

Meadowbank
Vines Lane
Hildenborough
Kent
TN11 9LT

**Kent Highways Services
Ashford Highway Depot
4 Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8AD**

Tel: 08458 247 800
Our Ref: 10206202
Date: 17/03/11
Email: westkent.highways@kent.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Johnson

Vines Lane Petition - Hildenborough

Thank you for speaking with me yesterday regarding the above petition (CSM – 10206202).

This letter is to confirm the reason why your request for calming the traffic was declined. As I mentioned in our telephone conversation we setup automatic traffic counters to measure the speeds of vehicles at two locations along Vines Lane. The data from these counters was received in late February whereby I analysed the data to determine the speeds of vehicles in both direction along Vines Lane. The posted speed limit along this road is 60mph (National Speed Limit). In determining the speed of vehicles the 85%ile reading (i.e. this is the speed of 85 percent of the vehicles travelling along a road at that point) is recorded by each of the automatic traffic counter in both directions. The speeds recorded at the counter at the western side of Vines Lane were 40.7mph and 38.0mph and the counter at the eastern side of Vines Lane 36.9mph and 37.6mph. Also I mentioned that at present there are no changes in the speed limits in a road unless they are justified by speed related injury crashes. For this road, the injury crash records (recorded by Kent Police) have been checked for any possible crashes and there have been no recorded of injury crashes in the last three years.

Clearly it can be seen from the traffic counter data that the majority of the vehicles are travelling well below the posted speed limit in both directions along Vines Lane and as this is the case it will be very difficult to justify a change of speed limit or any traffic calming measures. This is important to understand as the central government has severely reduced monies available to Kent Highway Services to deal with traffic issues on the road. Consequently with the limited monies available our focus has to be with actual injury crash sites.

Less than 0.03% of the total traffic recorded exceeded the speed limit of this road. If you feel there is still speeding down your road please contact the Police.

I am sorry this is not what you were expecting but if you have any further questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Wijayanayagam
Transportation Engineer
Kent Highway Services