

# SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

**DATE: 1 MARCH 2021**

**SUBJECT: SUTTON GARDENS, MERSTHAM – INTRODUCE A ONE-WAY SYSTEM**

**DIVISION: MERSTHAM & BANSTEAD SOUTH**

### **PETITION DETAILS:**

There are two schools on Taynton Drive, and currently a third sharing a site after flooding. Parents continue to drop their children at the gate despite school requests to stop. Sutton Gardens is a narrow road on a bend that drivers cut through to get from Weldon Way to these schools. It has a wide kerb on the inside of the bend, and drivers in passenger cars, taxis and vans drive up the kerb when finding a vehicle travelling the opposite way. This has led to residents witnessing a number of near misses since September 2020 including: A child on a bike having a near miss on a kerb; a Sainsburys driver forcing a mother and child onto a resident's driveway; a lady on a mobility scooter faced with a car coming head on towards her. There has also been several collisions with residents cars. Residents have raised their fears of a serious injury and further damage to property to local Councillors, the County Council, at the new school consultation and with the Police, and have now been advised to start a petition. We believe Sutton Gardens should become a one way street or become a cul de sac with an emergency services barrier.

### **RESPONSE:**

Sutton Gardens is a residential road in Merstham that links Weldon Way with Taynton Drive. Sutton Gardens has no parking restrictions and cars are usually parked on the north side of the road.

Merstham Park School is located in Taynton Drive and opened in temporary accommodation in September 2018 with a single year group, with additional year groups added each subsequent year. Woodfield Secondary School, which is a school for pupils with learning and additional needs, is also located just to the east of Sutton Gardens on Sunstone Grove. however traffic associated with this school is unlikely to use Sutton Gardens. It is acknowledged that roads around schools can become very busy at the beginning and end of the school day when parents are dropping off and collecting pupils.

The petitioners have safety concerns that vehicles are mounting the pavement to get past a vehicle coming the other way. They are therefore suggesting that Sutton Gardens is made one-way or becomes a cul-de-sac.

An investigation has been carried out into the collision history on Sutton Gardens. Surrey County Council has a record of collisions resulting in personal injury which is provided by Surrey Police. However, no record is kept of collisions which involve damage to vehicles and private property. This investigation has shown that during the latest three-year period for which

data is available (from October 2017 to September 2020) there have been no personal injury collisions on Sutton Gardens.

Experience elsewhere has shown that, when roads are made one-way, traffic speeds tend to increase unless additional traffic calming is put in place. This is because drivers do not need to slow down for vehicles coming in the opposite direction. The County Council does not wish to encourage increased traffic speeds on residential roads, and as traffic calming on this road is not currently prioritised there are no current plans to make Sutton Gardens one-way.

The overwhelming majority of roads that are cul-de-sacs were laid out as cul-de-sacs when the houses on them were built. They therefore have a turning area at the end to enable vehicles to safely turn around. If a cul-de-sac does not have a turning area, any vehicle that gets to the end would need to reverse back along the road, which raises safety concerns. Unfortunately, there is not enough highway land at either end of Sutton Gardens to construct a turning area. Therefore, there are no plans to make Sutton Gardens a cul-de-sac as the petitioners suggest.

A way forward could be to continue to liaise with the schools and their School Travel Plans to try to reduce the impact of parking on Sutton Gardens at school drop off and pick up times.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Committee is asked to note the officer's comment.

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Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer

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