

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 10th DECEMBER 2018
 SUBJECT: PETITION FOR ROAD SAFETY MEASURES IN EMBER
 LANE
 DIVISION: THE DITTONS

PETITION DETAILS:

Petition to: Implement traffic calming measures to reduce speeds on Ember Lane (particularly at the sharp corners with Chestnut Avenue and the back entrance to Imber Court)

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Implement traffic calming measures to reduce speeds on Ember Lane (particularly at the sharp corners with Chestnut Avenue and the back entrance to Imber Court).

Lead petitioner: Mrs Jo Cochrane

This is an online petition signed by 177 signatories, including:

- 128 residents of The Dittons
- 22 residents of East Molesey and Esher
- 170 residents of Elmbridge altogether

RESPONSE:

Surrey Highways, in partnership with Surrey Police, identifies locations with a poor safety record by analysing collision data and trends. Locations of community concern are also considered, when residents, elected members or community surveys have highlighted locations where it is thought that there may be a traffic problem. Assessment potentially leads to the development of measures such as physical changes, enforcement, or educational campaigns. The concerns regarding Ember Lane have been raised to the road safety partnership. Surrey Police have confirmed that enforcement takes place on Ember Lane. Residents may raise concerns relating to driver behaviour to Surrey Police as the sole enforcement authority.

The council does currently receive a small amount of funding to be used specifically to reduce road casualties. These resources are focussed on sites where there are patterns of casualties that could potentially be addressed through engineering interventions. We are obliged to prioritise those sites with the greatest frequency of casualties, ahead of those sites with a lesser frequency of casualties. As such, there is currently no provision within the road safety programme for measures on Ember Lane.

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. Schemes may also aim to improve the quality of life and general environment for residents, as well as address safety concerns. These are the types of schemes promoted

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via Elmbridge Local Committee. Should committee be minded to prioritise Ember Lane for measures, the first step would be to undertake a feasibility study to establish the existing conditions and behaviours to enable the development of suitable measures. These may include physical measures such as traffic calming or building out of kerbs, change of priority such as making Chestnut Avenue one-way or closing the access at the junction of Ember Lane and Chestnut Avenue, or additional road signs. Assessment would consider the likely impacts on local residents as well as on the road network.

Any vertical traffic calming or changes to permitted vehicle movements require statutory consultation and it should be noted that features such as humps, cushions or tables are not always universally popular, with particular concerns being related to noise and vibration. There is also the issue of potential re-routing of traffic to less appropriate roads. It is also worth noting that any measures to alter road layouts are likely to be prohibitively expensive based on likely committee budgets, although external funding may be an option.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Decide (a) to allocate funding for a feasibility study, (b) to place this suggestion on the prioritisation list for future consideration, or (c) to do nothing at this stage.*

Contact Officer: Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager