

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 14 DECEMBER 2010

PETITION – BAYHAM ROAD & SERPENTINE ROAD

Report of the: Director of Kent Highway Services

Status: For Consideration

Executive Summary: This report describes a petition received by the Hollybush Residents Association. It requests action to reduce the road safety risks and environmental nuisance caused by early morning traffic through Bayham Road and Serpentine Road. Members are asked to consider and resolve how to proceed.

This report supports the Key Aim of Reducing speed, encouraging safer driving and tackling known speeding crash hotspots. Also improving pedestrian safety, including measures to improve access for people with disabilities as indicated in the Sevenoaks Community Plan.

Portfolio Holder Mr David Brazier

Head of Service KHS – Head of Countywide Improvements – Behdad Haratbar

Recommendations:

- i. That Members note receipt of the petition.
- ii. No specific measures are pursued at this time and no further action is taken in respect of this petition.
- iii. The results of the speed survey are forwarded to the Police for appropriate enforcement action.
- iv. The lead petitioner is informed of this Board's decision.

Background and Discussion

- 1 A petition signed by 42 households has been received from the Hollybush Residents Association. A copy of the list of signatories is included as Appendix A. The petition was also supported by a letter from St John's Church of England Primary School. The letter from the school is included as Appendix B.
- 2 The petitioners are requesting action to reduce the road safety risks and environmental nuisance caused by the early morning traffic through Bayham Road and Serpentine Road.

- 3 The current speed limit on Bayham Road and Serpentine Road is 30mph and is correctly signed. Kent Highway Services commissioned Jacobs to carry out automatic traffic counts on both Bayham Road and Serpentine Road. A copy of the location plans is included as Appendix C. The surveys were carried out between Wednesday 22nd September and Sunday the 3rd of October 2010.
- 4 The survey results for Bayham Road showed that the 85th percentile speed for west bound traffic was 32mph and for east bound traffic was 32.2mph. The 85th percentile is the speed not exceeded by 85% of drivers and is the national standard measurement of drivers' speed.
- 5 The survey results for Serpentine Road showed that the 85th percentile speeds for west bound traffic was 27.5mph and for east bound was 25.7mph.
- 6 In the busiest hour for morning peak vehicles there were 544 vehicles on Bayham Road and 263 vehicles on Serpentine Road.
- 7 The 3 year crash record for Bayham Road and Serpentine Road show that there has been 1 slight crash along these lengths of roads. This crash occurred at the junction with Bayham Road and Serpentine Road and was a result of a vehicle reversing round a corner and can not be attributed to speed. There is no pattern of crashes on these roads which suggests engineering methods would reduce the crash record.

Views of Local Members

- 8 The petition was forwarded to Local Members, Mr London, Cllr Walshe and Cllr Mrs Purves.
- 9 Cllr Mrs Purves advised that, "I totally agree with the concerns of the petitioners about speeding in Bayham and Serpentine Roads. In the mornings, traffic uses these roads as a short cut to the town or station, thus avoiding having to wait at busy junctions. I have frequently observed cars speeding and travelling well over the 30mph limit. Kent Highways is already aware of the problem of speeding in commuter hours down Seal Hollow Road, and this problem continues when cars turn off into Bayham and Serpentine Roads. I believe there is a need for traffic calming in these affected roads to make it safe for pedestrians. There is a particular problem of safety for children walking to, and trying to cross the road, at St Johns School in the mornings."

Key Implications

Financial; Resource (non-financial); Legal etc.; Value For Money

- 10 None for Sevenoaks District Council or Kent County Council as a result of this report.

Risk Assessment Statement

- 11 None.

Conclusions

- 12 Speeds in Serpentine Road are sufficiently low as to not warrant enforcement. Speeds in Bayham Road are marginally higher than the speed limit and Police will be notified to consider any appropriate enforcement action.
- 13 Whilst traffic volumes are reasonably high for unclassified residential roads, there is not a quantifiable and recorded safety problem and there is not a pattern of personal injury crashes which can be attributed to speed.
- 14 In light of the above Members are asked to agree the recommendations.

Appendices

- A List of signatories
- B Supporting letter from St John's Church of England Primary School
- C Location plans of automatic traffic counts.

Sources of Information: The background papers pertaining to the report are held on KHS file WK/T/SEV/Seve/01.

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