

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 4 MARCH 2019

SUBJECT: PETITION TO CONSTRUCT A SAFE FOOTPATH FOR PEDESTRIAN USE FROM THE ENTRANCE OF ELIZABETH DRIVE ESTATE TO BANSTEAD HIGH STREET; TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY FOR PEDESTRIANS

DIVISION: BANSTEAD WOODMANSTERNE AND CHIPSTEAD

**PETITION DETAILS:**

At present the exiting footpath is more of a dirt track, which is very narrow and not properly maintained, therefore it is uneven and has no kerb protection from vehicles. During rainfall, the drainage along this section of Holly Lane is inadequate; large puddles form on both sides of the road meaning that any pedestrians get water sprayed over them by passing cars and the curvature of the road also gives drivers poor visibility. This is particularly dangerous on a road where the speed limit is 60 mph on the approach to Banstead High Street. The footpath is also non-existent at some sections with no kerb present to keep pedestrians safe. As council tax payers and residents we are entitled to a safe walking route, which is suitable for the residents of the Elizabeth Drive Estate including older people and persons with buggies and prams.

RESPONSE:

The B2219 Holly Lane, Banstead connects Banstead at its eastern end with Chipstead at its western end. There are 30mph speed limits at either end of the B2219 Holly Lane where it enters the built up areas of Chipstead and Banstead. It is also street lit for most of its length except for a section between its junction with Elizabeth Drive and its junction with Park Road. Outside of the built up areas at either end, the B2219 Holly Lane is rural in nature with Banstead Wood to the south and Park Downs to the north, and has a 60mph speed limit in place. Also outside of the built up area and like many rural roads of this nature, there is no continuous footpath along the B2219 Holly Lane. Where there are sections of footway, on the northern edge of Holly Lane, vegetation has grown over the footway, making it very narrow. The existing drainage along Holly Lane, from the junction with Elizabeth Drive, travelling towards Banstead is informal in nature. As a result surface water runs along the edge of the road until it can access the existing drainage ditch via the grips which have been dug into the highway verge.

A review has been carried out of the personal injury collisions that have occurred along Holly Lane, between its junction with the access to the Elizabeth Drive Estate and the junction with Holly Lane East. Holly Lane East is in the built up area of Banstead, where the existing footpath along Holly Lane is not overgrown. There has been 1 personal injury collision, which involved a slight injury, along this section of Holly Lane between 1st November 2015 and 31st October 2018 (the most recent 3 year period for which data is available). However, this collision did not involve a pedestrians and Surrey Police did not record vehicle speed as a contributory factor in this collision.

Speed surveys need to be carried out to assess whether or not Holly Lane would meet Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy for a reduction in speed limit. There is

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currently no funding available to carry out such surveys. An allocation has been included within the Draft Integrated Transport Scheme Programme for 2020/21 to design and construct speed management and sign improvements on Holly Lane. The budgets for the 2020/21 financial year have yet to be confirmed, and there is no funding in the 2019/20 financial year to carry out design work on feasible speed management and sign improvements on Holly Lane. However, subject to what funding will be available design and construction work could be carried out in the 2020/21 financial year.

It is appreciated that residents would like works to be carried out to create a continuous footway with additional highway drainage in order to provide an improved walking route between the entrance to the Elizabeth Drive Estate and the footpaths in the built up area of Banstead. However, a scheme to provide a continuous footway and improvements to drainage along Holly Lane is likely to require more funding than is available to the Local Committee and would not prioritise above other requests for highway improvements at this time.

The vegetation along the northern side of Holly Lane does not form part of any formal contract or on-going maintenance schedule. General vegetation maintenance throughout the Borough is a considerable task and there is unfortunately no revenue budget available to deal with these issues. The significant funding needed to side out the footway to remove overgrown grass to widen the footway to its original width, is not currently available to the Local Committee. Works to cut back vegetation hanging over footpaths, such as trees and bushes, are raised with the contractor on a reactive basis to deal with any highway safety issues, therefore the trees and bushes along this section Holly Lane will be inspected and any overhanging vegetation will be cut back where they cause a highway safety issue.

There is a proposal for Members to allocate some of their Member Highways Fund towards procuring a revenue maintenance gang for the 2019/20 financial year. Should all divisional members agree to allocate £6,000 of their Member Highway Fund towards procuring a revenue maintenance gang for the 2019/20 financial year, the cutting back of some of the trees and bushes along Holly Lane could be added to the list of jobs for the revenue maintenance gang.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Note the officer's comments.*

Contact Officer: Anne-Marie Hannam, Senior Traffic Engineer, 0300 200 1003