

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



SURREY

LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)

DATE: **16th September 2019**
 SUBJECT: **Road Safety Outside Schools – Danetree Primary School**
 DIVISION: **Epsom and Ewell**

PETITION DETAILS:

An e petition with 181 signatures has been submitted to the Local Committee for Epsom and Ewell for consideration.

The petition states:

Danetree Road, KT19, is home to Danetree School. With nearly 700 students, this is a road that sees a lot of traffic during school drop-off and pick-up. Danetree Road and Poole Road work as a cut-through and short cut from Ruxley Lane to Chessington Road. There is also strong evidence of anti-social and dangerous driving, often exceeding speed limits, on these roads. Despite a metal fence that guards the entrance to the school from the road, there is little to no protection for students and their parents or guardians from the road. The speed and dangerous driving of some users on this road also present a danger to residents, (including young children) of Danetree Road and Poole Road. Following a recent posting to an Epsom & Ewell Facebook group, I believe there is strong support for speed bumps and/ or other traffic calming measures on these roads.

Lead Petitioner: Ben Grosvenor

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Councils Safer Travel Team will investigate concerns using the Road Safety Outside Schools Policy. One of the most frequently expressed road safety concerns is that of the safety of children outside schools. At school drop off and pick up times the roads in the immediate vicinity of schools are especially busy and there is usually a high level of vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist activity. This causes slower vehicle speeds and congestion and very often leads to frustration from residents and motorists at the apparent chaos caused by parents and children arriving or leaving the school. 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 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. A further report outlining recommendations will be brought back to this committee in due course.

Should the report recommend engineering measures, these may be considered for inclusion on the committee's highway programme subject to funding and prioritisation against other similar schemes in the area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *To note that the county council's Safer Travel Team will investigate concerns raised by the 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 recommended potential highway improvements and measures to encourage more sustainable travel.*

Contact Officer:

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