



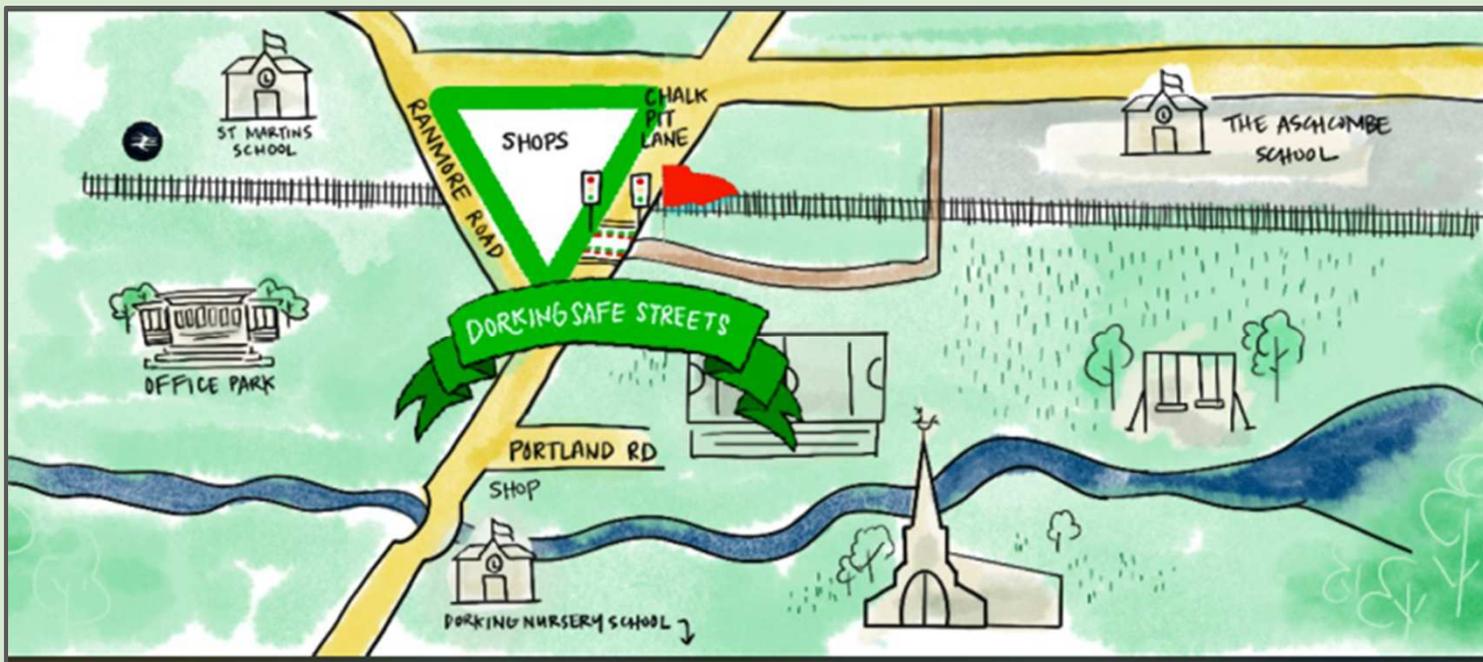
DORKING
S△FE STREETS

We are Dorking Safe Streets

Thank you for considering our petition to undertake a feasibility study and utilise CIL payments from local developments to fund the construction of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane.

dorkingsafest@gmail.com

www.dorkingsafeststreets.com



We are a coalition of caring, concerned local parents, educators, business leaders and community partners.

We call for MVDC and SCC to undertake a feasibility study and utilise the Community Infrastructure Levy payments from local developments to fund the construction of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane, close to Triangle Stores.

We ask the local area committee to prioritise this community-wide issue, which is identified in the Future Mole Valley Infrastructure Delivery Plan (p.75 2020).



