

## Accident Information



A very useful new web site is [www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk). It shows the locations of road traffic accidents – just type in a post code and you can see all the accidents for the last few years (at least up to the end of 2010 with more data to follow).

If you click on a specific accident, you can obtain a lot more information about it, for a fee of £1. Presumably this data comes from the Stats19 reports filed by the police – so it only covers personal injury accidents of course.

*(Editor: This will be enormously useful. Although the data has always been available from your local authority, it might have taken time to obtain it and even require a Freedom of Information Act request. Having it in graphical map format also assists. Obtaining accurate accident data is the first step when looking at any complaints about road safety in any particular road. The charge is probably not unreasonable for the time saving it provides, but of course the information would be often free if obtained from an FOI Act request. Below is an example of a map around where I live in Chislehurst – some well known accident spots are clearly shown).*

Incidentally Watts Lane/Manor Park Road, the road mentioned in the first article in this edition with speed humps on it, is at the bottom of the map. You might argue that the humps have clearly prevented accidents in recent years, but you would be wrong. The map would have looked the same before the humps were installed, with almost all the accidents at the junctions at either end of the road (with Bromley Road and St. Pauls Cray Road). In reality a lot of money was wasted installing humps to tackle a non-existent problem, when it should have been spent on tackling the accidents at the junctions.

