

Good evening. I am here to present my petition entitled a 'Safe Crossings for St Mary's Primary School and RUH (<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/safe-crossings-for-st-marys>). This concerns the crossing point outside the Bowls Club on Penn Hill Road (Weston) which currently consists of a small central island with reflective bollards and a central light column.

This is a busy and direct walking and wheeling route from Southlands, High Street and indeed the whole of Weston Village to and from St Mary's Primary School, the RUH, the Weston Hub, the 103 Childcare Club and destinations beyond. The desire to cross at this point is clearly seen during the school drop off and pick up periods, although it is well used throughout the day. It is on the route of the 'walking bus' between the 103 Club and Weston All Saints Primary School. A crossing count was carried out in December 2021- see appendix a.

It is the site of regular conflict between pedestrians and drivers. This boils down to confusion over who has the right of way. Some drivers give way, only for parents and carers with children and pushchairs to end up stranded on the island, which itself is not big enough to accommodate them. The bollards obscure a child's sightline reducing safety further.

The island itself offers little protection. It is regularly hit, and my return here comes after a SUV completely overran the island in November 2022, felling the central light column (see photos appendix b). Had this happened during the school run, the consequences could have been extremely grave.

421 people have signed the petition, which to give context is equivalent to the entire adult and child population of the Southlands Liveable Neighbourhood area. The LN team have committed to fund the design work for a new crossing. I am here to ask for details of how the actual crossing will be funded. Are the Highways Team willing to provide part funding should the LN team not be able to provide all of it? When are we going to see a safe crossing in this location?

Two important notes- firstly, as you will see on the petition it is dominated by postcodes local to the crossing. I have not sought to 'pad out' the numbers. This is a genuine local concern.

Secondly, the existing zebra crossing on Penn Hill Road, installed over 15 years ago, serves a purpose but not for the destinations I have outlined above. It involves a 160 meter detour to the school gate and 175 meter detour and an additional road crossing to reach the Weston Hub/103 Club or the RUH. People clearly vote with their feet on this matter, and we should be supporting active travel with direct safe routes where people want them.

I request a written response which I can share with my supporters.

Thank you

- A paper copy of the petition will be presented

Appendix A

Crossing count

						Averages
AM Counts (08.00-09.00)						
Date	Weds 1/12	Thursday 2/12	Monday 6/12	Thursday 9/12	Friday 10/12	
Aged 12+	111	105	97	124	101	108
Aged 11 and under	70	70	74	66	53	67
Combined total	181	175	171	190	154	175
% aged 11 and under	38%	40%	43%	35%	34%	38%
PM Counts (15.00-16.00)						
Date	Tuesday 30/11	Thursday 2/12	Thursday 16/12	Friday 17/12		
Aged 12+	140	94	57	51		85
Aged 11 and under	68	77	40	46		58
Combined total	208	171	97	97		143
% aged 11 and under	33%	45%	41%	47%		40%

Appendix B- 12th November 2023 collision

