

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 30 NOVEMBER 2018



LEAD OFFICER: ZENA CURRY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PETITION RECEIVED 21 SEPTEMBER 2018 FOR SANDY LANE, BIG COMMON LANE, LITTLE COMMON LANE, PENDELL ROAD

DIVISION: GODSTONE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report provides an update on the petition heard by the local committee on 21 September 2018, following the Road Safety Working Group meeting on 29 November. A number of actions to improve road safety have been identified, which the committee is asked to consider.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) 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) Agree that the existing junction ahead warning sign on Pendell Road is replaced with a yellow backed warning sign.
- (iii) Agree that the existing "Give Way" signs in Big Common Lane and Sandy Lane are replaced with yellow backed "Give Way" signs.
- (iv) Note that the Road Safety Team are proposing to install high friction surfacing on Little Common Lane and Pendell Road on the approaches to the junction.
- (v) Note that the Road Safety Team are proposing to install advance warning signs of the "Give Way" in Big Common Lane and Sandy Lane.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To improve road safety at the junction following concerns raised by residents regarding the safety of this junction.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 On 21 September 2018, the Local Committee heard a petition containing 209 signatures that requested:

We the undersigned urgently request a review the junction of Sandy Lane/ Big Common Lane/ Little Common Lane/ Pendell Road in Bletchingley 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 Bletchingley are well aware of the regular accidents that occur. Pendell Road is a busy road between Merstham and Bletchingley 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.

- 1.2 Highways Officers provided the following response:

The junction of Sandy Lane/Big Common Lane/Little Common Lane/Pendell Road in Bletchingley 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 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.

2 ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The Road Safety Working Group (RSWG) met on 29 November 2018 and the collisions at the Sandy Lane/Pendell Road/Little Common Lane/Big Common Lane junction were discussed and any possible additional road safety measures identified.
- 2.2 A letter from Bletchingley Parish Council, dated 26 November 2018, about the monitoring of incidents at the junction was shared with the RSWG prior to the meeting. It is acknowledged that the Parish Council is in full support of this petition.
- 2.3 The suggestion for “STOP” signs at the junction was discussed. Stop signs are no longer used because the Department for Transport have indicated that they will no longer be allowed. Any stop signs introduced prior to 1988 can be retained, but any new ones would require approval from the secretary of state. To date none have been approved, because it is expected that any new roads would be designed so that they are not required.
- 2.4 The offer by the landowner to work with Surrey County Council on improving the junction was discussed at the RSWG. However, the potential cost of land purchase and the required legal agreements makes this option unfeasible, at this time.
- 2.5 The northbound side road ahead sign could be replaced with yellow backed signs, to emphasise the information to drivers. The missing southbound warning sign could also be replaced with a yellow backed sign. The “Give Way” signs at the junction on Sandy Lane and Big Common Lane could also be replaced with new yellow backed signs. This is something that could be ordered for installation in this financial year.
- 2.6 High friction surfacing could be installed on Little Common Lane and Pendell Road on the approaches to the junction. Advance warning signs of the “Give Way” in Big Common Lane and Sandy Lane could also be installed. It is proposed that this surfacing treatment and these signs would be installed in the next financial

year, centrally funded from the Road Safety Team’s budget. These proposals are not in the recommendation to the Local Committee, as already delegated.

- 2.7 Separately, the SatNav companies do not give driver advice to give way at junctions, and indicate the name of the road ahead only. There is a width restriction Traffic Order on Sandy Lane to prohibit vehicles that are wider than 6’ 6” from using the road, unless they are accessing land or properties adjoining the road. Reporting of a road as unsuitable for HGVs can be carried out at the web pages at the following addresses: www.mapcreator.here.com and www.tomtom.com/mapshare/tools

3 OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The local committee can agree the proposed course of action, which is what officers recommend. Alternatively they could propose an alternative course of action, or to maintain the status quo.

4 CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The Road Safety Working Group comprises representation from SCC’s Road Safety Team, Surrey Highways, as well as Surrey Police.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The cost of recommendations (i) to (iii) are estimated at £600. Funding has been identified for these recommendations from the Local Committee 2018/19 small safety and improvement schemes (including signs and road markings schemes).
- 5.2 The costs of recommendations (iv) and (v) would be met from the 2019/20 centrally funded road safety budget.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The recommendations respond to local concerns.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications.
Public Health	No significant implications

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to**

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10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 The works funded from the local committee budget can be installed this financial year as per paragraph 2.5. The works funded by the central Road Safety budget would be installed during the next financial year, as per paragraph 2.6.

Contact Officer:

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