

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)****DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2019****LEAD OFFICER: EDWARD COWLEY, SAFER TRAVEL OFFICER****SUBJECT: ROAD SAFETY OUTSIDE DANETREE PRIMARY SCHOOL****DIVISION: WEST EWELL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A petition with 181 signatures was submitted to the Committee on the 16 September 2019 expressing concern for safety of children arriving and leaving Danetree School. This report outlines investigations into the nature and extent of the concerns, and possible highway and road safety education improvements to reduce them. These have been developed in accordance with the County Council's Road Safety Outside Schools policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Epsom and Ewell Local Committee is asked to agree that

- (i) the measures set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report be added to the list of possible future highway improvements in Epsom and Ewell for prioritisation and consideration for future Local Committee funding. Officers will also seek any alternative sources of funding that may arise, for example as a result of property development in the local area.
- (ii) the Safer Travel Team will work with the school to encourage them to take up more of the road safety education and training activities offered by the county council, this will include a Modeshift STARS school travel plan and "Pedals" Year 2 (age 6/7) Scooter and bicycle training.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

These proposed highway measures would improve the safety of pupils walking to and from Danetree School and help to reduce antisocial parking. They would reduce the risk of collisions and improve the road environment to encourage more walking and scooting to school. A successful increase in these modes would contribute to fewer car journeys and less motor vehicle congestion. However the measures at this site would need to be prioritised alongside other schemes across Epsom and Ewell. The recommended school travel plan and road safety education improvements would also help to improve road safety and reduce reliance on the car for the school journey.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 A petition was presented to the Committee on 16 September 2019 containing 181 signatures. Prior to this being submitted, investigation work had already been completed following a request from the residents to carry out a Road Safety Outside Schools Assessment as part of their Modeshift STARS Travel Plan.

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- 1.2 The petition highlights concerns regarding road safety in the vicinity of Danetree and requests measures to assist in crossing the road and reducing the speed that will make the journey to school safer. This report describes the results of investigations into these issues and presents possible highway and road safety education improvements to address the concerns. These have been developed in accordance with the county council's Road Safety Outside Schools policy approved by county council Cabinet on 24 June 2014. The petition states:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Install Traffic Lights (Pelican Crossing) Crossing Outside Danetree Primary School.

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.

2. ANALYSIS:

Site Description and existing infrastructure

- 2.1 Danetree Primary School teaches just over 700 children from ages 2 to 11 (reception to year 6). Danetree Primary School is situated in West Ewell along Danetree Road shown in Figure 1.
- 2.2 The school has one pedestrian entrance/exit and two vehicular entrance/exits. There are "School Keep Clear" road markings immediately outside the school. There is guard railing running outside of the school main entrance. A build out has made a pinch point in front of the school and bollards have been placed on the corners of this traffic calming measure to prevent parking. There are school warning signs on Danetree road coming from both north and south. There are single yellow line markings on both sides of Danetree Road. Parking bays have also been installed.
- 2.3 There is a pinch point pedestrian crossing point immediately outside the school. The crossing point is just north of the main school entrance (shown in figures 2).
- 2.4 The footways on both sides of the road near the school are for use by pedestrians only.

Figure 1: Location of Danetree Primary school

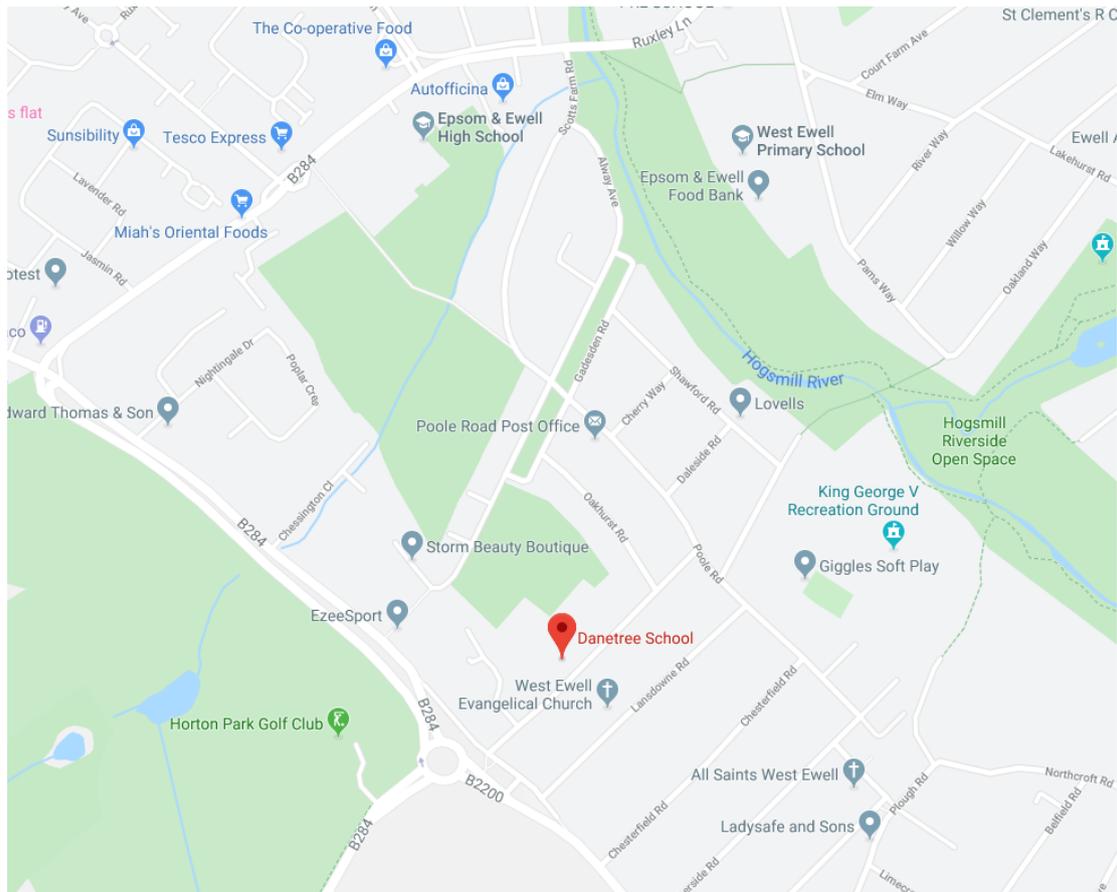


Figure 2 Shows the build out crossing outside the school entrance.

