

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



SURREY

LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM &amp; EWELL)

**DATE:** 25 March 2019  
**SUBJECT:** PETITION – Woodcote Road  
**DIVISION:** Epsom Town and Downs

**PETITION DETAILS:****Consider speed controls on the bend on Woodcote Road adjacent to Sherwood House (no 8)**

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to consider speed controls on the bend on Woodcote Road adjacent to Sherwood House (no 8).

This bend is extremely dangerous and is close to a footpath which is used by many pedestrians, including school children, and hospital patients and staff resulting in them crossing the road very close to the bend.

34 signatures. Petitioner: Mary Ottey

**OFFICER COMMENT:**

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. 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 focused on sites where there are patterns of casualties that could potentially be addressed through engineering interventions. Surrey Police records details on road collisions where personal injury has resulted. This data is shared with Surrey County Council. Data is publicly available at

[www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk)

Available data shows that there have been no recorded incidents at this location in the last five years, where an injury has been sustained.

## ITEM 5

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 Woodcote Road.

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 via Epsom and Ewell Local Committee. Should committee be minded to prioritise Woodcote Road 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 or permitted traffic movements, 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. In this instance it is very unlikely that physical measures would be appropriate given the close proximity of, and requirement to access, Epsom Hospital. 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.

It is recommended that pedestrians do not cross so close to the bend as to compromise visibility. There are controlled crossing facilities nearby, with a signalised pedestrian crossing to the north of the bend and zebra crossing to the south west, near to the hospital entrance.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The 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 (NE)

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