



Sent by email

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**Members' Desk**

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: 14900934

Date: 07 August 2020

Dear Tom

Thank you for your letter dated 6 July enclosing a petition from residents of Edenbridge regarding the safety of the junction of the B2026 Main Road, Hilders Lane and Hillcrest Road. I am sorry to hear about the incident that occurred recently at this junction and that led to the driver being taken to hospital. Please be assured that we will review the latest incident when the Police report is available to us.

In accordance with our 'Petition Service', as the letter contains less than 1,000 signatures I have investigated and reviewed your concerns in my role as the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport.

As you have alluded to, we receive many requests for highway improvements which must be reviewed and prioritised. We do this through an evidence-led approach of analysing the personal injury crash record for the past three years to identify any patterns that could be addressed by any new engineering measures. In this location, there is no such pattern. It is therefore very difficult to prioritise this location against a number of other sites across the county where a pattern of incidents is being evidenced and where our intervention could help reduce casualties.

I can also confirm that improvement works took place at this junction in late 2016. These works comprised of new warning signs, road markings and high friction surfacing works.

With the above in mind, we currently have no plans to undertake any improvement schemes at this location although we will of course continue to monitor this location as part of our annual casualty reduction programme.

We do however also work with local Parish and Town Councils, through the development of their Parish Highway Improvement Plan (PHIP) and elected County Members to ensure that a community voice helps to influence our joint

efforts and in many cases help support funding for improvement that do not achieve sufficient priority through our countywide assessments, to see if there is a wider community consensus for the improvements. I would recommend that residents raise this matter with Edenbridge Parish Council, if they have not already done so, so it can be prioritised and assessed as part of their Parish HIP.

Meanwhile, the lead enforcement agency for speeding offences is Kent Police; Kent County Council have no powers of speed enforcement. If the local residents are concerned about vehicles speeding in the area they can contact the Kent Police Speed Watch Team at <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/kent/community-speedwatch/>

This team can provide training on community led speed enforcement, and act as a link with the local Police regarding Police speed enforcement.

Thank you for taking the time to raise a petition and bringing your concerns to my attention. I really value a community voice to flag up local concerns based on your knowledge and experience of the roads and footways in your area.

I hope that my review has clarified our position on this matter. If, however, you feel we have not dealt with your petition properly, please do contact me again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Payne'.

Michael Payne  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

CC: Peter Lake, local County Member