

Dear Cllr Chard

At the last OPC parish council meeting it was agreed unanimously that we should request your support at the September JTB for the introduction of a local cycle lane and changes to the speed limits on the Sevenoaks Road. We would like to propose that the footway between Otford and Sainsbury's be designated as a dual usage path (cycling and walking). In order to facilitate this it might be necessary to consider altering the current road speed limits. From Otford they currently run at 30-40-70-30. We would propose altering that to 30-50-30 and at the same time moving the 30/50 break point to the area past the garage or even the commencement of the dual carriageway.

The reasons are twofold -

1. The current 30/40 change point is right on the junction with Bubblestone Rd. Consequently, traffic is accelerating out of Otford before it gets to this point, also the traffic from Sevenoaks is not slowing from 40 to 30 either - this makes it extremely difficult to exit from either Bubblestone Rd or Warham Rd - a point that is not lost with Kent police as they often have their mobile speed camera positioned in the bus lay-by. It should also be noted that over the years there have been three deaths at this junction, although none of them attributed to driver error due to lack of evidence.
2. If the speed limit over the M26 is reduced from 70 to 50 it will have very little material effect on traffic flow but will assist with the safety aspect of the proposed cycle lane between Otford and Sevenoaks, as well as facilitating an easier right hand turn from Sevenoaks into Long Lodge Lane for the local farm traffic.

I am lead to believe that Cllr.Edwards-Winser will be putting this forward as a recommendation from the cycling Working Group at the September JTB. If that is the case and if you have any funds available to assist with this venture it would be appreciated. OPC would be able to provide some financial support from our CIL funding as would the Otford Society.

I look forward to your response
regards
Sharon