

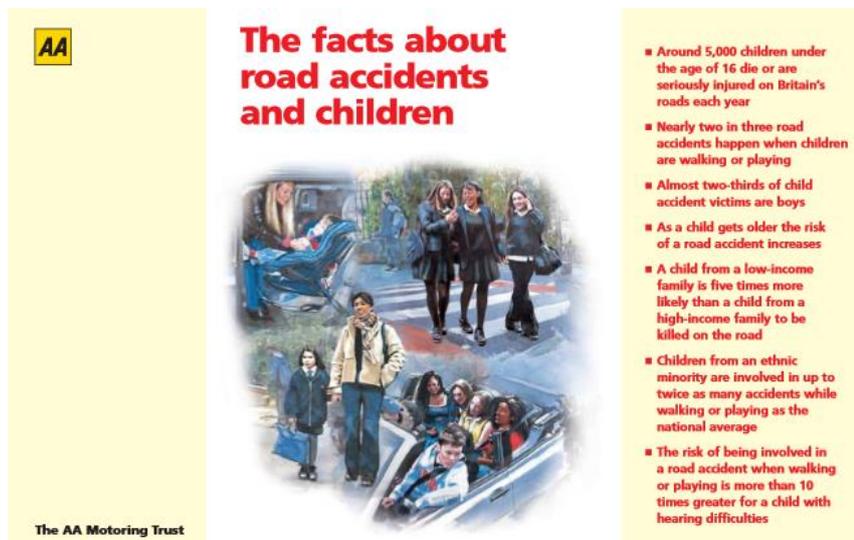
## Traffic calming measures on Chestnut Lane

You may be aware that a petition was created in June 2017 to raise concerns over road and pavement safety on Chestnut Lane. The petition was requesting for a zebra crossing or traffic calming measures to be installed, which was signed by 154 parents/carers and residents with 51 comments recorded as well. The vast majority of comments were that too many vehicles are speeding, that parking disciplines by parents/carers need to improve and that traffic calming measures are vital. If you haven't signed the petition and added a comment, it's never too late as it adds weight to the ongoing discussions with the Council departments. If you want to provide any further feedback or extend your comment, please do so via the link.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/childrenroadsafety>

220 children from the schools (approx 50%) exit via the gate onto Chestnut Lane, either because their lift home is parked there or to venture onto Chestnut Lane's pavements, many will then need to cross Chestnut Lane to access other roads. There are also school children attending other schools in the area that need to cross Chestnut Lane at some point.

Due to the road layout and many junctions off Chestnut Lane, lack of pavements in some areas, poor parking disciplines (often by parents), areas of low visibility and speed of vehicles, there is a reasonable risk of a very serious accident – children of all ages are often seen stepping, running, scooting and cycling into the road who are not yet capable of making the right decisions for themselves; I'm sure we're all aware of how absent minded they can be! Clearly there are a number of responsibilities here, split amongst the parents/carers, the schools to educate and the local Council to ensure the roads are maintained to minimise incidents.



**AA**

### The facts about road accidents and children

- Around 5,000 children under the age of 16 die or are seriously injured on Britain's roads each year
- Nearly two in three road accidents happen when children are walking or playing
- Almost two-thirds of child accident victims are boys
- As a child gets older the risk of a road accident increases
- A child from a low-income family is five times more likely than a child from a high-income family to be killed on the road
- Children from an ethnic minority are involved in up to twice as many accidents while walking or playing as the national average
- The risk of being involved in a road accident when walking or playing is more than 10 times greater for a child with hearing difficulties

The AA Motoring Trust

### How has this progressed since June?

- Concerns were raised at a Council Local Area Forum meeting in September; initial conversations indicated a substantial cost, depending on the requirement
- A meeting was held with a Communities Officer of the Town Council to discuss how funds can be raised to pay for any work as Bucks County Council will only cover 50% of any cost (this is the same with many Councils, they are most definitely not cash rich!)
- A group consisting of both Head Teachers, the Amersham Town Clerk (responsible for Community, Communications and Services), a parent with planning experience (Mandip Dhillon) and myself met to discuss what actions we can take to move forward
- You will probably know that Chestnut Lane was resurfaced prior to half term, we chased up the re-painting of the yellow no parking zones as they were not reinstated and parking suddenly became a free-for-all, all are now back in place and looking splendid!

- Parking attendants and PCSO's have been requested to visit to the school exits at peak times and to pay particular attention to those parents who are not complying
- Speed recording equipment is to be deployed on Chestnut Lane by the Council in November to understand the actual speed of traffic which can then be used as part of the assessment
- Tree/hedge foliage may be cut back so that cars approaching the school from the right-hand side when leaving the schools can be more easily seen, and vice-versa
- The schools will be developing further education and comms to parents and potentially a "parking promise" to heighten awareness in the Spring term – watch out for this!

### **What is the final solution likely to be?**

- We are now in a consultation period to understand the best approach for improving safety with a balance v the cost involved
- A zebra crossing itself is unlikely due to the layout of Chestnut Lane, the number of side road junctions and the lack of clear visibility either side of a site for it
- More likely is improved awareness driven by a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph either side of the school entrance when school lights are flashing and maybe smiley/sad faces when cars drive by in relation to the speed limit
- This is now being costed by the Council but could be c.£14,000 of which "we" would need to fund £7,000 (a zebra crossing can be upwards of £45,000 depending on requirements)
- The £7,000 funding from the BCC is only likely to be available in the 2019/20 year, so we do have some time to raise the funds, but it's never too soon to start.....
- If you have expertise in planning or any of these issues, please do make yourself known as your own personal contribution could be invaluable; please contact richfawdry@hotmail.com
- Our contribution of £7,000 could be raised through many different funding routes whether it be from lottery funding, residents on Chestnut Lane, kind local benefactors, newspaper publicity, crowd funding, Waitrose/Tesco local cause tokens, school class nights out, CLESA fund raising
- CLESA already do a huge amount of amazing fund raising for both schools (over £20,000 in each of the last 2 years); this requirement is clearly beyond the "school gates" in that it doesn't improve the actual school environment or equipment, but of course it improves the safety for our children
- A 1 question survey has been created to understand how parents feel about CLESA raised funds contributing towards the £7,000 over a 12-18 month period, please log on and give your view

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8C6CC/>

Thank you,

Richard Fawdry  
(Parent)