

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



SURREY

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 21 September 2018
 SUBJECT: Petition – Junction of Sandy Lane/ Big Common Lane/ Little Common Lane/ Pendell Road in Betchingley
 DIVISION: Godstone

PETITION DETAILS:

To consider a petition containing 226 signatures – presented by Mrs Diane Brown

We the undersigned urgently request a review the junction of Sandy Lane/ Big Common Lane/ Little Common Lane/ Pendell Road in Betchingley and implement safety measures or changes to priorities at this accident blackspot.

Regular users of the Pendell Road/Big Common Lane/ Little Common Lane/ Sandy Lane junction in Betchingley are well aware of the regular accidents that occur. Pendell Road is a busy road between Merstham and Betchingley and Sandy Lane is a popular route from Caterham to the A25. The causes of the accidents are numerous and include poor sight lines and blind spots, particularly out of Sandy Lane; over grown trees and hedges, particularly Sandy Lane and when turning left from Big Common Lane; satnav systems incorrectly identifying priorities at the junction (showing Sandy Lane to Big Common Lane as a through Road), and inappropriate speeds on approaching the junction We would like the junction to undergo a detailed review to identify changes and improvements that could be made to reduce the volume of and severity of accidents.

RESPONSE:

The junction of Sandy Lane/Big Common Lane/Little Common Lane/Pendell Road in Betchingley is a crossroads junction. The priority being along Pendell Road and Little Common Road with drivers approaching from the west giving way at the Big Common Lane junction, and drivers approaching from the east giving way at the Sandy Lane junction. The junction is in a rural area with no street lighting and is within a 30mph speed limit. The speed limit on Pendell Road changes from 30mph to 40mph just to the north of the junction.

A site meeting has been held with an officer from the Road Safety Team and the previous County Councillor following concerns raised by residents regarding the safety of this junction. Residents were particularly concerned about the poor sight lines to the right (Pendell Road) for drivers waiting at the give-way marking at Sandy Lane. It was concluded at this site meeting that it is not possible to carry out physical measures to improve this visibility, without purchasing land and carrying out major works to redesign the junction. The funding required to carry out such work is not available at this present time and is unlikely to be so in the foreseeable

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future, and would require cooperation from the land owner. Therefore there are no plans to carry out works to improve the visibility at this junction, for drivers coming out of Sandy Lane.

Following a recent increase in the number of personal injury collisions at this junction, a review has been carried out and it has been noted that there are give-way warning signs on both Big Common Lane and Sandy Lane. However the give-way warning sign at the Sandy Lane junction isn't clearly visible due to a bend in the road, and so an advanced warning give-way sign is also in place on the approach to the Sandy Lane junction.

The visibility is good as drivers exit Big Common Lane and is not obstructed by vegetation. The visibility for drivers waiting at the give-way marking at Sandy Lane is good to the left (Little Common Lane) and is also not obstructed by vegetation. As previously stated the sight line is poor for drivers waiting at the give-way marking at Sandy Lane to the right (Pendell Road), however vegetation has been cut back to keep the sight line as clear as possible.

It was noted during the review that there is no junction ahead warning sign on Little Common Road, on the approach to the crossroads junction. It is therefore proposed that a junction ahead warning sign with a yellow backing is installed on this approach and that the existing junction ahead warning sign on the Pendell Road approach is also updated to a yellow backed sign in order to make it more visible.

This junction will be discussed at the next Road Safety Working group in November 2018 where the causes of the collisions at this junction will be discussed and any possible additional road safety measures identified. This group consists of Road Safety experts from both Surrey Police and the County Council as well as engineers from Surrey Highways. Any additional road safety measures identified by the Road Safety Working group will be reported to the Local Committee Chairman (who is also the divisional member) and Vice-Chairman.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) The Local Committee is asked to agree that a new yellow backed junction ahead warning sign is installed in Little Common Lane on the approach to the Sandy Lane/ Big Common Lane/ Little Common Lane/ Pendell Road junction.
- (ii) The Local Committee is asked to agree that the existing junction ahead warning sign on Pendell Road is replaced with a yellow backed warning sign.

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