

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)**

**DATE:** 3 July 2014  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Andrew Milne



**SUBJECT:** PORTSMOUTH ROAD CYCLE LANE – AGREEMENT TO CHANGING THE SEGREGATED CYCLE LANE TO A SHARED FOOTWAY

**DIVISION:** CAMBERLEY WEST

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Surrey Heath Local Committee's ITS scheme for 2014/15 is the widening of the Portsmouth Road between Toshiba Roundabout and the Frimley Park Hospital roundabout.

In order to create an additional lane, part of the existing cycle/footway needs to be moved over to allow the road to be widened.

The Available space for the relocated cycle/footway will result in a facility that is narrower than existing and too narrow to allow it to remain as a segregated facility. A cycle/footway can remain as a shared (as opposed to a segregated) facility.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:****The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to agree:**

- (i) The current segregated cycle/footway is converted to a shared cycle/footway.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Formal permission is sought to alter the cycle/footway on the Frimley Park Hospital side of Portsmouth Road to provide the additional carriageway space for safe highway use and manoeuvring.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The length of A325 Portsmouth Road that runs between the Frimley Road roundabout (Toshiba roundabout) and the Frimley Park Hospital roundabout has segregated cycle/footways on both sides. On the south side, the cycle/footways runs between the Toshiba roundabout and Grove Cross Road. On the north side, it runs between the two roundabout. The new Toucan crossing close to the Toshiba roundabout connects the two facilities.
- 1.2 Over the last two years, the local area team have investigated and progressed a plan to improve traffic flow around the junction between Portsmouth Road and Frimley Road. The process originally concentrated on signalising the roundabout to improve flows, but the modelling provided for the scheme showed that the benefits were not as previously expected and the Local Committee agreed to move design away from signalising the roundabout to concentrate on providing an additional lane on Portsmouth Road.
- 1.3 The design has been progressed and much of the space required for the additional lane can be created by narrowing the existing running lanes on Portsmouth Road. However, this is not quite enough and the extra space can be provided by taking some of the land currently occupied by the segregated cycle/footway.
- 1.4 The extent of the proposal is shown on the plan attached as an annex to this report.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 During the design process, a need was identified to widen the carriageway to provide the additional lane. Much of the additional space has come from narrowing the current running lanes on Portsmouth Road, but additional space is required to provide adequate running lane width for safe manoeuvring.
- 2.2 The cycle/footway can be moved over so that it is slightly closer to the hospital. However, even locating it so that it is tight to the extent of the highway does not give a facility that is as wide as the existing one. The resulting width of cycle/footway will be 2.5m as opposed to the current 3.7m and this is too narrow for it to remain as a segregated facility. The cycle/footway can remain but as a shared facility rather than a segregated one.
- 2.3 The segregated cycle/footway on the opposite side of Portsmouth Road will be retained. This means that the new Toucan crossings, cyclists travelling along Portsmouth Road will still be able to use a segregated cycleway on Portsmouth Road and cross at a safe location.

## **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 The current cycle/footway on the hospital side is converted to a shared facility. This will maintain off-road access for cyclists between the hospital and Frimley without the need to cross at the junction with Grove Cross Road. This is the preferred option.

3.2 The cycleway on the hospital side of Portsmouth Road is removed all together between the hospital entrance and the new Toucan crossing. This option means that the additional lane can be progressed, but off-road cycle access will be removed.

3.3 Maintain the current segregated cycle/footway. This is not desirable as it impacts on the ability to provide the additional lane on Portsmouth Road.

#### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 The proposal is a small section of the larger scheme to widen the carriageway along Portsmouth Road. The whole scheme will be assessed and consulted on following the Stage 1/2 safety audit.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 The proposal will be funded as part of the scheme to provide an additional lane to Portsmouth Road..

#### **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 Given the proximity of the hospital, the likelihood of disabled or injured pedestrians is higher than elsewhere. Disabled groups generally prefer segregated cycle/footways as there is potentially less likelihood of conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

6.2 However, they are an approved measure that can be used on the highway.

#### **7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 The immediate vicinity, including Frimley village centre should benefit from the increased capacity and reduced congestion that the additional lane on Portsmouth Road will bring.

7.2 The changes to the cycle/footway will enable these benefits to materialise.

#### **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report.

## **9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 9.1 We are seeking permission to alter the current segregated cycle/footway into a shared use cycle/footway. The alteration is being requested as part of the current ITS scheme to provide an additional lane on the A325 Portsmouth Road, between Frimley Road and Frimley Park Hospital.
- 9.2 The detailed design for the ITS scheme has identified the need to reduce the width of the footway to allow for appropriate running lane widths on the carriageway.
- 9.3 The new footway widths are too narrow for a segregated cycle/footway to be maintained. As such, permission is sought to change the segregated cycle/footway to a shared use cycle/footway to maintain cyclist's off-road facility.
- 9.4 The footway on the south side of Portsmouth Road will retain the segregated cycle/footway. This combined with crossing facilities at the junctions with Grove Cross Road and Frimley Road means that users who prefer segregated facilities are still able to move safely along Portsmouth Road.
- 9.5 An alternate option is to either remove the cycleway all together and return the footway to pedestrian use only. The final option is to retain the current layout, but this will impact on the delivery of the additional lane. Neither of these options is desirable.

## **10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 Should the Committee agree to alter the segregated cycle/footway to a shared facility, this change will be incorporated into the design for an additional traffic lane on the A325 Portsmouth Road. No public notice or Traffic Order is required but the facility will be altered on site during construction.
- 10.2 Should the Committee not agree to the alteration then further investigation will be required to determine the ownership of any additional land that will be needed to maintain adequate footway width. It may be necessary to purchase such land should the owner be unwilling to dedicate it as highway. Either scenario would jeopardise construction of the extra running lane during the current financial year.

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**Contact Officer:** Peter Orchard (0300 2001003)  
**Consulted:** Consultation following Safety Audit

**Annexes:** Annex A – A325 Portsmouth Road – Cycle/Footway plan

### **Sources/background papers:**

76/12 - Highways update (14 March 2013 – Local Committee Meeting)  
08/13 - Highways update (4 July 2013 – Local Committee Meeting)  
19/13 - Highways update (3 October 2013 – Local Committee Meeting)  
32/13 - Highways update and forward plan 2014/15 (5 December 2013 – Local Committee Meeting)

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