

# SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



## LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

**DATE:** 21 JUNE 2019

**SUBJECT:** WHEELERS LANE, SMALLFIELD REQUEST FOR A ONE WAY.

**DIVISION :** LINGFIELD

### **PETITION DETAILS:**

Burstow Parish Council petitions to have Wheelers lane, Smallfield, Surrey, changed to one directional travel only from an east to west direction.

The east junction of Wheelers Lane has a 'four way' staggered crossroads where Wheelers Lane, Redehall Road, Chapel Road and Plough Road meet. Due to the location of the junction next to a two form entry primary school and a busy shopping parade, this area presents a serious hazard to all road users. Immediately north of the junction, adjacent to the parade are a number of designated 'on-street' parking bays that further exacerbate traffic flow problems.

Drivers turning right from Wheelers Lane into Redehall Road frequently find their view of the road obscured by vehicles, including delivery lorries unloading by the shops. They edge forward only to find vehicles travelling north on Redehall road appearing on the 'wrong' side of the road as they pass by the on street parking bays.

Equally, vehicles approaching the junction from Plough Road and turning right, face the difficulty of turning right. Often finding other traffic approaching on the 'wrong' side of Parents dropping and collecting school children from Burstow Primary School, delivery vans to local shops and shop users park in the vicinity of the junction impeding visibility and increasing the risk of harm.

There have been two serious incidents involving collisions between vehicles and pedestrians, there are regular small Road Traffic Collisions between vehicles and almost daily there is at least one 'near miss'.

The Parish Council believes that by restricting traffic flow to an east to west direction only, there will be a significant increase in safety for all road users and traffic flow through the centre of the village will be smoother and less likely to 'gridlock' at peak school times.

We accept that some one way systems can result in traffic speed as drivers are more confident that they will not meet opposing traffic and residents would have

reduced access choices. The speed issue could be address by installing traffic calming measures.

Our concern, as I'm sure is Surrey County Council's, is to prioritise highway improvements in locations where injury accidents are occurring.

**RESPONSE:**

Redehall Road is a north/south road that runs through Smallfield. Wheelers Lane runs from Redehall Road just north of the parade of shops in a westerly direction. Plough Road runs from Redehall Road just north of the junction with Wheelers Lane in an easterly direction. Wheelers Lane and Plough Road join Redehall Road in a staggered junction arrangement. There is a raised table on Redehall Road that also extends into the entrances of both Wheelers Lane and Plough Road

A review has been carried out of the personal injury collisions in both Wheelers Lane and at the junction of Wheelers Lane/Redehall Road/Plough Road during the period January 2016 to February 2019. These are the latest dates for which information is available. During this period there have sadly been 2 collisions both of which resulted in serious injury to a pedestrian.

It is acknowledged that it can take time to turn right out of both Wheelers Lane and Plough Road during busy periods, and that northbound vehicles on Redehall Road use the southbound carriageway to pass vehicles parked in the parking bays. However this is no different to many other junctions in Surrey with roads that have on street parking. At busy times the congestion and the raised table at this junction acts to reduce vehicle speeds.

Of the 42 people who have signed the petition, only 5 live in Wheelers Lane, the rest live in and around Smallfield. Any scheme to make Wheelers Lane one-way would need the support of the majority of the residents of Wheelers Lane and William Gardens which is a cul-de-sac accessed from Wheelers Lane. Residents in Broadbridge Lane would also need to be consulted as the proposal would result in increased traffic volumes in Broadbridge Lane.

Surrey County Council has put forward proposals to address road safety concerns in Wheelers Lane outside Burstow Primary School, these proposals do not include making Wheelers Lane one-way. Experience elsewhere has shown that when roads are made one-way vehicle speeds tend to increase as drivers do not need to slow down for vehicles coming in the other direction.

The section of Wheelers Lane closest to Redehall Road forms part of the 20mph zone in Smallfield village centre. A speed limit order made in March 2019 extended the section of Wheelers Lane in the 20mph zone to just beyond the Centenary Hall car park entrance.

The petitioners are suggesting that traffic calming measures are installed in order to address the likely increase in vehicle speeds. Such measures would need to be installed along the entire length of Wheelers Lane, and are expensive to both

design and construct. They can also prove to be unpopular with some local residents in those locations where they have been installed.

For these reasons it is not proposed to progress a scheme to make Wheelers Lane one-way.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Committee is asked to:

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

**Contact Officer:**

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