



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

PUBLIC QUESTION

28 June 2013

On the subject of a crossing on the A25 Oxted, Claire Blackwell asks:

Crossing the A25 at the island situated at the bottom of Uvedale Road is extremely dangerous. Children cannot walk to school unattended; parents are forced to use their cars instead. For able pedestrians speed of crossing is paramount to cross safely but for mothers with prams, elderly and disabled residents, unable to walk or run quickly across the road, the task of crossing the A25 is impossible. Mobility scooters and prams are left protruding from the island, often waiting for long periods for a break in the flow of traffic.

This situation is unacceptable and should not be allowed to continue any longer.

A pelican crossing would address these problems but waiting years for funding is not an option. The road is becoming faster and busier with many more lorries using Oxted as a cut through.

A large part of Westerham Road is residential with houses on both sides and should be a 30 mile an hour zone anyway. If a 30mph speed limit were introduced now residents would support a zebra crossing as a cheaper alternative to a pelican crossing. Either option would slow the traffic approaching the very busy Snatts Hill Junction making that junction safer for cars turning right on to the A25 as well as providing an adequate and safe crossing for all pedestrians.

Residents are not prepared to wait years for a scheme to be implemented to make this part of the A25 safe to cross. Traffic is getting heavier and faster all the time, crossing the road is a hazard. A safe crossing would stop pedestrians, parents and

children being fearful of crossing the road and assist the elderly and disabled to have the freedom to access the amenities in their own town.

Many residents have attended the meeting today to show the level of support for a safe crossing. I have emails from many more residents who would have attended but have other commitments this morning.

Will Surrey County Council find the funding for the implementation of a controlled crossing and if there is any delay will Surrey County Council impose a 30 mile per hour speed limit and a zebra crossing as soon as possible?

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Local Committee response:

A comprehensive study has been carried out by the County's design team to determine the feasibility of providing a safer crossing facility on the A25 between the junctions of Uvedale Road and Snatts Hill. The study recommended that a Puffin crossing be installed to replace the existing uncontrolled crossing facility at an estimated cost of between £150,000 and £190,000, excluding the cost of any diversionary works of Statutory Undertakers equipment that may be required.

A Zebra crossing was considered as an option but the existing 85th percentile speeds of between 35mph and 38mph (the speed at which 85% of drivers will travel or below) on this section of the A25 exceed the maximum 35mph specified by the Department for Transport for the installation of a Zebra crossing. In addition, it was considered that pedestrians may find difficulty in establishing precedence over approaching vehicles due in part to the insufficient gaps number of gaps in the traffic as measured on site and a perceived attitude that it would be hazardous to do so.

To meet the requirements for installing a zebra crossing, vehicle speeds will need to be reduced through a reduction in the speed limit. Any reduction in the speed limit would need to comply with the County's Speed Limit Policy. The policy recognises that lowering a speed limit alone might not be effective at reducing actual speeds without other speed reducing measure. Therefore, to achieve vehicle speeds in keeping with the reduced speed limit may require additional traffic calming measures such as speed cushions or road tables, which may not be supported by consulted stakeholders. Due to the volume of traffic, particularly of larger vehicles, these types of traffic calming would not be considered appropriate.

As noted by the questioner, pedestrians currently have to wait for long periods for a break in the flow of traffic in order to cross the road at the existing pedestrian refuge. A 30mph speed limit along this section of road may mean that the speed requirements are met but could lead to even fewer gaps in the traffic being created where a pedestrian could safely step out onto a Zebra crossing. In addition, the nature of the road and its location does not present itself to a driver as one where it would be expected to encounter a Zebra crossing, resulting in drivers failing to stop for pedestrians.

For the above reasons, Officers would not recommend the installation of a zebra crossing at this location even if the speed limit could be reduced under the existing Speed Limit Policy.

The Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who is also the divisional Member, are working with Officers to manage the limited budgets to enable the proposed Puffin crossing to proceed at the earliest opportunity. Realistically, it is unlikely that the crossing can be started before the end of the financial year 2014/15, with completion of the works early in 2015/6.