

# Hollybush Residents Association

## Seal Hollow Road

### Petition

A petition comprising over 1,000 signatures is presented on behalf of Hollybush Residents Association whose area includes this section of Seal Hollow Road and whose Members have expressed grave concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians at ‘the hole in the wall’ crossing. The petition is also supported by Walthamstow Hall School whose pupils use this crossing point for running activities.

### Location

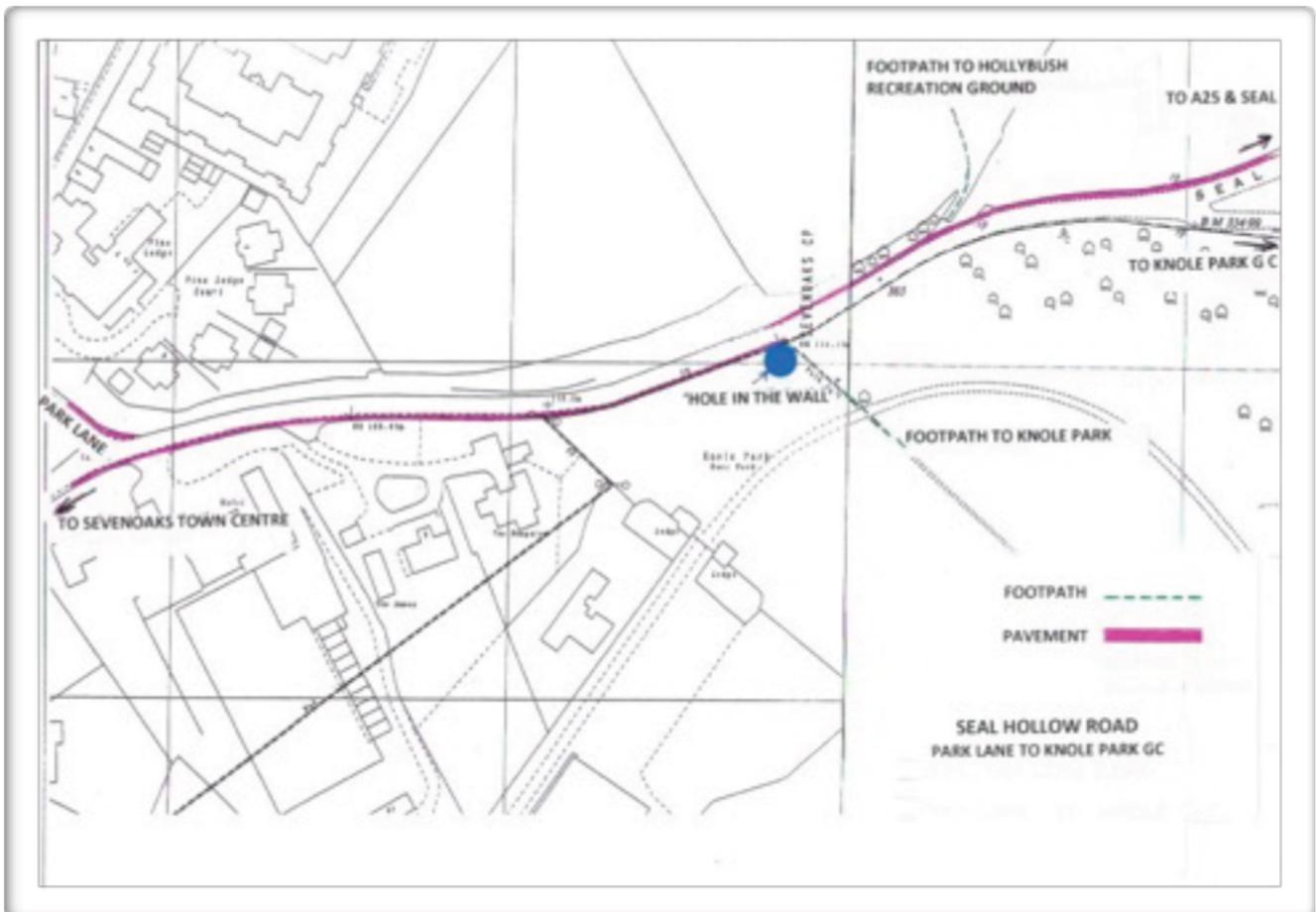


Fig 1

The area under discussion lies between those sections of Seal Hollow Road (B2019) from the junction with Park Lane to the south (towards the town centre) and the Knole Park Golf Club entrance to the north (towards Seal). On the eastern side of this section is the entrance to Knole Park known locally as ‘the hole in the wall’. A narrow pavement (2’ 6” wide) runs from the

'hole in the wall' towards the town centre on the eastern side of the road. There is no pavement on the eastern side towards Seal as the road runs directly adjacent to a high stone wall. Conversely a narrow pavement (2' 6" wide) commences opposite 'the hole in the wall' on the western side and progresses in a northerly direction towards Seal. There is no pavement on the western side towards the town centre as the road runs directly adjacent to a high stone wall. Therefore pedestrians are forced to cross Seal Hollow Road at this point where the road alignment gives limited sight lines. This crossing point is also heavily traversed by pedestrians & runners using the footpath from Hollybush Recreation Ground to Knole Park which passes through 'the hole in the wall'.

## **Problem**

The crossing point for pedestrians at the 'hole in the wall' is dangerous and because of the short sight lines in either direction pedestrians are forced to listen to judge the presence of oncoming traffic before deciding to cross. This is not acceptable.