The three pillars of our campaign

1. Safety
2. Environmental Impact
3. Cohesion

1. Safety for our Community

Chalkpit Lane not only gets busy with local traffic, it is also the bypass for traffic travelling from the North to the South West (and vice versa) and a lot of industrial traffic comes through the crossing.

2. Environmental Impact

Another aim is about helping people to make better choices for our environment. From talking to the community, many have said that they would leave their cars at home if they had a safe place to cross here, and for older children they could walk/cycle to school independently if this crossing was put in place - this would help our environment and the health of our community.

3. Cohesion

Our business partners tell us that this crossing would help 'join up' the town - so the campaign is also about cohesion. If you want to travel on foot/bike/scooter East to West across Dorking this particular road is a real barrier. We are advocating to bring the town together, making it safer, greener and looking to the future, for everyone.

4

What is it like to cross Chalkpit Lane?



Chalkpit Lane not only gets busy with local traffic, it is also the bypass for traffic travelling from the North to the South West of Dorking (and vice versa), and a lot of industrial traffic comes through the town on this road.

When travelling East to West (and vice versa) across Dorking by foot or bike you inevitably have to cross this road. It affects many families, residents, visitors and local people from all walks of life on a daily basis.

Officer Response: safety issues



In the **officer response** to our petition, it states that the vehicles do not have enough visibility to see and react to a crossing at this point in the road, and this is exactly what contributes to the safety issues that we see on the current informal crossing – it is a busy and complex junction which is hard for drivers and pedestrians to safely judge.

The cars that park on the West side of Chalk Pit lane obscure the sight lines for pedestrians wishing to cross – vehicles can ‘appear out of nowhere’ when coming down the hill and a crossing would take away this risk.



Officer Response: safety issues

The current 'island' encourages people to cross half way and then provides no protection. People often get stranded here with no protection from traffic, or the island becomes too full to accommodate everyone, especially if they have prams, bikes, wheelchairs, scooters. This forces pedestrians to have to wait in the road.

The current informal crossing features an island with damaged street furniture which is distracting. A lights-controlled crossing would focus drivers attention, cause them to slow and prepare to stop.

The [Highway Code](#) states:

Many children cannot judge how fast vehicles are going or how far away they are.

This is backed up by [research undertaken by Royal Holloway University](#) which found that primary aged children can't judge speeds over 20 miles per hour:

Professor John Wann, from the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway, said:

"This is not a matter of children not paying attention, but a problem related to low-level visual detection mechanisms, so even when children are paying very close attention they may fail to detect a fast approaching vehicle."





As they get older children are more likely to become distracted, complacent or follow another person's lead without being able to properly judge the safety of their situation.

In the **officer response** to our petition it states that there have been no personal injury collisions in the last three years, however we hear from the local community about their experiences of terrifying 'near misses' on an almost daily basis.

Businesses in the area want to see the road made safer...

Business Address
 BROOKHOUSE STORES
 STATION 121
 DORKING RH4 1EN

Letter of support: Dorking Safe Streets

Dear Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council,

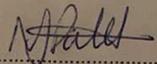
As a business located on Chalk Pit Lane close to the site of a proposed pedestrian controlled crossing, I am pleased to support the Dorking Safe Streets campaign. We understand that there are a variety of safety concerns on behalf of the Highways Agency and we fully support the County Council undertaking a feasibility study to determine next steps.

Chalk Pit Lane is a busy road, being one of the main arterial routes from the west and southwest of Dorking to the north of the town. This crossing site is located at a natural transit point for the town's pedestrians and cyclists: a route to train stations, the park and multiple schools. It serves workers in local light industry as well as residents, and this area needs to be protected to benefit everyone in the community.

There are no other natural crossing points along this road and we would like to see this as part of a strategic network of pedestrian routes across Dorking. We welcome the undertaking of a feasibility study into the issue, during which we will be happy to reinforce our assertions.

Thank you for your support of this campaign.

