

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 20 MARCH 2019

SUBJECT: PETITION: Safety Concerns outside St Lawrence Primary School

DIVISION/ WARD(S) AFFECTED: HORSLEYS DIVISION, EFFINGHAM WARD

PETITION DETAILS:

An e petition with 218 signatures has been submitted to the Joint Committee for Guildford for consideration, a paper petition has also been compiled.

At a recent Effingham Parish Council meeting all councillors voted in favour to support the petition submitted by Claire Jones, regarding the request for a full safety review of children's passage to school. (St. Lawrence Primary, Effingham)

The petition states:

We petition for the provision of safe pedestrian access to the school, preferably by a pelican crossing, or by a crossing attendant or other effective means. The safety review to be carried should cover the crossing points to St Lawrence Primary School at the double roundabout between Effingham Common Road and Lower Road including its junction with Church Street. We request that this matter is given a high priority in order to protect those crossing to the school and to prevent life changing or fatal injury to any of our children.

We consider that it is currently unacceptably dangerous to cross Effingham Common Road and Lower Road to St Lawrence Primary School, especially at school opening and pick up times. Traffic is particularly heavy and driving patterns dangerous during these periods. There are currently only inadequate small traffic refuges next to the roundabouts where children cross to go to the school. Many vehicles approach the roundabout at excessive speeds particularly from Effingham Common Road making the Lower Road crossing particularly unsafe. Poor pedestrian sight lines make crossing these roads hazardous. Two recent incidents involving lorries colliding with the railings outside the school and a child being hit by a vehicle's wing mirror are evidence of this, as is the recent fatality only 200 metres east along Lower Road. We are concerned that it is only a question of time before a serious injury or fatality occurs to one of our children outside the school.

RESPONSE:

We would like to thank the petitioner for bringing the Effingham Safety petition to the Guildford Joint Committee.

Surrey County Councils Safer Travel Team will investigate concerns using the Road Safety Outside Schools Policy. The purpose of this policy is to set out the process that will be used by Surrey County Council for investigating and responding to concerns about road safety outside schools. The process involves a site visit involving county council highways and road safety specialists alongside police road safety specialists to diagnose the nature and extent of any problems.

This is used to suggest any mitigating highway or enforcement measures that might be viable. The process also includes an audit of the work within the school on road safety education and training, and the promotion of sustainable travel. The aim is to reduce the risk of collisions, and to make the road feel safer in order to improve the attractiveness of walking and cycling to and from schools.

The county council would like to encourage safe walking and cycling to school, as this is better for the health of children, and reduces congestion and pollution. The perceived danger to children on busy roads on the school journey, especially in the vicinity of a school, can prove to be a barrier to more walking and cycling. This then results in more car journeys and more congestion.

The Road Safety Outside School Policy is attached for information.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety-and-emergencies/school-road-safety>

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Committee is asked to:

- (i) Agree to allow the county councils Safer Travel Team to investigate concerns raised by the Effingham Safety petition using the Road Safety Outside Schools Policy*
- (ii) The outcome of the safety assessment will be reported to the school and local County Councillor containing the results of the road safety education assessment and a description of any potential highway improvements and estimated costs will be brought back to a future joint committee for discussion.*
- (iii) Note that recommendations will include measures to encourage more sustainable travel which St Lawrence Primary School will be responsible for implementing*

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