

Cabinet Member for Transport & Infrastructure

27 June 2022

PETITION: REQUEST SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON WOODHATCH ROAD**Statement:**

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Introduce pedestrian crossings and reduced speed limited on Woodhatch road. There are no pedestrian crossings despite serving 2 schools and Earlswood lakes. Following the introduction of restrictions on Pendleton Road in relation to HGVs. Woodhatch road will now see increased heavy traffic with a 40MPH speed limit and no way to safely cross the road at ANY point. Surrey CC need to introduce improved safety measures, including pedestrian crossings, reduced speed limits and improved flood protections.

Justification:

The use of Earlswood lakes has increased with parking on Woodhatch Road, but no additional measure have been introduced. Children need to cross all the way down Woodhatch road (from the A23 to the roundabout at the junction with Pendleton Road to enable children and parent to get to Dovers Green school and Reigate School. Unlike Pendleton Road which has a number of crossings and reduced speed limits, the council have not provided any measures which reduce the risk to pedestrian users of Woodhatch Road. We urge the Council to take urgent steps to protect all residents and users of this area.

Submitted by: Mandy Hunt

Signatures: 106

Response:

Many thanks for raising your concerns over the lack of crossing facilities on this stretch of road. While there is a signalised crossing approximately 70m to the west of the roundabout junction of Woodhatch Road with Pendleton Road, there aren't any formal (signalised or zebra) crossing facilities to the east of this junction. There are informal (dropped kerb) crossing points next the junction with Tylers Way and at the path leading to Felland Way near to the Earlswood Common Car Park. The existing 30mph speed limit extends approximately 70m to east of Tylers Way so the informal crossing points at that junction are within the 30mph limit, but the informal crossing point leading to Felland Way is within the 40mph speed limit.

There have been ten collisions resulting in personal injury on this stretch in the last five years (to the end of 2021), with four involving serious injury. Six of these (three serious) are located at the junction with Tylers Way. None of these collisions involved pedestrians. This can be seen on www.crashmap.co.uk. Therefore, this site will be considered for inclusion on the list of potential schemes implemented by the Road Safety Engineering Team using the central road safety collision hotspot budget. Once a potential solution has been developed for this junction, prioritisation will depend upon the estimated cost of any scheme compared to the likely collision reduction, and in comparison with other schemes across the county.

With regards to pedestrian crossing facilities, surveys of pedestrian crossing movements will be required at the different crossing locations to assess the demand for an enhanced crossing facility, and where the greatest desire line is. Speed surveys would be required to assess the feasibility of a lower speed limit. If the existing speeds are closer to the existing speed limit of 40mph (which is thought likely) then traffic calming (perhaps crossings on raised tables) would be required to achieve a successful new lower 30 mph speed limit.

The County Council's process for considering and prioritising request for Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) such as zebra or signalised crossings has recently changed. In February 2022 the County Council's Cabinet agreed changes to the highway decision making process to take effect from 1 April 2022. The Local & Joint Committees no longer make decisions on highway budgets including which ITS schemes in their area to fund for design and construction. Instead, there is a countywide prioritised ITS programme. The prioritisation process, once agreed in the autumn, will give stronger links to our policies and strategies and consider affordability and deliverability.

Each divisional member is being asked to put forward one ITS scheme in their division for consideration for funding for 2023/24. The schemes will be prioritised using a new scoring process currently being developed. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure will approve the list of schemes that will be taken forward for design and construction.

If you would like your request for a reduced speed limit and crossing facilities to be considered as part of this process, then it is recommended that you seek support for your proposal from your local county councillor Catherine Baart. This proposal could then be considered alongside other proposals that may have been suggested locally.

Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport & Infrastructure
Date of meeting – 27 June 2022