Sincerely,

Signed..... 

Name..... N. PATEL

Business Address
 TRIANGLE STORES
 2, RAMMORE ROAD, DORKING,
 SURREY, RH4 1HA.

Letter of support: Dorking Safe Streets

Dear Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council,

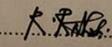
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Thank you for your support of this campaign.

Sincerely,

Signed..... 

Name..... MR. R. RATHESH



https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/330214/ltm-2-95_pedestrian-crossings.pdf

Currently, motorists have to use their judgement when negotiating the various uncontrolled junctions in the location (from Vine Court, the private car park serving the terrace of shops, and from Ranmore Road). **We suggest that a formal, controlled crossing would be much safer than the current informal arrangement – for motorists and pedestrians alike.**

Officer Response: location issues

In the **officer response** to our petition, various problems with the location are raised. The current 'informal crossing' is cited at a natural crossing point for pedestrians travelling East/West. We suggest that converting the current informal crossing to a pedestrian controlled crossing would be the simplest and most cost-effective way to approach the issue.

Guidance* *SUGGESTS* that a crossing is located 20m from uncontrolled junctions, but accepts that this will '...depend on the geometry of the junction.'

We believe that there is sufficient objective evidence to derogate from the 20m suggestion and that precedent exists elsewhere in the town.



We hear from concerned local parents, residents, educators, businesses and members of the community nearly every day about why this project is important to them.

Locals, Parents, Residents



'It is too many times now that we have had a close call at the crossing.'

'Given the speed of traffic coming down Chalkpit Lane a safe crossing should have been installed here many years ago.'

'I've personally witnessed three children (including my own daughter) almost run over on this section of road - we need this crossing!'

'People drive far too quickly along this stretch of road.'



'Every day I see children crossing where they shouldn't and it is too dangerous! There are many schools in the vicinity. This is needed!'

Locals, Parents, Residents

'To cross here with a pram...can be very stressful and scary how close the fast cars are.'

'My son came home and said 'Mum I was nearly killed at the triangle store today'. He and a friend had decided to cross Chalkpit Lane behind an adult to try to remain safe, and a driver stopped to let her cross but then did not see my son and his friend following on behind.'

'We cross here from the park with our bikes...and the bit in the middle of the road isn't wide enough for a bike length, let alone all five of us!'

'It is necessary to enable children a safe walking route to and from school, helping the environment in many ways.'



Locals, Parents, Residents – environmental benefits



'I would like to stress to the council just how much pollution and congestion results from children being unable to walk home alone as they get older (my son is year 5). I avoid using my car as much as possible but the very dangerous roads around Dorking are a big factor in parents' decisions about when their child is old enough to walk home...A proper crossing here would be one contribution to enabling more parents to leave their cars at home, while enabling children to become more independent and healthier for the added exercise.'

Wellbeing Benefits

Walk to
SCHOOL
Week



From 5–9 October, we celebrated Walk to School week. According to the University of Toronto, children who walk to school have been found to have higher academic performance

Children who travel to school on foot:

- Have higher attention spans and have better verbal, numeric, and reasoning abilities.
- Have a higher degree of pleasantness and lower levels of stress during the school day.
- Have higher levels of happiness, excitement and relaxation on the journey to school.

We have received endorsements from St Martin's School and Dorking Nursery School, as well as support from the Priory School, St John's School, Powell Corderoy Primary School and the Ashcombe.



St Martin's C of E Primary School

Ranmore Road, Dorking, RH4 1RFW Telephone: 01306 883474

09.10.20

As the Headteacher of St Martin's C of E Primary School in Dorking, I am writing on behalf of the children at St Martin's, the parents, the Governing Body and the local community to publicly endorse the **DORKING SAFE STREETS** campaign.

