

December 2021 – January 2022

Dangerous traffic incidents on road at corner of Crumps Lane from Grafty Green to Headcorn

Reported by Chris and Martin Levoi, 7 Boughton Park, Grafty Green (our home looks over this corner)

Incident Dates & Times	Incident Details	Actions & observations
1) Sunday 19 December 2021 – approx. 7pm (dark)	Young girl drove too wide round Crumps Lane corner (not overly fast) heading towards Headcorn, clearly misjudged the severity of the bend, clipped right hand verge, oversteered to compensate and ended up in left-hand ditch, car on its side. The occupant whilst young stated she did not anticipate the bend being so sharp, again she was not driving fast in comparison to other drivers and seemed more due to inexperience (she was 22). Thankfully she was shaken but uninjured.	I (Chris) witnessed this, whilst in the dark, from our bedroom as I was self-isolating. My husband Martin ran round with a torch as we heard shouts for help, I called 999 and requested an ambulance. They needed more details so rang my husband, by now helping the girl out of the car – as first on the scene - through the upended car, he ensured the car was safely off the road and out of danger of other cars and as there was luckily no injuries, she returned and stayed at our home until her parents picked her up. The ambulance service called twice in next 24 hours to check on her (as they had been stood down) and we referred them to her mothers phone . We recommended her father call the police to make them aware of the cars location as we could see from our house cars slowing down and sometimes stopping on this dangerous road to check in the car. In early hours of Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec we saw a police car attending presumably to add Police Aware sticker. Car was towed away on Tuesday 21 Dec.
2) Saturday 1st January 2022 – approx. 9pm (dark)	We heard a loud bang from our sitting room and immediately saw a car, that had come from the Grafty Green direction, in the road right on Crumps Lane bend – we shouted out from our garden that we were coming and my husband drove our car and parked it behind the car which was in a dangerous position having hit a tree and bounced back into the road, almost facing back towards Grafty Green and difficult to see due to headlights damage.	My husband was again first on the scene, had his hazard lights on but still putting himself and our car in a dangerous position to ensure traffic would see this from both directions. I followed several minutes later in our other car – having seen cars having to brake suddenly when seeing our first car parked behind the car in question - and I parked in the Crumps Lane entrance with hazards on to provide additional warning to drivers of the accident and until the police arrived. My husband first saw one lady and started calling an ambulance as he saw a second lady with a heavily cut face and limping as she climbed out of the ditch on the opposite side of the road. Whilst on the phone to the ambulance, the services heard these ladies declining ambulance assistance so the ambulance service reported they would have to stand down. They could not transfer my husband to the police so he had to recall 999. At this point the ladies – clearly injured – asked my husband to drive them to meet “a husband who was coming” and got into the back of his car uninvited. He was on the phone to the police by now reporting the accident and dangerous position of the car – the ladies then became more aggressive, got out of the car and left the scene limping off towards Headcorn leaving my husband with the responsibility of their car. Once the first police car arrived, I returned home as a further police unit and help was on its way. The

		<p>police car arrived from the Headcorn direction but did not see the 2 ladies in question. The police were on the scene for many hours until the tow truck arrived to remove the car. My husband gave a statement to the police. We “believe” there is an ongoing enquiry as the car occupants left the scene of the accident. We further heard locally that these ladies had been “difficult” in a local pub – trying not to pay and stealing glasses. We did not witness this but heard several reports. This information has not been passed by us to the police.</p>
<p>3) Weekday w/c 3 Jan (cannot remember exact day – could be Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Jan), between 6.30 and 7.15am</p>	<p>Van followed another car round Crumps Lane corner heading to Headcorn. We heard a bang – as we were in our bedroom which overlooks the corner – and saw the van stop but at an angle half on verge and half not on the left hand side, still facing Headcorn direction. No other vehicle involved but other vehicle did stop.</p>	<p>We did not attend but during the day – for many hours – there were various council and highways services on site as it seemed (we are not certain) that the van hit a telegraph pole so repairs were being made for many hours from Crumps Lane corner down the road up until the telegraph pole that seemed to be hit. Eventually the van was towed away much later that day, so all day disruption. Police also attended this accident.</p>
<p>4) Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – approx. 9.30-10pm (dark)</p>	<p>We were in the front room of our house but heard a loud bang. We went to the rear of the house and could see lights of a vehicle facing we believe the Headcorn direction about 50 meters beyond Crumps Lane corner. We did not witness the precise moment of impact but they seemed to turn their lights off within minutes of their incident (from what we could see) but the next car that arrived from Grafty Green direction slowed up and stopped. We decided not to attend as another driver was already there. An hour later it looked like the vehicles had gone but being dark, we based that opinion on not being able to see any lights and we can see that location very clearly from our bedroom. We guessed maybe the vehicle was safe or removed etc. No police arrived immediately.</p>	<p>Several hours later, in the early hours of Monday morning, 10<sup>th</sup> January, we think around 1.30/2am were then woken by a police car coming from the Headcorn direction, who then presumably saw something and turned around into Crumps Lane (we can see this from our bedroom), turned blue lights on and drove back a few yards towards Headcorn and stopped. The police were there all night – several police cars, bollards across to stop cars driving towards Headcorn and what seemed a very large recovery vehicle and crane unit. As at time of writing – 9.30am, the police and recovery vehicle are still in attendance with a large cherry picker to address further repairs to the same telegraph pole, and the road to Headcorn now closed again for many hours with all traffic routing up Crumps Lane. We do not know what the incident was but presuming it is related to the incident we saw. My husband has now returned from his dog walk and verified with the police lady at Crumps Lane corner that it was a car hitting the same telegraph pole as the van noted in the incident above – point 3). We did think the car was coming from Grafty Green direction but cannot be 100% sure on this.</p>
<b>2021 INCIDENT</b>		
<p>5) Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 approx 2-3am (dark)</p>	<p>We did not witness this incident but our neighbours heard a bang and next morning walked around to see a white van in the ditch facing Grafty Green (presumably travelling from Headcorn) – as they went round the Crumps Lane bend, their van ended up on its side, wheels in air in left hand ditch. No one saw the occupants.</p>	<p>Later that day the van was towed out by a private vehicle. No police attended. The upright white/red illuminated posts positioned alongside that ditch had been hit by the van and removed but <b>never replaced</b>. However we thought this an isolated incident and did not report to the council/police etc. <b>These posts are still missing.</b></p>

