

Proposals to improve transport, traffic, parking, cycling and the environment in the 'RVPS area' for discussion on 3rd January 2019

Introduction

RVPS has recently undertaken a survey of residents in the Crab Hill area to obtain views about transport and parking etc. and the results of this are detailed in the appendix. The overall objective is to promote a safe environment which encourages walking and cycling whilst discouraging short car journeys. We also want to promote the safe use of Beckenham Place Park.

Being informed by the results of our survey, and other ideas and comments, we are proposing that the following suggestions should be discussed at the next meeting of RVPS on the 3 January, 2019 following which final suggestions will be made to LBB.

In addition to the comments made below, we would specifically like to seek the views of our membership regarding whether RVPS should ask the council to consider blocking Crab Hill with a barrier to restrict vehicle use. This would completely eliminate many of the current traffic and parking problems and return the road to the level of activity it enjoyed before it was made up. This will clearly have implications for those living in Downs Hill. At this stage, it is just an idea about which we wish to seek views.

Proposals

1. Large trucks and coaches

The junctions of: -

- Foxgrove Road and Downs Hill; and,
- Crab Hill and Ravensbourne Avenue

are difficult for long vehicles to negotiate.

Recommendation

- i. Erect signs to redirect long vehicles away from these junctions

2. Parking

a) Crab Hill

- Sightlines for cars exiting driveways are often blocked by parked cars.
- No free weekday parking right next to the park entrance (which would promote park use)
- When no cars are parked (during the day on weekdays) the road becomes very fast indeed.

Recommendations

- i. That parking provision in Crab Hill be reviewed to ensure safe exit from properties is possible
- ii. That time limited free parking be provided by the park entrance to promote park use
- iii. That some free bays are introduced in Crab Hill to provide a chicane of parked cars to slow traffic

b) Downs Hill

Recommendation

- i. That time limited free parking be provided near the junction with Crab Hill to prevent all day commuter parking

c) Ravensbourne Avenue

In peak times, it can be very difficult to maintain freely flowing traffic which often gets bottlenecked.

Recommendations

- i. Passing places be introduced in Ravensbourne Avenue between Ravensmead Road and Farnaby Road
- ii. Removal of the single parking place on the east side of Ravensbourne Avenue near the bottom of Crab Hill -which will also assist in larger vehicles turning this corner.

d) Ravensmead Road

Recommendation

- i. That time limited free parking be provided to prevent all day commuter parking

3) Ravensbourne Station

Recommendations

- i. Introduce a designated drop off and pick-up point by the station entrance
- ii. Reconsider the introduction of a disabled access ramp on the 'up line'
- iii. Install safe cycle parking with CCTV.

4) Road layouts and alterations

a) Crossing the Road

It is not possible to cross the road safely:-

- Across Ravensbourne Avenue, near Ravensmead Road
- Between 10 Crab Hill and Dark Pines in Crab Hill
- Outside the pedestrian entrance to BPP in Crab Hill

Recommendation

- i. Introduce pedestrian refuges/crossings in these locations

b) Traffic Calming

In addition to the measures mentioned under 'Parking' and 'Road layout and alterations' above, there needs to be permanent traffic calming in Crab Hill to counter the excessive speeds experienced.

Recommendations

- i. Introduce a mini-roundabout at junction of Crab Hill and Downs Hill
- ii. Introduce speed limit of 20 mph with signage and cameras.

5) Other

Recommendations

- i. Re-site the pillar box outside 115 Foxgrove Road to prevent it being knocked over by large lorries turning into Downs Hill
- ii. Remove the parking bay outside 115 Foxgrove Road to make it easier for vehicles to turn into Downs Hill.

Clive Lees

Chair, RVPS

Appendix

Traffic and parking survey in Crab Hill area – November 2018

This area has seen huge increase in vehicle traffic since the Ravensbourne Station end of Crab Hill was surfaced a few years ago to allow for the 354 bus to link up with Ravensbourne station, although in the event, this did not happen and the bus continues to use the original route.

This opened a new opportunity for rat running through these quiet residential roads. Many use the Crab Hill corridor to avoid the congestion on Beckenham Lane at Shortlands Station. The result of this is speeding cars driving through residential streets in great numbers.

Many residents of this area have great concerns about the situation and have suggested the following ideas for improvement.

Vehicle count in Crab Hill:

A vehicle count was held over a week and conducted in 20 minute intervals. The vehicles counted included cars, vans, trucks andbusses.

Date	Time	Number of vehicles
Monday	09.00 – 09.20	213
Monday	14.30 – 14.50	119
Tuesday	07.00 – 07.20	141
Tuesday	17.40 – 18.00	215
Wednesday	08.40 – 09.00	187
Wednesday	15.00 – 15.20	208
Friday	12.10 – 12.30	153

Results of Survey

The following is a summary of suggestions based on the feedback from the survey of local residents carried out during the month of November in Crab Hill, Downs Hill, Foxgrove Road and Ravensbourne Avenue area.

Traffic calming with 24/7 measures:

Suggestions included:-

- Pedestrian crossings from Ravensbourne Station to Beckenham Place Park entrance and in Crab Hill near the junction of Downs Hill.
- Pedestrian refuges in Crab Hill between the station and Downs Hill junction.
- Roundabout at Downs Hill, Crab Hill, Foxgrove junction.
- Speed limit 20 mph with signage and cameras.
- Block off Crab Hill by the station with a barrier to prevent vehicular traffic but which opens for emergency services. Pedestrians and cycles would not be impeded.

Trucks and coaches:

Divert HGVs and over-height vehicles away from Beckenham Lane and Shortlands Station to A21 London Road. Similarly divert HGVs and over-height vehicles away from Foxgrove Road and carry on Southend Road A2015 to prevent these large vehicles getting stuck either at the bottom of Crab Hill or at the junction of Crab Hill and Downs Hill. Clear signage required.

Parking, Crab Hill:

- Double yellow lines by the houses in Crab Hill to allow safe driveway exit and entry. Currently parked cars dangerously block the visibility when leaving from driveways.
- Time limited single yellow line to allow for deliveries.
- Time limited free parking adjacent to both sides of park entrance.

Parking, Downs Hill:

- Double yellow lines by the houses near the Crab Hill junction.
- Time limited single yellow line to allow for deliveries.

Parking, Ravensbourne Avenue:

- Double yellow lines on one side of the road from Crab Hill to Farnaby Road junction.
- Time limited single yellow line to allow for deliveries.
- Some residents' permit parking.

Ravensbourne Station:

- Designated drop off and pick up place by the station entrance.
- Disabled access for trains going towards London.
- Installation of safe cycle parking with CCTV.