

ELGIN ROAD, WEYBRIDGE CLOSURE AT THE JUNCTION OF B374 HEATH ROAD

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE) 6 NOVEMBER 2006

KEY ISSUE

To introduce a closure of the D3887 Elgin Road, Weybridge at its junction with the B374 Heath Road, to vehicular traffic, but to maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists and Emergency vehicles.

ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER

Weybridge - Mr Ian Lake

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Approve the scheme to close the D3887 Elgin Road, Weybridge at its junction with the B374 Heath Road, to vehicular traffic, but to maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists and Emergency vehicles.
- 2) Approve the advertising of the traffic Order to ban the driving of vehicles over the first part of Elgin Road, except for cyclists and Emergency vehicles.
- 3) Authorise the Local Transportation Manager, following consultation with the Chairman and Divisional Member, to consider, and if possible resolve any objections received.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Feasibility Report dated June 2005

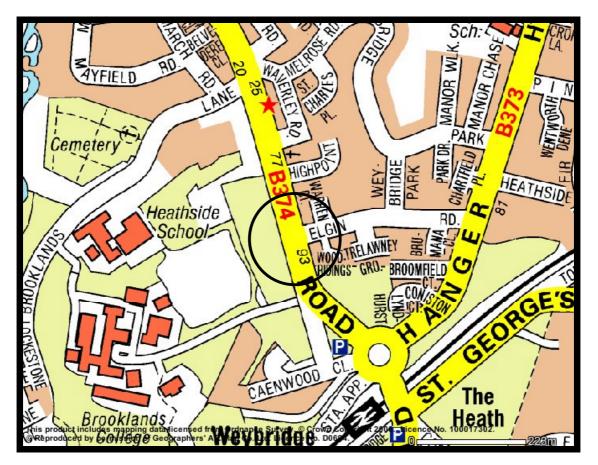
1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A feasibility study was carried out following representations to the Elmbridge Local Transportation Service, regarding vehicle size, volume and speed of traffic using the D3887 Elgin Road.
- 1.2 Elgin Road is used at certain times of the day as an alternative to the B374 Heath Road and B373 Hanger Hill, as a cut through to avoid the congestion outside Weybridge Railway Station.
- 1.3 Although waiting restrictions are in place to deter commuters from parking in the area, it is used at some times of the day by parents collecting children from nearby schools. Although the solution to this latter problem is not so straight forward, as it is a social issue throughout the UK.
- 1.4 This study has concluded that although there is inappropriate use of Elgin Road, at some times of the day, the current traffic flow and speed is comparable with similar roads in the area, and within Surrey generally. The accident history along Elgin Road, and the side roads off of it, is also relatively low. This makes the case to utilise limited budgets funding extensive traffic calming, difficult to justify and prioritise.
- 1.5 The junction of the Heath Road and Elgin Road does however have an accident history and this has been raised on several occasions at the Elmbridge Accident Working Group. Although attempts have been made to address this junction, with the installation of advanced warning signs, on both approaches, together with coincident 'SLOW' carriageway markings, personal injury accidents have continued to occur. The left turn out of Elgin Road together with the left turn in, are very tight and have to be carried at low speed. This can cause shunt type accidents on Heath Road for vehicles following behind who are not prepared for this.

2 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 Elgin Road is only 400m in length yet it is accessed from both the B374 Heath Road and B373 Hanger Hill. The junction at Hanger Hill is much wider and does is not have suffer personal injury accident history in the same way as the junction with Heath Road.
- 2.2 The proposed scheme will be to provide a dropped crossing across the current entrance to Elgin Road, along Heath Road, and effectively continue the footway across the junction.
- 2.3 This will then form the ramp into Elgin Road, for the Emergency Services vehicles and cycles. In order to ensure access for these vehicles, a flat-topped road hump is proposed, being constructed behind the ramped footway. Removable bollards are then located to the rear of the path/access ramp to prevent unauthorised entry/exit.

2.4 The Divisional Member, Mr Ian Lake, has given a presentation to local residents, showing them plans of the proposals, and these were well received generally.



3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The estimated cost of the scheme is £20,000 including detailed design, works cost and legal costs. It is proposed that the works cost of £15,000 be funded from the Local Capital Allocation Budget for the next financial year 2007/8.

4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The closure of the junction of Elgin Road at it junction of Heath Road, should enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Elgin Road area.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6 CONCLUSION

This proposal will improve road safety at this junction and reduce, if not eradicate the personal injury accident history. Residents should also benefit greatly from the reduced volumes of vehicles using the roads. The road will also serve as a useful link for cyclists due to these reduced traffic volumes.