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Road User Behaviour Observations

2.5 The site visit involving county council highway engineers, Road Safety Team, Safer Travel Team and Police colleagues was undertaken during the afternoon at school pick up time. The following observations were made:

- Drivers are parking in restricted areas, including on single and double yellow lines.
- Some drivers also stopped on or near the pinch point, which made it a less safe place to cross.
- We spoke to approximately 5 parents and residents who said that the parking can be much worse, specifically people who spoke to us stated that occasionally there were more parents/guardians parking near to the school, near to the road narrowing.
- The crossing point outside the school, which is a build out was not always being used by parent/guardian's to cross the road to get to the school.
- A number of parents and children crossed the road with their children in front of the gate on the northern end of the school, which again meant that they were not using the build out to cross over the road.

Analysis of Collision and Speed Data

2.6 The county council's database of personal injury collisions recorded by the police has been checked. This showed the following collisions in the last five years in the immediate vicinity of the school (summary information on personal injury road collisions is available to the public via www.crashmap.co.uk):

- There have been no reported accidents in Danetree Road between Jan 2014 and Mar 2019 (the latest data we have available to us on AccsMap). To put this into context, nearly all the other neighbouring roads including Oakhurst Road (8/2014) have had accidents reported.

2.7 On 26 September 2019 a speed survey was conducted by the police following the assessment to ascertain if a full SDR speed survey needed to be conducted.

2.8 The survey recorded 80 vehicles having been at the site (survey took place approximately between 9.00pm and 11.30pm) four vehicles exceeded the speed limit, two of whom would have registered above the 40mph bracket. Further assessment of speed was not seen as necessary by the Police.

3. OPTIONS:

Road Safety Education and Training

3.1 Surrey County Council's "Road Safety Outside Schools" policy highlights that road safety education and training for children is just as important as the infrastructure outside schools. The county council's Safer Travel team provide a range of resources for schools, Danetree Primary School take up "Bikeability" Level 1 (ages 9/10) and 2 cycle training (ages 10/11). They also take part in the Golden Boot Challenge: an inter-class challenge to

encourage more sustainable travel to and from school. In addition to this other activities will be encouraged, these will include “Pedals” Year 2 (age 6/7) Scooter and bicycle training and also to complete their Modeshift Travel Plan to Bronze level.

Suggested Highway Improvements

- 3.2 The following highway improvements would improve the ease and safety of pupils walking, cycling or scooting to school.

Proposal	Rationale
Put the existing pinch point on a raised table.	Installing a raised table will make is easier for pedestrians to cross Danetree Road. This is because it would slow traffic and also make it clearer that it is a crossing point.
Estimated Cost: £30,000	
Install two more bollards on each side of the Pinch point.	The bollards could be installed to stop people parking their vehicles on the pinch point, helping to improve site lines and stopping illegal parking.
Estimated Cost: £1100	
Close the large school gate during pick up and drop off time.	This would encourage people to cross at the pinch point crossing rather than crossing directly in front of the gate to access the school through the gate.
Estimated Cost:£0	
Total: £31100	

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 As part of the Road Safety Outside Schools policy process, the school and the divisional member have been informed of the site visit and resulting report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Any recommendations for engineering measures to improve this location are subject to funding being available from the Epsom and Ewell Local Committee, any highway infrastructure improvements can be added to the list of possible future highway improvement schemes for prioritisation alongside other requests for schemes within Epsom and Ewell. This will take into account the likely effect of the proposals on congestion, accessibility, safety, environment and economy (CASEE). Officers will also seek any alternative sources of funding that may arise, for example as a result of property development in the local area.

6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 Crime and Disorder implications Proposals deriving from the investigation could contribute to reduce anti-social driving.
- 6.2 Sustainability implications Proposals deriving from the investigation could reduce fear of road danger and encourage more sustainable modes of travel. This would result in fewer carbon emissions and less air pollution.

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- 6.3 Public Health implications Proposals deriving from the investigation could reduce the risk of road collisions and support active travel which improves the health of the participants. Reduced reliance on motorised road travel reduces emissions that are detrimental to air quality and public health.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 7.1 Proposals could be added to the list of possible future highway schemes for Epsom and Ewell. The local committee will then decide whether to allocate funding from their future annual budget for highway improvements. Officers will also seek alternative sources of funding should they arise – for example as a result of property development in the local area.

8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 8.1 The Safer Travel Team will work with the school to introduce the recommended additional road safety education activities. Engineering improvements will be added to the running list of improvement schemes, to be taken to the autumn Infrastructure Delivery and Transportation Working Group meeting for possible inclusion in the next financial year programme.

Contact Officer:

Edward Cowley – Safer Travel Team Officer, Road Safety and Active Travel Group

Consulted:

During this process the following people have been consulted:

Divisional Member

School Leadership Team

Surrey Police Road Safety Manager

Local Area Highways Team

Road Safety Engineering Team Surrey County Council

Parking Surrey County Council