

Fawkham School Road Safety Campaign

Background

Fawkham School is located on Valley Road, which is a very busy country rat run and must be crossed opposite the school gates by anyone walking to school along its only footpath. The school lies in a 40mph zone, 350m from the 30mph which is in place in Fawkham itself. Several accidents have occurred along Valley Road and outside the school itself, road safety outside the school is appalling. The School and its parents have campaigned tirelessly for many years for the improvement of the road conditions, but nothing has been done, despite an agreement in Spring 2011 whereby Malcolm Appleby, the KCC Traffic Officer, agreed that he would prepare the paperwork for the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph. Traffic Surveys have been carried out, but no conclusions shared. Other local schools have significantly better road safety conditions, Anthony Roper School in Eynsford, for example, recently stopped parents parking on the playground and now benefits from a pedestrian crossing, "No Stopping" signs, a lollipop person and zigzags on the road.

Issues:

- Fawkham School and the crossing are situated just past sweeping bends in the road from both directions, where traffic speeds up with no view of the school or pedestrians.
- A jutting out hedge further obscures the school gates from the road, making exiting the playground for both pedestrians and drivers even more dangerous. You cannot see oncoming traffic until you are in the middle of the road. The school gates are effectively a concealed entrance.
- The lights on the "School" signage are frequently out of order, tree growth is left unchecked and signage repainting is not carried out on a timely basis.
- School drop-off parking, which is on the school playground, is severely limited and particularly inconvenient, with parents reversing either in or out, adding to other drivers' confusion, to congestion and also to the danger for pedestrians.
- Many of the pupils' families live in Fawkham, and chose to walk to school along Valley Road, a positive for the environment, and for congestion both on the road and on the playground. Parents push buggies and hold younger children by the hand, and this severely impairs their ability to cross the road quickly and safely in the face of fast oncoming traffic. When a parent accompanies more than two children, some as young as five have to cross the road without an available adult's hand.
- When the playground parking is full, parents have to park along the road which causes impatient drivers behind them to pull past them, adding to confusion and danger for pedestrians and drivers exiting the school.

Proposals:

The situation at Fawkham School should be dealt with as a matter of road safety priority:

- ✓ Lowering the speed limit is paramount; we propose that the limit be set a 20mph to ensure the safety of our children.
- ✓ Other road safety measures must be introduced, for example a pedestrian crossing, traffic calming initiatives like single file traffic / a lollipop person / no stopping zigzags.
- ✓ Signage must be constantly maintained in good working order.
- ✓ The severely limited school drop-off parking capacity must be addressed.

[REDACTED]



Petition for lowering speed limit from 40 to 20, And for adding other road safety measures and reducing speed limit along valley Road.

| Signature | Address |
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