There is absolutely no doubt at all that the installation of a pedestrian controlled crossing at 'the triangle' would help to ensure the safety of our children and the children from other local schools - most particularly Dorking Nursery and Children's Centre and The Ashcombe School. It would enable more families to travel to school on foot or by bike or scooter, as it is this particular crossing point that prevents many parents from allowing their older children to walk or travel this route independently. This would subsequently have beneficial health and environmental impacts.

At a meeting of the Resources Committee of the Governing Body at St Martin's on 08.10.20 we unanimously agreed that we should urge Mole Valley District Council to mobilise all available resources to install this crossing on Chalk Pit Lane.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, via the school if there is anything at all that we can do to further this cause.

Yours



www.dorkingnurserychildrenscentre.org.uk
West Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1BY tel: 01306 882397
email: head@dorking.surrey.sch.uk

October 2020

To whom it may concern

Re: Dorking Safe Streets Campaign

As the Headteacher at Dorking Nursery School and Mole Valley Family Centre, I am writing to endorse and show my support for the Dorking Safe Streets Campaign. Many of our families attending the Nursery use this pedestrian crossing on a daily basis and would hugely benefit from a pedestrian controlled crossing at the 'Triangle Stores'.

We also have a large number of families who have children attending both our school and St Martins Primary School, therefore using this route 2 or more times a day. The impact and benefits of walking to school daily are proven to significantly contribute to the recommended daily exercise and helps to create good walking habits from a young age. Walking to school also allows families to spend time together socially and communicating with each other, which also have an impact on the future well being and literacy levels for all.

We are urging all our families to sign the petition and support this campaign to install a crossing on Chalkpit Lane.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Donna Harwood-Duffy
Headteacher

Businesses, Schools, Organisations

'Walking to school also allows families to spend time together socially and communicate with each other, which also have an impact on the future well being and literacy levels for all.'

— Donna Harwood-Duffy, Headteacher
Dorking Nursery School

'...the installation of a pedestrian controlled crossing...would enable more families to travel to school on foot or by bike or scooter, as it is this particular crossing point that prevents many parents from allowing their older children to walk or travel this route independently. This would subsequently have beneficial health and environmental impacts.'

— Jane Gorecka, Headteacher, St Martin's
Primary School





Officer Response: funding issues

In the **officer response** to our petition, it states that the project will cost £220,000 and exceeds the available 'neighbourhood' CIL funding of £162,000. We are aware that there is further 'strategic' CIL funding available.

Assuming that project costs cannot be brought down, we believe that this development qualifies as a strategic project as it not only impacts both the **safety and wellbeing** of hundreds of nursery, primary and secondary school children from across the district on a daily basis, it also directly links into both Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council's commitment to **support the UK government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050**. This '...reflects the shared ambition of Surrey's 12 local authorities that our residents live in clean, safe and green communities, where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities...partners will work together to put the county on the path to net zero carbon emissions and strengthen our climate resilience. Our success lies in us all taking action to shift our behaviour and to live more sustainable lives to help safeguard our communities and the environment.' (<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/climate-change/what-are-we-doing>)

It also ties into Mole Valley's commitment to local businesses to develop a town centre that is accessible to all, and our campaign has gained support from many local business and community leaders, including Hello Dorking who featured our campaign in a blog: <https://dorkingtowndpartnership.co.uk/blog/the-campaign-making-dorkings-streets-safer-for-the-community/>

Our business partners tell us that this crossing would help 'join up' the town. **Dorking Safe Streets** is also about **cohesion**.

If you want to travel on foot, bike, scooter, wheelchair East to West across Dorking this particular road is a real barrier. A safe crossing here would help to bring the town together, making it safer, greener and looking to the future, **for everyone**.



Businesses, Schools, Organisations

'Dorking Wanderers support this vital campaign for a safe crossing used by so many of our fans.'

