

**To:** Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board  
**By:** Tim Read, Head of Transportation  
**Date:** 16 September 2014  
**Subject:** Birchwood Road & Birchwood Corner, Swanley  
**Classification:** Information only

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**Summary:** This report advises the Board that requests have been forwarded via the local County Councillor, Robert Brookbank for road safety improvements at the acute bend at Birchwood Corner near to Jasmine and Birchwood Terrace.

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The local campaign for improvements has followed a number of crashes whereby vehicles have collided with houses causing substantial damage and residents fearing for their safety as access to homes is via a narrow section of footway that is frequently overrun by large vehicles negotiating this difficult bend. There are very few options available to prevent this.

Examination of the crash records for the previous ten years show little evidence of personal injuries caused by crashes but much anecdotal and locally collected information exists showing there to be a crash problem that could be addressed by highway improvements.

It is proposed to undertake a number of minor improvements shortly by the provision of new road signage and better road markings providing more advanced warning of the bend, as a number of the crashes have resulted from drivers failing to recognise the road conditions ahead.

Additionally, it is proposed to introduce a 6' 6" width limit order on two sections of road;

- Birchwood Road between London Road and the Leydenhatch Lane junctions
- Russell Way (for its entire length as it is a parallel route to Birchwood Road)

This will result in improved access to homes and reduce the number of vehicles driving over the narrow footway whilst maintaining genuine access to both roads. Large vehicles requiring access beyond the restrictions will have to approach and leave using the more suitable sections of Birchwood Road from the A2 through Joydens Wood.

Should Board Members have specific questions the author of this report will be pleased to respond on an individual basis.

## **Recommendation**

Kent County Council Highways & Transportation request that the Board note and endorse this information report.

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