

## To Cllr Maureen Butler Southend on Sea Borough Council

### **Petition – Request for Traffic Calming and Speed Limit implementation in Oakwood Avenue**

We as residents and users of Oakwood Avenue are increasingly concerned about the volume and speed of traffic using our road it has become a blight on our lives.

It is a dual track road with a large number of residents cars parked outside their homes in the road thus reducing its usable width, the lighting in the road is also incompatible with the speed and volumes of traffic seen at night.

Because of the volumes of traffic all the road markings at the intersections of Oakwood Avenue, Leighwood Avenue and Briarwood Drive have been worn away so they are more or less invisible, the council has a duty of care to maintain the highway and keep it safe which in this case it is not doing.

There is also a major problem with the road surface in general with sizeable cracks and potholes generated by the volume and speed of traffic in one section on the bend close to the A127 the tarmac is nonexistent.

The road connects Eastwood Road North with the A127 and has become a preferred Rat Run for vehicles large and small (Coaches, HGV's and Artics) to access the A127.

Absolutely no consideration is given by the majority of drivers to any speed limit for the road as none is indicated.

The A127 is a 40mph zone therefore all drivers from the north assume that is the minimum speed they should drive when entering Oakwood Avenue, whereas traffic from the south i.e., Eastwood Road North into Oakwood Avenue all cut the corner because there is no keep left bollard and accelerate towards the A127 at speeds of up to 60mph they think it is the entry lane from the pits at a F1 Grand Prix.

Recently there have been two really serious accidents in the road both resulting in hospitalisation for those involved; it is only a matter of time before someone is killed.

Further to which an elderly resident who was allowed to cross Oakwood Avenue from his own home by a considerate driver who stopped, was nearly killed when another driver overtook the stationary driver nearly colliding with the resident.

We the undersigned demand that our council put in the necessary infrastructure to cut down the traffic and minimise the speed to a maximum of 20mph.

We have a number of suggestions:-

1. Make Oakwood Avenue no entry from Eastwood Road North thus making it one way only from the A127
2. A signed 20mph speed limit enforced by a speed camera
3. Width restrictions in Oakwood Avenue to stop large vehicles using it.
4. A keep left bollard at the intersection of Eastwood Road North and Oakwood Avenue.
5. Close the exit to the A127 in Oakwood Avenue completely
6. Extend the double yellow lines on both sides of Oakwood Avenue from the A127 to the junction of Briarwood Drive to facilitate no parking on the "S" bend at that location.
7. A combination of some of the above.

The council has recently spent millions of pounds providing improved access to the A127 at Eastwood Road North, Bellhouse Lane and The Fairway, 3 substantial regulated access points should be enough.

Oakwood Avenue was never meant to be the major tributary road to the A127 it has become. Because of the delays and congestion caused by these works over many months, Oakwood Avenue has become the preferred route to the A127 because it is not regulated