

Annex AWoking Joint Committee  
26 June 2019  
Open Public Question Time**Question 1: Angela Chilese, Parent at Round and Round the Gardens Nursery**

**I would like to ask the Joint Committee what they can do about speeding outside the Nursery on Pyrford Road.**

There have been 2 accidents in the past 6 months. The speed monitoring showed the following speeds

- 5,000 over 31mph
- 1,000 over 36mph
- 46 over 41mph
- 36 over 46mph
- 6 over 51 mph

The speed of traffic is causing a hazard and parents and staff are worried about serious injuries and fatalities.

We have speed watch volunteers that also monitor speeds and try to deter motorists from speeding, but do feel that more needs to be done.

The manager also provided an email with further details:-

I am emailing on behalf of Round and Round the Gardens Nursery, Pyrford Road, Pyrford, West Byfleet, Surrey, GU22 8UQ with regards to serious concerns of speeding vehicles travelling along the Pyrford Road.

I am sure that you are already aware of past accidents that have happened along the Pyrford Road, one of which I had to attend to which happened outside our nursery a few years back when one of our members of staff had a collision with another car (we were later informed that the other car had been speeding). An ambulance was called and I had to also manage children and families who were arriving at the nursery at witnessing this aftermath.

I am sure you are also aware that there was a further accident on the road last week at the junction with the Nuffield Health Gym on Friday 14 June to which both police and ambulance were called.

My fear is the children, families and staff who come and go from our nursery and that the accident which happened on Friday 14th June was during a time whereby there is heavy presence of children being collected from the nursery. I was on annual leave at the time of this accident and not in the country but had to ensure that none of our children or families had been affected. Thankfully, all were well but I do hope those involved are recovering. My office window directly faces onto the Pyrford Road and it is clear to see how fast some travel.

I have families who are also concerned for their children's safety, particularly those whom live nearby or travel by foot or bike to the nursery. I understand one of our parents have been in contact with you with their concerns and have been proactive in requesting for speed surveys to be conducted. She has recently shared the data with me and I am shocked at the result which clearly evidences some serious issues.

In view of this, I wonder what you propose to do to improve the safety of the road for its users and its residents.

### **Response from Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager**

When looking at speeds, we do need to look at the area as a whole and ensure that we target areas with the most issues (and accident history is taken into account with this). We do have a speed limit policy as we get a lot of requests for changes.

I will look at speed in the area, together with the Surrey Police, but interventions are based on mean speeds. In view of the concerns raised, we will be in touch and provide further information outside of the meeting.

### **Questions 2 and 3: Allah Rakha, local resident, together with 2 other local taxi drivers**

I would like to ask about the disabled bays ahead of the Taxi rank in the Broadway, Woking. These bays are very close to the junction and the zebra crossing. The proximity to these causes lots of problems.

Apart from the technical issues above, accessibility is almost zero because these spaces have been become unofficial pick up and drop off and waiting points for Uber, private, private hire and commercial vehicles.

As getting in the bay and coming out of the bay create obstacles and these obstacles are multiplied by the pedestrians using the zebra crossing, this is a noticeable hazard for health and safety. The struck traffic is usually unable to be cleared because there is a further crossing point hardly at two vehicles distance and Chertsey road is already clogged by other factors. As a result the vehicles start beeping and engines are revved up causing noise and air pollution. This happens many times in a day.

**This hazard can be minimised and traffic flow can be made better by re-allocating the disabled bays into the middle of the taxi rank and the taxi rank should start from the beginning of Broadway.**

**The second issue is restriction for taxis to go straight from Broadway to High Street.** It looks highly unjust and groundless if this ban is on the grounds of congestion and pollution. Buses run one after the other, about every 10 minutes and most of the time it is more than that. Most of the busses are ultra low emission and taxis are emission standard 5 or 6, so pollution and congestion are not reasons. Legislation allows taxis to use bus lanes in most parts of the UK. Taxis support the public transport networks, therefore both should be allowed to go one after the other on the same lane, in this way, lots of congestion problems in Broadway and Chertsey road can be alleviated.

### **Answer from Cllr Colin Kemp**

This is a Woking Borough Council issue. There was a need for disabled bays, but it appears that this needs to be looked at in light of the issues raised.

### **Answer from Cllr David Bittleston**

We can look at the use of bays and the access for Taxis through the High Street under the Town Centre management.