

To: **Southend on Sea Borough Council**

**Petition 2 – Request for the total closure of Oakwood Avenue and Shirley Road at their junctions with the A127 Arterial Road.**

We the residents of Oakwood Avenue and Shirley Road attended a meeting with the Traffic and Parking Working Party Cabinet Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 when our original petition for the Speed Control and other suggested Amendments was discussed.

As a result of the original Petition the council quite obviously had taken our concerns very seriously and had initiated a monitoring study of traffic flows in Oakwood Avenue over a period of 13 days 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 the first two weeks of the school summer holidays when traffic flows would be somewhat depressed.

Their findings were as follows:-

36481 vehicle movements

29688 movements to the A127

6513 movements from the A127

Based upon this data an extrapolated annual vehicle movement could be suggested at  $36481 / 13 \times 365 = 1,024,274$ , yes over a million vehicles of all shapes and sizes interfering with the free movement of traffic on the A127 from the newly improved Kent Elms Junction. Yes a million vehicles minimum, using data from a holiday period, the actual number would be far higher.

On top of the above mentioned data and based upon a speed limit of 30 mph in Oakwood Avenue 7155 cars were found to be exceeding 30 mph, they were speeding, no if but's or maybe's, we have clocked cars travelling at 70 mph in the road.

It was suggested by the committee that cars only use Oakwood Avenue because of the works being undertaken at Kent Elms. We the Petitioners totally refute this, Oakwood Avenue has become a classic Rat Run over years and it has to be dealt with.

At the Committee meeting Cllr Stephen Ayles was given the opportunity to speak stating that closing Oakwood Avenue would be a Win Win to the free flow of traffic on the A127, all vehicles, large and small joining and leaving the A127 from Oakwood Avenue and Shirley

Road cause vehicles on the A127 to slow down thus causing bunching behind and the possibility of a tailgating accident

He even sighted an exact same situation at Brendan Way which was blocked off and solved all the similar problems that existed then on the A127.

The use of Oakwood Avenue as a traffic Rat Run is a blight on all the residents lives, someone will be killed or seriously injured if nothing is done, the demographic of the road and adjoining roads is one of an aging population, we implore you to do the right thing and close the road.

Based upon all the excellent improvements you have made to road junctions Kent Elms, Bellhouse Lane and Progress Road to improve flow, Oakwood Avenue and Shirley Road actually now stand in the way.