Snaprails muddy route

Road crossing safety issues

I have produced this draft document following an incident crossing the Yorktown Road at the Pelican Crossing. I was 3rd leader of 4, and approaching the crossing I could see that the majority of the group had crossed, and that several walkers (2 Nepalese ladies, and one other, English speaking walker,) were running to catch the crossing, which was flashing and just about to turn red. I shouted out “Wait” from a few yards behind, and, as they didn’t respond, called out again, but the three continued and crossed anyway on red, producing hoots from the waiting drivers.

This sort of behaviour is annoying for the waiting drivers and gives our group a bad name. More importantly, it’s potentially dangerous.

What can we do? Our walkers are adults and should be able to look after themselves. However, groups seem to develop a “herd” mentality and don’t always think for themselves. We can do our best, though, to ensure safe crossing of roads.

I suggest we try the following:

1. At the outset of the walk we will explain the risks and what we would like the walkers to do at road crossings. We will ask Om to do the same with his Nepalese group.
2. On the outward crossing of Yorktown Road the leaders will wait on the car park side and ensure that walkers cross in groups, with a leader crossing behind each group. The leaders will ensure that walkers stop crossing when the green man starts flashing, This will probably mean that some walkers will have to wait a short while for the traffic to stop again and the green light to show.