

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)**

**DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

**LEAD OFFICER: SARAH AKERMAN**

**SUBJECT: ROAD SAFETY OUTSIDE SCHOOLS – DANESFIELD MANOR**  
**DIVISION: WALTON**



**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A petition with 117 signatures will be submitted to the Elmbridge Local Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 expressing the concern for safety of children arriving and leaving Danesfield Manor School in Walton – On - Thames. 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 Elmbridge Local Committee is asked to agree that**

- (i) The Parking Team should be asked to consider arranging a Traffic Regulation Order for the "School Keep Clear" road markings outside the school so that these can be enforced;
- (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 "Pedals" Year 2 (age 6/7) Scooter and bicycle training, "Bikeability" bicycle training Level 1 Year 4 (age 8/9) and Level 2 Year 6 (age 10/11) The school also takes part annually in the Golden Boot Challenge: an inter-class challenge to encourage more sustainable travel to and from school.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

If the "School Keep Clear" marking were to be made enforceable, this would help to reduce antisocial parking and so would reduce 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. The recommended school travel plan and road safety education improvements would help to improve road safety and reduce reliance on the car for the school journey.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 A petition will be presented on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Elmbridge Local Committee containing 117 signatures. Prior to this petition being submitted, investigation work had already been completed at this site and the recommendations are outlined in this report.

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- 1.2 The petition highlights concerns regarding road safety in the vicinity of Danesfield Manor School and requests measures to assist in crossing the road 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 parents, residents and concerned members of this community are urging Surrey County Council to assess the lack of road safety measures outside Danesfield Manor School, Rydens Avenue, Walton on Thames.*

*It is becoming increasingly dangerous for our children making their daily journeys to and from school. It is indeed an accident waiting to happen. Therefore we would like the council to implement improved road safety to provide our school children, our neighbours and the wider community with the safer environment they deserve.*

*We are petitioning Surrey County Council to consider all options that will increase the safety of the road outside Danesfield Manor School. These measures may include but are not limited to:*

- 1) Signage to warn drivers that they are approaching a school 2) reduced speed limit in vicinity of school 3) Signage to indicate that children are crossing 4) Introduction of speed bumps 5) Consideration of a zebra crossing outside of the school gates*

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

### **Site Description and existing infrastructure**

- 2.1 Danesfield Manor Prep teaches 130 children from ages 2 to 11 (nursery to year 6). Danesfield Manor School is situated in Walton on Thames on Rydens Avenue.
- 2.2 The school has one pedestrian entrance/exit and two vehicular entrance/exits in a horse shoe at the front of the school. This is used as a "Kiss and Drop" by Key stage 2 pupils, it is also the entrance /exit to the staff car park. There are "School Keep Clear" road markings immediately outside of the school, to deter vehicles from stopping during pick up and drop off times. However, these are currently not enforceable due to not having an accompanying Traffic Order.
- There are no school warning signs on either approach to the school. At the junction with Sidney Road, there is a road table, to encourage vehicles to keep within the 30mph speed limit.
- 2.3 There are no designated pedestrian crossing points outside of the school on the day of the visit 66 pupils and parents crossed the road.



**Figure one:** Location plan of Danesfield Manor

### Road User Behaviour Observations

2.4 A Site visit involving county council highway engineers, Road Safety Team, Safer Travel Team and Police colleagues was undertaken during February 2020.

- A total of 66 pupils and parents crossed the road. Pupils and parents crossed with ease. There are good sight lines, with sufficient gaps in the traffic to aid crossing
- Drivers were observed parking opposite the school entrance and were observed parking and unloading on the school keep clear markings.
- Drivers are parking half on the footway on the opposite side of the school entrance.
- Drivers were observed driving within the 30 mph speed limit.



