

**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.