

County Council Meeting – 19 July 2011

STATEMENT / UPDATES BY CABINET MEMBERS

London Surrey Cycle Classic test Race – Sunday 14 August 2011

The eyes of the world will be on Surrey during the opening weekend of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, when the men's and women's road cycle races will take place in our county.

They will bring huge economic, sporting and cultural benefits to Surrey. To give some idea of the financial opportunities, Kent's staging of a leg of the Tour de France in 2007 generated millions of pounds for its local economy.

With a sporting event of Olympic scale, some inconvenience is inevitable, but we're working hard with all our partners to ensure this is kept to a minimum.

Key to the preparations is the London-Surrey Cycle Classic test race. This will take place on Sunday, August 14. The 140km route will start and finish in London and include an 80km loop of Surrey - including two laps of Box Hill.

Hard work has gone into ensuring these events run smoothly, while keeping disruption to a minimum. Newsletters are being sent to every resident and business within 100 metres of the route. They include a mass of information on how to prepare for the race, including detailed maps of the route. These maps are also available on our Go Surrey website.

We've held a series of meetings and drop-in sessions to keep residents informed about how the race will affect them. We've also been talking to local businesses about how they can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Last week, I took part in a press conference for Surrey, national and cycling media to raise awareness of the test race. And this morning I was interviewed on BBC Surrey about the allocation of wristbands for the Zig Zag Road section of Box Hill.

Cycling enthusiasts, children and local residents will all get the chance to watch the race along this 1.8km stretch of road. Those who don't get a wristband still have almost 80km of Surrey roads to choose from, including the rest of Box Hill.

We've harnessed the power of the internet to keep people informed about the London-Surrey Cycle Classic. Our Go Surrey website has a wealth of information about the race. And our Surrey News Youtube channel features a video fly-through of the route.

The 2012 cycle races represent a once in a generation opportunity to watch Olympic history unfold on our doorsteps. The London Surrey Cycle Classic will provide a thrilling glimpse of what's in store.

Denise Saliagopoulos

Cabinet Member for Community Services and 2012 Games

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