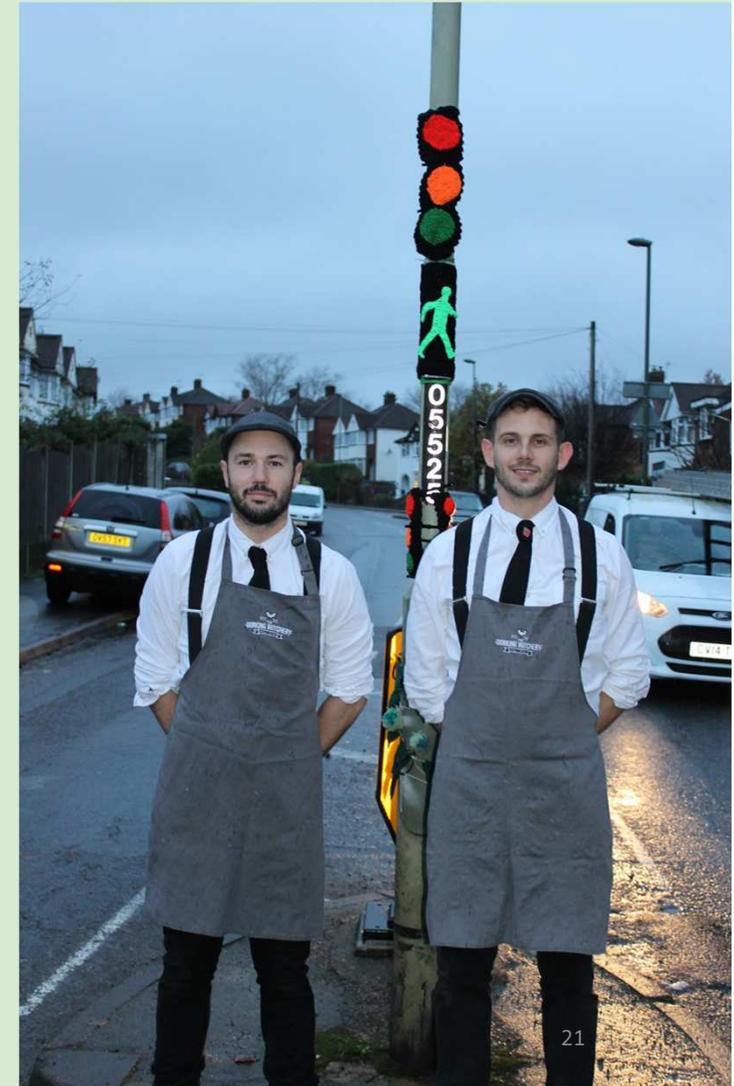
— Dorking Wanderers

"S.C. Fuller fully supports Dorking Safe Streets. Making our streets safer and easier to get around is a campaign everyone should support!"

— Andrew Fuller, S.C. Fuller

'Hike often. Hike safe. Keep the streets of Dorking accident free; put in a pedestrian light at Chalkpit Lane.'

— Michael Vergien, Hikes of Surrey





Businesses, Schools, Organisations

“Waitrose fully supports the Dorking Safe Streets campaign. Any initiative that makes it easier and safer for people to get around Dorking Town Centre has got to be applauded.

— Kenneth Storr, Manager

“We are totally supportive of the installation of a pedestrian controlled crossing at Chalkpit Lane.

— Basil and Susan Doha, Mullins Coffee Shop

“Here at Art Space we recognise the need for a safe, pedestrian controlled crossing for the community to help families travel confidently around the local area.

— Sarah Voltz, Director



Businesses, Schools, Organisations

'I am delighted to support the Dorking Safe Streets campaign to install a controlled pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane by Triangle Stores and create a safe walking route for children, families, users of Meadowbank Park, businesses and the entire local community. I am keen to see this development to enable more people to travel safely, and leave their cars at home for short journeys. Please join us!'

— Hazel Watson, Surrey County Councillor



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MUM CALLS FOR NEW CROSSING
PAGE 15

News

'Funds for new crossing sits with council'

MUM CALLS FOR SAFETY MEASURE ON ROAD

By CHRISTY O'BRIEN
01835 202000@surreyadvertiser.com
0800 010 0106

A DORKING mum has called on Mole Valley District Council to protect local children with a new pedestrian crossing.