**Figure two:** Looking west down Rydens Avenue



**Figure three:** Looking East down Rydens Avenue

### **Analysis of Collision and Speed Data**

- 2.5 The county council's database of personal injury collisions recorded by the police has been checked. This shows that over the last five years in the immediate vicinity of the school there have been no recorded road injury collisions. This information is available to the public via [www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk):
- 2.6 There are currently no speed surveys for outside of the school, this however has been requested (February 2020). Site observations suggest that most drivers are respecting the 30mph speed limit during the school run.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

#### **3.1 Road Safety Education and Training**

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, Danesfield Manor School have previously taken up "Pedals" Year 2 (age 6/7) Scooter and bicycle training, "Bikeability" bicycle training Level 1 Year 4 (age 8/9) and Level 2 Year 6 (age 10/11) The school also takes part annually in the Golden Boot Challenge: an inter-class challenge to encourage more sustainable travel to and from school.

#### **3.2 Suggested Highway Improvements**

- (i) No engineering measures are proposed. The available evidence shows there are no recorded collisions with the result of personal injury in the last five years. There are many other locations in Elmbridge and elsewhere in the County with high frequencies of casualties; it is these locations that should be high priorities for investment in road safety measures.
- (ii) Arrange a Traffic Regulation Order for the "School Keep Clear" road markings outside the school so that they can be enforced.

- (iii) Safer Travel Team collaborate with the school over the possibility for a School Crossing Patrol (SCP). The school have indicated that they will fund and employ a SCP themselves.

#### **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 AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 Any recommendations for engineering measures to improve this location are subject to funding being available from the Elmbridge 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 Elmbridge. 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. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 This report has been created in accordance with the council's "Road Safety Outside Schools" Policy which has been subject to Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment. Highway improvements are subject to independent road safety audit which takes into account the needs of all road users including those with mobility impairment.

#### **7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 A number of the suggested improvements would benefit those choosing sustainable mores of transport. If these were to be implemented they might encourage more walking, cycling and scooting to school and help reduce car journeys, anti-social parking and congestion which have a negative impact on the local community.

#### **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
Crime and Disorder	See below
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	See below
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications

- 6.1 Crime and Disorder implications Proposals deriving from the investigation could contribute to reduce anti-social driving.

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- 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.
- 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.

### **9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Concerns have been raised by residents and staff from Danesfield Manor School through a petition over the safety of children arriving and leaving the school. Investigation has been undertaken in accordance with the county council's "Road Safety Outside Schools" policy. This has included assessment of the history of road collisions, site observations and assessment of the school travel plan and road safety education delivered by the schools.
- 9.2 Although vehicle speeds were raised as an initial concern, on site observations do not show any excess speed, however a seven day speed survey is pending, to indicate if any further investigations are necessary.

Speeding is essentially a Police enforcement issue as driving in excess of the posted speed limit is a criminal offence, for which the Police as the sole highway enforcement agency, have powers to deal with offenders who unashamedly flout the law, quickly and effectively. The below website s include information on reporting concerns, enforcement, education and Community Speed Watch initiatives.

<http://www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk/i-am-worried-about-the-safety/>

<http://www.surrey.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/report-anti-social-behaviour-and-driving/>

- 9.3 **It is recommended:**
- (i) Danesfield Manor School and the Local Area Highways Team collaborate over the installation of the school warning signs on Rydens Avenue.
  - (ii) The Safer Travel Team offer support and guidance to assist Danesfield Manor School employing a School Crossing Patrol.
  - (iii) The Parking Team arrange a Traffic Regulation Order for the 'School Keep Clear Markings outside the school.
  - (iv) The Local Committee is asked to decide whether or not to add this site to Committee's prioritisation list for possible future ITS schemes.

### **10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 The Safer Travel Team will work with the school to introduce the recommended additional road safety education activities.

- 10.2 If the Local Committee for Elmbridge decides to pursue this request, the Area Highways Team, who report to Elmbridge Local Committee, will lead the process to assess the existing traffic speeds and conditions in the context of a feasibility study.
- 10.3 The Areas Highway Team will be assisted by the Road Safety Team and will consult with Surrey Police's Road Safety and Traffic Management Team.
- 10.4 The output would be a report and recommendations in accordance with Surrey County Council's speed limit policy for consideration by the local committee, who will then decide whether to allocate funding for a scheme to change the existing speed limit and install pedestrian crossings or not.

Sarah Akerman – Safer Travel 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 Are Highways Team

Road Safety Engineering Team surrey county council

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