



Light up pavements for the smartphone zombies

Warning lights set in pavements to alert preoccupied mobile phone users are being tested out in the Netherlands - and a councillor wants to see the same idea tried in Tenterden

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Pavements illuminated with strips of light would help mobile-phone obsessed pedestrians cross the road more safely, says a town councillor.

The scheme, being trialled at a crossing close to three schools in the Netherlands town of Boddegraven, sparked an enthusiastic reaction from Tenterden town councillor Sue Ferguson, who tweeted Kent County Council about it suggesting it could be introduced in Tenterden and other towns in Kent.



Cllr Sue Ferguson

Cllr Ferguson said: "It's a fabulous idea. Kent County Council and Kent Highways should move with the times and embrace the idea. You see lots of people with their phones glued to their ears

'It's a fabulous idea to improve road safety'

walking about and not looking properly and this scheme would improve road safety."

The Netherlands project involves embedding a strip of illuminated LEDs at the pavement edge, flashing red or green, in the line of sight of a mobile phone user.

But the system designed for "smartphone zombies" has been slated by Dutch road safety group VVN for rewarding bad

behaviour when people should be paying attention to the road.

According to tech website The Verge safety lights are also being tested at level crossings in the German city of Augsburg.

Cllr Ferguson added: "The technology might even help people who are partially sighted to cross the road more safely."

Kent County Council has so far failed to respond to Cllr Ferguson's tweet.

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