Backed by local schools and businesses, Aimee Fairhurst, co-founder of the group Dorking Safe Streets, is pressuring Mole Valley District Council and Surrey County Council to install the safety measure on a "dangerous" stretch of road at Chalkpit Lane, near St Martin's School.

Plans for a crossing had been included in a draft plan back in 2016,

but funding was needed before construction went ahead.

With developers of a block of flats adjacent to the road recently paying a infrastructure levy however, Ms Fairhurst believes the money is there for the authorities to finally act.

She added: "We've only been up and running for 10 days and we're looking to build support and galvanize the local community.

"All the pieces to the jigsaw puzzle are there and the point of our campaign is to bring it to the top of pile in terms of the council's agenda.

"The money is sitting with Mole Valley, but highways are with Surrey

County Council so we have to enable the two to talk to each other and bring it to their attention that it is an issue.

"We've been really pleased with the response of our community so far.

"All the schools, Waitrose and different local businesses have got on board and see the point of having a safe space for people to walk from A to B."

Ms Fairhurst admits the fears over the safety of the road have been an "ongoing issue" for the local community, but she was determined to pressure the council into ensuring

the safety of the surrounding area for as long as it takes.

She hopes a decision will be made by both the district and county councils on taking the plans forward before the end of 2020, but added even if they reject the proposals she will "keep going" with her campaign.

She added: "Someone said on our social media 'there's been no deaths there'. Well let's keep it that way, just because no one lost their life doesn't undermine the fact it's really dangerous. My friends would like to let their children walk to school but they can't because of this one place."

St. Martin's school children and parents campaigning for a pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane
GRAHAME LARTER



Rough sleeper funds secured

MOLE Valley District Council has secured almost £150,000 to house vulnerable people this winter.

The council, which has assisted 44 rough sleepers since the start of lockdown, has been given an additional

£144,250 by the Ministry of Housing to not only continue its provision of emergency beds during, but also to add to it.

Councillor Elizabeth Daly, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "To have secured additional funding to help ensure we can continue offering such vital support is so very pleasing and really important for those individuals we are helping to keep safe."

"I am also hopeful that a bid submitted together with East Surrey partners and Transform Housing for money from an additional £161 million fund will be successful. That money would help us acquire one-bed units where vulnerable residents could receive intensive support in the future."



St. Martin's school children and parents campaigning for a pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane
GRAHAME LARTER



Our Recommendations

This is the only exit from Meadowbank onto this road - it is a natural pinch point and transit / crossing point - a natural route to train stations, park, school - on the periphery to school, light industry, mixed with residential - it needs to be protected. This is one of the main arterial routes from the west and southwest of Dorking to the north, bypassing the town centre. Drivers appear to accelerate to “gather momentum” up the hill. This traffic crossing will naturally reduce the traffic speed.

We call for a feasibility study which we are confident will reinforce our assertions.

We suggest that a pedestrian controlled crossing could be built at the existing crossing site, thereby keeping costs down.

If it is not possible to convert the current site then we consider this a strategic issue both in terms of safety and contributing to the council’s environmental and community cohesion target, and therefore eligible for strategic CIL funding if necessary.

Taking account all of the above a feasibility study should be carried out to assess whether or not it is feasible to install a push button pedestrian crossing at this location. This would allow all of the factors above to be considered.

We all need to cross this road, so let's make it safer for everyone.

This will have a positive impact on our local environment and join up the Dorking community.





DORKING SAFE STREETS

View our petition at:

<https://www.change.org/dorkingsafests>

View our partners at:

<https://dorkingsafeststreets.com/partners>

Contact us:

dorkingsafest@gmail.com

View our video:

<https://vimeo.com/483762824>

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