

Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth

23 April 2024

TITLE: TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON CRAWLEY RIDGE

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to put traffic calming measures in place to prevent motorists travelling at speed along the road outside Crawley Ridge Infant and Junior Schools.

Justification:

Crawley Ridge runs past an Infant and a Junior school as well as numerous residences and a church. The road is used as a cut through to avoid the Ravenswood roundabout at busy times which leads to cars, vans and trucks travelling quickly through the congestion of school pick up and drop off times.

Additionally, cars speed down the lines of parked cars to get to passing places. The pavements are narrow on Crawley Ridge and speeding vehicles pose a threat to children and their carers walking home or back to their cars. Reducing speeds along the road would make it less attractive as a cut through and would make the whole area safer for residents and the school community.

Submitted by: Sue Knight – 147 signatures

RESPONSE:

Concerns have previously been raised about vehicles speeds and road safety in Crawley Ridge. It is therefore an existing site on the Surrey Heath speed management plan. In addition, it has been subject to a Road Safety Outside Schools Assessment due to concerns being raised specifically about safety near the schools. Details of the assessments undertaken are given below.

Surrey Heath Speed Management Plan

We are very aware that vehicle speeds and road safety are a significant worry for many residents. Working in partnership with Surrey Police we have therefore developed a process for investigating and tackling concerns over speeding. As part of this process, local speed management plans have been developed for each District and Borough to help us prioritise our resources at the locations with the greatest problems.

Crawley Ridge is an existing site on the Surrey Heath speed management plan and several speed surveys have been undertaken. The latest surveys were undertaken in June 2022. A survey was undertaken outside the schools (7 - 21 June) and another was carried out near the junction with Frimley Hall Drive (7 – 10 June). Both surveys recorded an average vehicle speed of 28mph. This indicates a relatively good level of compliance with the speed limit compared to many other sites on the speed management plan.

Crawley Ridge has a relatively good safety record, with one personal injury collision having occurred in the road during the 10-year period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2023 (latest available data). This collision involved a 9-year-old child receiving slight injuries. The circumstances appear to have been exceptional and it is likely the collision would still have occurred even if there were traffic calming measures in place at the time.

Unfortunately, there are many other sites on the speed management plan that have both a much lower level of compliance with the speed limit and a much poorer safety record. As such, Crawley Ridge is not a site that is currently prioritised for any action.

Road Safety Outside Schools

The county council's "Road Safety Outside Schools" policy sets out our process for investigating and responding to concerns raised about safety outside schools. The policy is available on our website at the following page.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/outside-schools>

The process involves officers from the county council and Surrey Police undertaking a site visit and carrying out a risk assessment for the area immediately outside the school. Other nearby points of concern on the journey to the school may be assessed too if necessary. The assessment includes an analysis of collisions, speeds, and can include the views of the school and comments from road users. The existing road conditions, signing and highway infrastructure are also checked and noted.

Following the assessment, a report is presented to the school and local County Councillor containing the findings of the assessment and any recommendations for tackling concerns identified.

In response to concerns raised previously, an assessment was undertaken for Crawley Ridge Infant and Junior Schools on 22 November 2022. It was noted during this assessment that, other than for short sections at either end of Crawley Ridge, there is only a pavement on one side of the road, which results in far fewer pedestrian crossing movements. Therefore, whilst slower vehicle speeds are always a good thing, especially outside schools, it was assessed that the imperative to achieve lower speeds was lower at this site in comparison to other school sites where there are lots of pedestrian crossing movements. This is part of the reason that traffic calming and a lower speed limit were not proposed as part of the Road Safety Outside Schools assessment. The assessment however did recommend the introduction of a school keep clear marking outside the northeastern most gate to the Infant school (where there is evidence of a marking having previously existed). In addition, it recommended the road markings for the existing school keep clears for the schools should be refreshed and the associated signing cleaned and realigned.

Since the assessment took place, the existing school keep clear markings and double yellows have been refreshed. In addition, new signs have been installed and the existing signs have been cleaned and realigned.

The recommended introduction of the new school keep clear marking is included as part of the 2023 Surrey Heath parking review proposals due to be advertised in the summer 2024. (Although there was previously a marking at the location, it is not covered by a traffic regulation order and therefore was unenforceable. A new proposal is therefore having to be advertised to enable an enforceable school keep clear marking to be introduced).

Potential Funding Sources for Highway Improvements outside Schools

There are several different funding sources that are potentially available for implementing highway improvement measures near schools such as those requested by the petition. However, proposals are generally funded by either the central budget for Road Safety Outside Schools schemes or the central budget for Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS).

In July 2022, the County Council announced additional funding of £1million per year for three years for investment in highway improvements that have been developed following Road Safety Outside School assessments in previous years. The £3 million funding is fully committed for school safety schemes up until 2025/26. At present all requests received for safety improvements outside schools, will be added on to a list to be considered for prioritisation when additional funding becomes available.

In addition to the Road Safety Outside Schools programme, we deliver an annual ITS programme (which consists of highway improvement measures such as traffic calming schemes, new pedestrian crossings, small scale junction improvements, cycle improvements etc). This is a central programme, and each county councillor can nominate one scheme for their division to be considered for inclusion

in the programme. The nominated schemes are then prioritised by assessing them against a series of criteria.

County Councillors are currently in the process of nominating proposals to be assessed for inclusion in the 2025/26 ITS programme. In response to the concerns raised by the petition, the County Councillor for Camberley East is proposing to put forward a scheme to introduce traffic calming measures in Crawley Ridge as their nomination. The proposed scheme would also consider the possible introduction of a 20mph speed limit.

Following assessment of the nominated schemes it is anticipated that a report on the proposed Countywide ITS programme for 2025/26 will be taken to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth for decision in September 2024.

Councillor Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth
23 April 2024

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