

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.