This is the only pedestrian crossing point on this section of heavily trafficked road where the 30mph speed limit is often exceeded as evidenced by Community Speed Watch sessions. In addition the road is very narrow and traffic approaching the 'hole in the wall' from either direction is forced to the centre of the road by the existence of a high stone wall on the nearside of the vehicle. Drivers are therefore concentrating on the proximity of the stone wall on the nearside and the closeness of approaching vehicles on the offside. Added to this is the fact that there is short line of sight for drivers to identify pedestrians crossing the road.

Because of the narrowness of both the road and the pavement pedestrians progressing along the pavement come into uncomfortable proximity to passing vehicles along this section of Seal Hollow Road. There are reports of both adults and children being 'brushed' by wing mirrors.

There are insufficient signs and road markings to alert drivers to the probability of pedestrians crossing the road.

## **Solutions**

Drivers need to be made more aware of the probability of interface with pedestrians on this section of Seal Hollow Road.

Flashing traffic activated signs could be installed on both the north and the south side approximately 75 yards from the 'hole in the wall' crossing in both directions. There are conveniently located street lights on which these signs could be mounted or fixed adjacent to (see Fig 3).

The traffic activated signs illustrated in Fig 2 can be provided by Westcotec (a current KCC supplier) for £2750 each including erection and 6 years on site warranty.



Fig 2 544.1 Dft sign

At the same location as the sign a coloured/textured road surface could be applied with “SLOW - PEDESTRIANS” marked on the road surface. This would alert motorists to the probability of pedestrians crossing.

A further coloured/textured road marking could be applied between the activated sign and the ‘hole in the wall’ crossing point.