## Our views and concerns ...

- 1) Boughton Park is now fully occupied with 16 residences (as of Nov 2021) and therefore significantly increased the % of residential properties along the road between Eastwood Road and Crumps Lane. This has increased the residential property density by many hundreds of percent (we could probably calculate this)
- 2) We are outside of the Grafty Green traffic calming area – which we all are happy with – BUT we believe a £100k contribution from Quinn Estates who developed our Boughton Park properties significantly funded the Grafty Green traffic calming scheme recently completed - <https://www.hugofox.com/community/boughton-malherbe-parish-council-12879/traffic-calming/>
  - a. However, despite Boughton Park residents contribution, Boughton Park residents have no benefit from this scheme, in fact the contrary! It appears – noting the series of incidents above – that drivers speed up considerably when leaving the traffic calmed area – and we have seen 4 incidents on the same Crumps Lane bend – all of which we have witnessed from our 7 Boughton Park property within 3 weeks, period 19 Dec 2021 to 9 Jan 2022. This is excessive and all seems due to the dangers of the Crumps Lane corner.
  - b. This is deemed a 60 mph stretch of road and clearly this is not suitable for a) residential area and b) with such a dangerous corner and c) as demonstrated by recent events as detailed above
- 3) Coming from Grafty Green, there is one simple sign denoting a right-hand turn into Eastwood Road, and coming out of Eastwood Road, this is a blind spot looking both left and right so very difficult already to come out of that road especially as cars coming from both Headcorn and Grafty Green are going at speed, again as this is a 60mph area, and seemingly too fast for an area with increased residential properties. See below this kind of sign – there is no “Reduce Speed Now” or yellow warning background as would seem sensible. Additionally to the right hand turn into Eastwood Road, the first right hand entrance into Boughton Park is a blind turning and no warning of cars slowing down to turn right – and there are 35+ car owners on Boughton Park.

**Current sign type** ... but reverse showing Eastwood Road turning on right (as you approach from Grafty Green) – NO SLOW DOWN WARNING!



Possible sign type ... to not only signpost right hand turns to Eastwood Road and then Boughton Park (16 houses) ...

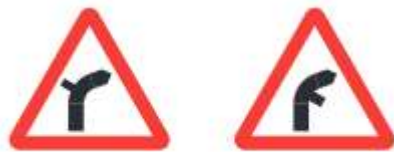
This needs to have a “Reduce Speed Now” or “Slow Down” or be on a more visible yellow warning background (there are examples of this on the roads to Canterbury and Ashford where sudden left and right hand turns are marked from the busy A road.

- 4) As you approach the Crumps Lane bend, the recently repainted white “SLOW” markings are an improvement BUT the left hand bend sign is small, dirty (we are looking to clean it ourselves) BUT in the summer, the overhanging trees totally cover this sign. Again this is, in our view, an inadequate sign and requires a more obvious and larger sign, with the “Reduce Speed Now” wording as well as the left hand bend image (see below current signage type and our views on a more prominent sign). This same warning sign would seem to be appropriate approaching from Headcorn, see incident point 5) above. Plus on both sides of the bends, the illuminated white/red posts alongside the road edge/soft verges-ditches - noting incident 5 above where we as residents were remiss in not requesting the

damaged/removed posts to be replaced. As per the Grafty Green traffic calming – again to which Boughton Park residents have contributed – additional red rumble road markings would seem to be appropriate on both sides of the Crumps Lane band, approaching from Headcorn and Grafty Green.

Current inadequate sign type (similar only) – can photograph if required BUT current sign (far too small and covered up in summer by trees) only shows the left hand bend but does NOT show the right hand turning into Crumps Lane which is also leads to the 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance into Boughton Park (16 properties) off Crumps Lane! This is an additional reason to slow traffic coming towards this bend.

**Possible sign types** – not only to signpost sharp left-hand bend BUT to slow down to a lesser speed or “Reduce Speed Now” warning (yellow background). The current sign is as below but no signalling of the Crumps Lane road turning and is very small (and currently very dirty as obstructed by trees/branches during spring, summer, autumn when trees in leaf).



Junction on a bend  
(symbols may be reversed)



Maximum speed  
advised, in miles per  
hour, at a bend (the  
plate may be used with  
other warning signs)



Ignore foreign language but on road towards Canterbury, where there are new houses that have recently been built, there are right/left hand turning signs and warning signs for bends that are on a yellow background with a “Reduce Speed Now” warning OR we need a reduced speed limit on this stretch of road due to the turnings (Eastwood Road, Boughton Park, Crumps Lane) and now the % of residential properties has significantly increased.

OR these warning signs (as above right) on the Crumps Land bend approaching from both Grafty Green AND Headcorn.