

Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Economic Growth Decisions

23 July 2024

TITLE: EPSOM ROAD PETITION

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to provide a pedestrian crossing at the Junction of Lower and Upper Edgeborough Road and Epsom Road and impose a 20 mph speed limit on Epsom Road.

Justification:

I spent about a month doing this and was overwhelmed by the positive reaction from local residents and people walking past, with fast cars passing close by our conversation. Another local councillor Richard Mills (Guildford BC) supported this and wrote letters to 400 residents inviting them to respond to me with their view and I have many emails from residents in support of both a speed reduction and a crossing.

I have attached the petition that i shared with Fiona and would be grateful that it goes on official record at SCC and its findings are considered. Given that this petition easily achieved over 1000 responses its requested should be taken seriously. This is a dangerous road.

Submitted by: Sam Neatrou

RESPONSE:

Thank you for sharing the result of the petition for a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Lower and Upper Edgeborough Road and Epsom Road and to impose a 20mph speed limit on Epsom Road which has been noted.

A246 Epsom Road, Guildford is a road linking A3100 London Road in the West with A25 Epsom Road in the East, the A25 Epsom Road continues in a north easterly direction to the outskirts of the urban area of Guildford. The road also connects to other residential side roads throughout this length of the Epsom Road and has a 30mph speed limit throughout this length because it has a system of street lighting.

It is acknowledged that residents are concerned about the speed of traffic and pedestrian safety on the Epsom Road. There are many more requests to reduce speed limits and/or traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing facilities on roads throughout the county, than it is possible to achieve in any given year, and therefore these schemes have to be prioritised. The roads which have a history of personal injury collisions, where speed is a contributory factor in those collisions are to be considered first.

An assessment of the personal injury collision data provided by Surrey Police, on the A246/A25 Epsom Road between the junction of A3100 London Road and the junction with B2234 Park Lane, shows that there have been 22 personal injury collisions along this 3km section of road during the most recent 3-year period for which data is available (from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023). Three of these collisions resulted in pedestrian injury, one of which was at the existing pedestrian crossing close to the junction with Merrow Street, with another in close proximity to this pedestrian crossing. Surrey Police did not record vehicle speed as a contributory factor in any of these collisions. We are aware that collisions may

have occurred in the local vicinity more recently than the period for which official data is available and depending on their circumstances these will be considered in any future plans.

Your local County Councillor has raised resident's concerns about road safety on the A246 Epsom Road with Surrey County Council officers, and as a result a traffic engineer carried out a site visit to assess the recorded safety issues in Epsom Road. The outcome of the site visit are as follows –

- There are informal crossings with refuge islands in Epsom Road and a traffic signal pedestrian crossing at the junction with Harvey Road.
- Due to the number of side roads and vehicle cross overs in Epsom Road, it is difficult to find a suitable location for a formal pedestrian crossing to be installed.
- It was recommended that a section between Upper Edgeborough Road and Austen Road is the most suitable section for a formal crossing to be considered.

Collision data provided by Surrey Police, shows that there has been 3 personal injury collisions at the A246 Epsom Road/Upper Edgeborough Road/Lower Edgeborough Road during the most recent 3 year period for which data is available (from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2023). However, none of these collisions involved pedestrian injury.

Every year each County Councillor can nominate only one priority Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) for consideration for future funding. Each nominated scheme is assessed, scored and prioritised against agreed criteria to ensure that the available ITS budgets are focused on schemes that are going to make the biggest difference first and offer value for money. This budget is separate from the Road Safety Outside Schools and Road Safety Scheme budgets that have been used on the nearby Zebra crossing scheme outside Tormead School.

The scope of the Countywide ITS programme of schemes is for traffic engineering schemes such as the requested crossing and speed limit reduction in this petition. The Surrey County Councillor for Guildford South-East, Fiona Davidson, has nominated as her one priority Countywide ITS scheme for 2025/26 financial year to be a pedestrian crossing (zebra or signalised crossing), on the A246 Epsom Road between Upper Edgeborough Road and Austen Road. A technical assessment is being undertaken, and the scheme will be scored against the other schemes put forward for funding by County Councillors in the Guildford area.

The Surrey County Councillor for Guildford East, George Potter, has nominated as his one priority Countrywide ITS scheme for 2025/25 financial year to be a 20mph speed limit in Bushy Hill, due to road safety concerns.

The first step in assessing the suitability of a 20mph speed limit on the A246 Epsom Road, would be to carry out speed surveys to record the average mean speeds of vehicles. Should the recorded average mean speed comply with a 20mph speed limit, the next step would need to be engagement with the wider community to gain local insight before the cost of designing a scheme is undertaken.

Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Economic Growth Decisions
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