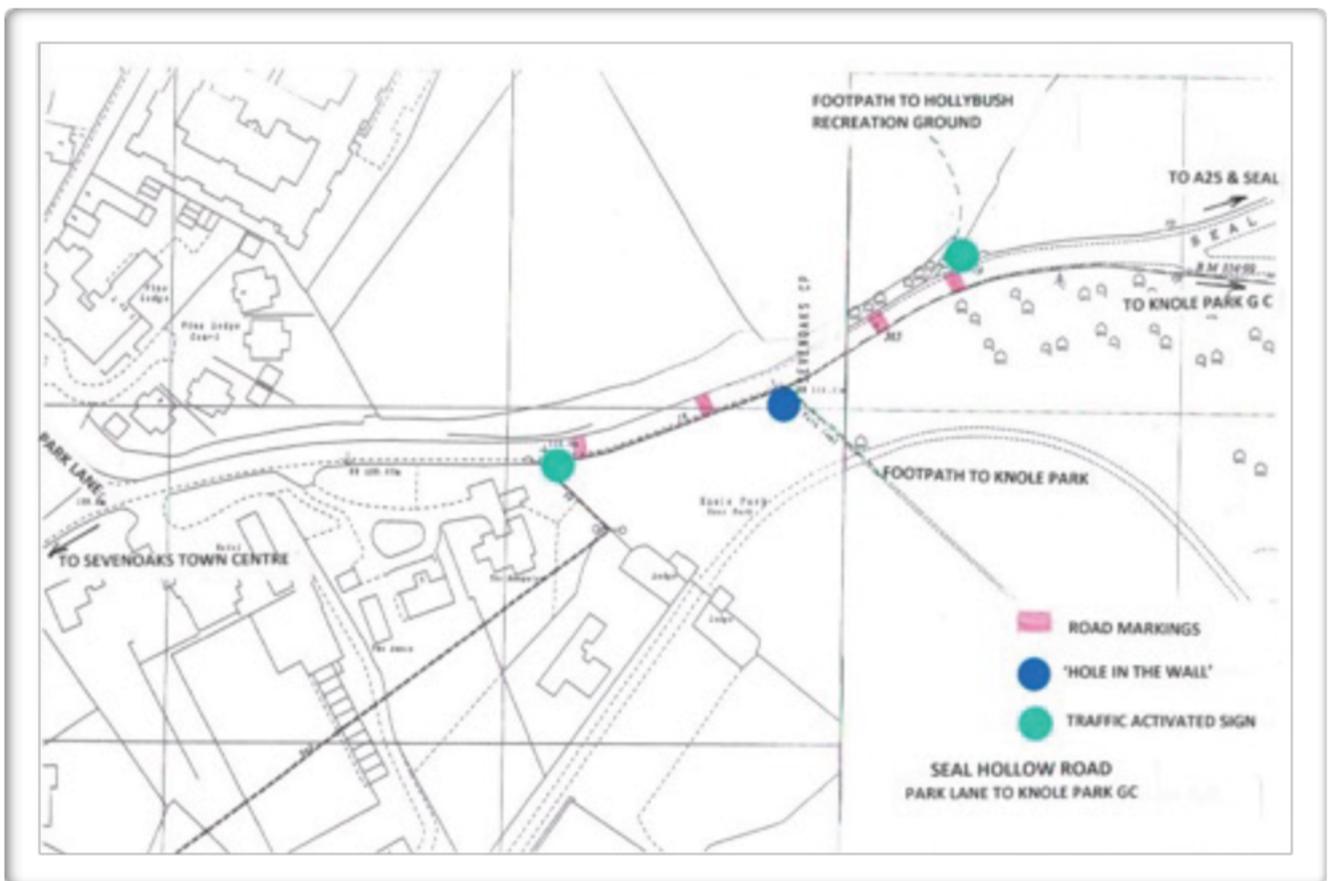


Fig 3

## Conclusion

The solution above provides for an economic cost effective measure to improve pedestrian safety and driver awareness at this popular but dangerous crossing point.

This crossing point is extensively used by pedestrians walking along Seal Hollow Road to and from the town centre including children accompanied by parents walking to Lady Boswell's School and in the future students walking to Trinity School. It is also heavily used by pupils from Walthamstow Hall School, joggers, walkers, and families with bicycles and pushchairs crossing into Knole Park.

We very much hope that the Joint Transportation Board will proceed with our proposals.

Jim Purves

Chairman - Hollybush Residents Association

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August 2015

