bowes Road, which was why Bowes Road was traffic calmed at the time to mitigate this displacement effect. According to information that is publically available most residents of Bowes Road moved in to their homes subsequent to the completion of the scheme in the early 1990s, and so would have been aware of the situation when they moved in.

The scheme has proved itself to be very successful over the years. In the past full three year period there has only been one personal injury collision at the junction of Bowes Road and Hersham Road, and one at the junction of Bowes Road with Sidney Road. In the same period there were no personal injury collisions in Bowes Road itself, or at the junction of Bowes Road with Stompond Lane. Information regarding personal injury accidents is publically available at [www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk).

It is accepted residents perceive that there is a casualty risk in the current situation. It is also accepted that there may have been damage only incidents in Bowes Road. However there is no record of damage only accidents, as there is no legal obligation to report these to the Police. The Police record all road traffic collisions resulting in an injury, and their database is available to compare different sites, and to make priority decisions for road safety investment.

There are over 4,000 road traffic collisions resulting in an injury every year on Surrey's roads, so when prioritising road safety investment we have a clear moral obligation to prioritise sites with high frequencies of injuries ahead of sites with low frequencies. Bowes Road has a very low frequency compared to other sites in the area.

In view of the very good recent accident history, when compared to other sites elsewhere in Surrey, there is no justification for any new measures in Bowes Road at the present time, or indeed any change to the current arrangement of junctions onto Hersham Road.

There are proposed developments for this area, but the traffic impact of these developments on Bowes Road is expected to be inconsequential. Whenever a new development is proposed through the planning process, Surrey County Council is

consulted, and provides advice to the Planning Authority on the likely traffic impact, and what, if any, mitigation might be appropriate.

It is not recommended to review the current infrastructure in Bowes Road at the present time.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Committee is asked to note the officer response.

**Contact Officer:**

Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager (NE)

Tel: 0300 200 1003

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