

Maidstone Green Party

Fant Road Safety Petition Report

We were asked by residents to organise a petition calling for action to be taken against the speed and volume of traffic along Bower Place, Upper Fant Road, Gatland Lane and Glebe Lane (see Appendix). These are residential roads that are being used as a short cut and rat run to avoid the Tonbridge Road, a problem that has worsened recently with the spate of road works.

This petition states simply: "We, the undersigned, petition Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to make Bower Place, Upper Fant Road, Gatland Lane and Glebe Lane safer for all road users by slowing traffic down and reducing the volume of traffic using them.". The petition included a straw poll of ideas from residents on how they would like the problem tackled; we also recorded other suggestions that were made and the results are detailed below. The straw poll simply indicates resident preferences rather than solutions.

The petition has 346 signatories from residents aged 18 or over living on these roads, plus a few living close to the roads) and these were collected between August 2008 to October 2008. The straw poll suggestions are summarised below, but the main (and cheap) suggestion of a 20mph speed limit was heavily supported.

Intervention	Votes	Percentage
Paved home zones	77	22%
20mph speed limit	249	72%
Close Tonbridge Rd end of Bower Place	10 / 27 Bower Place signatories	37%
Close Tonbridge Rd end of Glebe Lane	43 / 88 Glebe Lane signatories	49%
Close Farleigh Lane end of Glebe Lane	30 / 88 Glebe Lane signatories	34%
Close Upper Fant Rd end of Bower Place	5 / 27 Bower Place signatories	20%
Speed humps (small island type)	81	24%
Speed humps (full road width)	96	28%
Speed cameras	82	24%

Additional key concerns and thoughts raised by residents:

Upper Fant Road: Many residents suggested bollards and raised pavements should be strategically placed to prevent cars driving along the pavement.

Glebe Lane: Many residents felt that dividing the road in half to make two cul-de-sacs with bollards across the road by Rectory Lane was the best option to reduce through traffic and while allowing access to residents.

Bower Place: Resident access only to Bower Place.

Gatland Lane: Increased parking restrictions at junction with Farleigh Lane, other safety measures at junction with Fant Lane

Other suggestions noted by residents:

- CCTV to pick up illegal parking in Upper Fant, specially by the shops, which makes crossing the road even harder.
- 20mph limit and home zone on Fant Lane. The area by Bower Grove school is driven very

quickly by some people and the corner by Elmstone Lane is blind and has a bad accident record.

- Fant Lane also needs addressing, by school and on corner near Tonbridge Road.
- The problem applies equally to Milton Street /Hartnup Street and we would be strenuously oppose any scheme which simply moved the problem and exacerbated the already dire situation in these roads.
- Police to use speed traps, almost every night cars are going past at 50mph +. 20mph will not work as people dont keep to 30 let alone 20. Average speed cameras! like on m25
- Introduce false curves, staggered parking, trees, bollards, variating road surfaces, remove speed humps in Hackney Road as it is a bus route.
- my son was nearly ran over by a stupid speeding driver while working to school, the car climbed almost half of the walking pavement trying to avoid another car, he was speeding so much that morning.
- Chicanes on Glebe Lane and Upper Fant Road
- Gatland Lane one way Farleigh Lane to Terminus Road
- Gatland Lane / Glebe lane junction need parking restrictions to make traffic on Farleigh Lane visible.
- Roundabout at Gatland Lane / Glebe Lane
- Make Upper Fant Road one way
- Make Bower Place one-way in the other direction.

We hope that this petition shows the strength of feeling about the traffic problems on these four roads and that Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council will ask Kent Highways to take urgent action to improve the situation.

Stuart Jeffery
Maidstone Green Party
60 Boxley Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 2TW

Appendix

FANT

- The Rat Run Roads
- Bollards suggested

