

Dear .....

We write as members of the St.Paul's Rusthall Church Youth Council although we know our views are shared by the Commons Ranger, the village councillors, the vicar, at least one Kent Councillor and The Chairman of the transport board a cycling and walking champion for Tunbridge Wells, all of whom have come to speak to us. The residents of Rusthall are also extremely supportive. The Youth Council is a group of 11 to 18 year olds who have adopted the motto ' Be the Change, See the Change'.

We are deeply concerned that it is impossible for us to cross the A264 from Rusthall village to the Parish Church, where our group and many others meet. We are therefore reliant on our parents driving us to and from which is not environmentally friendly, neither does it help our independence. We have watched closely and realise this piece of road needs to be regularly crossed by a huge number of people including residents from Neville Park and a large number of dog walkers. We have seen people wait for over 5 minutes before they can cross. The problem is made far worse by the speed of many cars and lorries - it is truly terrifying. We have spoken to the village councillors, Kent Highways, Ranger Dan and the public all of whom are equally adamant a crossing is needed before there is a dreadful accident. There have been plenty of near misses. We understand that this stretch of road is currently 40mph and for a crossing to be allowed it needs to be 30 mph. This is easily achieved by moving the current sign from the Rusthall turning to the Coach Road - a short distance.

We have been told that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has no money for a crossing yet they have found the money to buy the long lease of The Royal Victoria Place. Are buildings more important than safety? The amount of money required for a road crossing is tiny in comparison. We know that this campaign for a crossing has been ongoing for over ten years but we are determined to raise the profile and the huge need for it. The situation is even more urgent now we have dark and wet mornings and evenings.

Please listen to our united voice and support us by taking the urgent need for a crossing to link the two parts of our village seriously.

St.Paul's Rusthall Church Youth Council