

11 March 2020 at 7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks
Despatched: 06.03.20



Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

Supplementary Agenda

	Pages	Contact
5 a) Request for 20 mile per hour restrictions outside St John's Primary School and Sevenoaks Primary School	(Pages 1 - 4)	

If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

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**Joint Transportation Board – Petition statement
Submitted by lead petitioner: Katy Winkworth**

In September 2019 a petition was submitted to Kent County Council (“KCC”) by myself and two other mums from St John’s School (the “School”) in Sevenoaks. The petition called on KCC to prioritise the safety of children and other road users by putting in place three key measures:

- Implementing a 20mph speed limit on Bayham Road and Quakers Hall Lane;
- Increasing the signage on the streets around the School alerting drivers that children may be crossing; and,
- Creating a safe crossing outside the School entrance on Bayham Road.

The petition gained tremendous support in a short time - over 1000 signatures were received and the petition was backed by Mrs Quirk, the headmistress of the School, Hollybush Residents Association, Local Councillors Tony Clayton, Elizabeth Purves, and Merilyn Cannet, and the then MP Michael Fallon.

The roads outside the School are particularly dangerous for a number of reasons:

- There is limited signage alerting drivers to the presence of the School (which is positioned back from the road and hard to see) and as a result they do not slow down or pay any attention to children or families crossing.
- Due to the School being at the top of a hill cars tend to accelerate up towards the School to compensate for the incline which results in them speeding around the blind corner at the top.
- There are multiple junctions converging right outside the School creating a perfect storm with cars coming from all directions in which the chance of crossing the road safely is greatly reduced.

In addition to the petition, local residents demonstrated their strong support for the reduced speed limit by displaying ‘20mph’ posters in their windows and outside their properties which can still be seen by anyone walking or driving in the area.

On behalf of all the signatories, a presentation of the petition was made at the September 2019 Joint Transportation Board meeting, and it was clear that there was significant support for this initiative as well as for a mirror campaign and petition submitted by mum’s from Sevenoaks Primary School. We have since welcomed the news that our local KCC Councillor Margaret Crabtree has agreed to fund the scheme with support from the KCC and that the next stage is a community consultation process. We are delighted by this proactive and supportive approach and are pleased to see KCC delivering on their new 20mph policy which no longer requires an accident to have taken place to implement a new scheme, and that community-led schemes with support from local councillors are more likely to be considered (both of which are clearly demonstrated above). We look forward to celebrating the implementation of the scheme.

In line with the call to action in the petition we believe that the 20mph speed limit should be signposted on both entrances to Bayham Road (from Seal Hollow Road and from Hollybush Lane), as well as the entrance to Quakers Hall Lane (from St John’s Hill).

Thank you.

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Joint Transportation Board – Petition Statement
Submitted by lead petitioner – Emma Moore

4th March 2020

A group of parents from Sevenoaks Primary School submitted a petition with over 1100 signatures to Kent County Council (KCC) in September last year, with the aim of ensuring a safe and healthy route to school each day.

These people signed the petition to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph in Bradbourne Road and Bradbourne Park Road and to request the introduction of traffic calming measures to alert drivers to the presence of children and other pedestrians. The petition was backed by Mrs Malone, Head of Sevenoaks Primary School, Mrs Lawrence, Head of The Granville School, Joanne Luftman-Cook, Manager of Acorns Nursery, Janet Wilcox and Hattie Williams, Managers of Bradbourne Park Preschool the then MP Micheal Fallon, Local Councillors, Tony Clayton, Merilyn Cannet, Sue Camp, Claire Shea and Simon Raikes of Town and District Council.

In recent years the number of children in this particular area of Sevenoaks has increased significantly as the schools have increased their intake. Although some improvements have been made, such as investment in yellow lines and traffic enforcement giving support, there is still much more that needs to be done to ensure drivers are aware of the volume of educational institutions in these roads and to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

On these 2 roads there are 7 preschools for children under the age of 5 and 3 primary schools. That's over 1000 children age 0-11. There are a further 3 secondary schools in the immediate vicinity, so 2500 children travelling to school each day.

Currently speeding vehicles, lack of adequate pavements, the volume of traffic and absence of crossing points create a dangerous environment for pedestrians and drivers.

The difference in impact between 20 and 30 mph is truly staggering. If a child steps out 12m in front of you, at 20 mph you will be able to stop before you reach the child. At 30mph you would still be travelling at 27 mph when you hit the child.

Local residents have also demonstrated their support for the reduction in speed limit by displaying '20 mph' posters in their properties which are visible to passers-by.

The petition was presented, alongside a parallel campaign by parents from St Johns primary school in Sevenoaks, at the Joint Transportation Board meeting in September and was met with broad support. Since then we have been informed that our local KCC Councillor, Margaret Crabtree, has agreed to fund the scheme with support from KCC.

We are keen to see put into action the change called for in the petition for the implementation of 20mph speed limit on both Bradbourne Road and Bradbourne Park road alongside relevant speed calming measures.

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