

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



SURREY

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 4 MARCH 2019
 SUBJECT: PETITION TO CONSTRUCT A CROSSING ON FRENCHES ROAD
 IN THE VICINITY OF WIGGIE LANE; TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY
 FOR PEDESTRIANS
 DIVISION: REDHILL EAST

PETITION DETAILS:

School children urgently require a crossing on Frenches road (Wiggie lane end). We desperately need a safe crossing for our children on their way to and from school. There is no alternative route and there is no safe place to cross. Frenches Road has become increasingly busy and congested; particularly at times when children most need to get safely across the road. Car drivers rarely stop to allow children to cross, often resulting in children taking great risks just to get to school.

The following groups of people regularly walk along Frenches Road and must cross at some point.

- Any student of The Warwick, St Bede's and Merstham Park walking to and from school.
- Any families walking their children to or from local primary schools including St Matthew's, St Josephs, Wray Common and Limetree.
- Pedestrians walking to or from Redhill town centre /the train station.

Please help make Frenches Road safer for everyone. The current situation is not safe for anyone wishing to cross, but it is especially unsafe for children, the disabled, the elderly, and families with young children and buggies. Two accidents have occurred this year already. The current road layout was bad enough when the road was quieter, but with more housing and higher traffic levels, the situation is getting worse.

A crossing will prevent accidents. It is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs involving a child and a car driver, and this could easily be avoided by installing a pedestrian crossing.

RESPONSE:

Frenches Road is a residential road that links Ormside Way in Merstham with the A23 in Redhill. It is a road that could be used to avoid the A23 between Merstham and Redhill. The Holmethorpe Industrial Estate can be accessed from Frenches Road by means of a low bridge under the railway.

Officers have visited Frenches Road during the morning peak and observed a large number of Warwick School pupils crossing Frenches Road in the vicinity of Wiggie Lane. It is acknowledged that it can be difficult to cross Frenches Road at this location. A review has been carried out of reported personal injury collisions in Frenches Road between November 2015 and October 2018 (collisions at the junction of the A23 and Frenches Road have not been included in this review). During this period there has been 1 collision resulting in a serious injury and 4 collisions resulting in slight injuries, none of these collisions involved a pedestrian.

The County Council does take concerns about road safety seriously and road collisions across the County are continually monitored. If there should be any significant change

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or increase in the pattern of collisions then the matter would be referred to the relevant Road Safety Working Group for action to be determined. This group consists of Road Safety experts from both Surrey Police and the County Council as well as engineers from Surrey Highways. Frenches Road has not been considered by the Road Safety Working Group because these collisions do not represent a cluster for which there is an engineering solution.

Although this site has not been considered by the Road Safety Working Group Officers consider that there are a large number of pedestrians who are crossing the road, particularly at peak traffic times. It is therefore proposed that a scheme to provide a formal crossing on Frenches Road in the vicinity of Wiggie Lane be added to the Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) list for consideration for future funding.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Agree to add a scheme to provide a formal crossing of Frenches Road in the vicinity of Wiggie Lane to the Integrated Transport Schemes list for consideration for future funding.

Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer, 0300 200 1003