



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

### LONG DITTON INFANTS SCHOOL

21 JANUARY 2008

#### KEY ISSUE

To seek Local Committee approval for the construction of a revised uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point outside Long Ditton Infants School on Ditton Hill Road.

#### SUMMARY

This report will recommend the construction of a revised uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point on Ditton Hill Road, which will replace the existing one outside of Long Ditton Infants School.

The proposed uncontrolled pedestrian crossing will improve the safety for pupils, parents and other pedestrians whilst crossing Ditton Hill Road.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee Elmbridge is asked to:

- (i) Approve the proposal to revise the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point on Ditton Hill Road adjacent to Long Ditton Infants School.

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Long Ditton Infants School is located on the north side of Ditton Hill Road. Immediately in front of the School there is a lay-by covered by a “School Keep Clear” road marking throughout its full extent.
- 1.2 Currently there is a drop kerb crossing outside of the school entrance protected with pedestrian guardrails, which is utilised by the School Crossing Patrol to assist parents and children crossing the road. However it is currently necessary for the crossing patrol to be in the live carriageway lay-by in order to gain visibility around the slight bend in the road.
- 1.3 In practice the current marking is ineffective at school arrival and departure times as there is limited enforcement activity and investigation in the area has shown that vehicles parking in the lay-by overnight block the existing drop kerb crossing. Parked vehicles in this lay-by also restrict visibility of pedestrians wishing to cross from the northern side of the road.
- 1.4 There is need to improve the safety for parents and pupils of School as well as for other pedestrians crossing Ditton Hill Road at that particular location.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 It is proposed to foreshorten the existing lay-by immediately outside the School by increasing the footway area and construct a new uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point, complete with dropped crossings, tactile paving slabs, and pedestrian safety barriers.
- 2.2 The existing pedestrian guardrails and the dropped kerbs on southern side of the road are to be removed in order to encourage the use of the new improved crossing facility. However, the dropped kerbs on the northern side of the road will be retained to provide facility for the mobility impaired being picked up or dropped off outside of the school during times when the School Keep Clear is not in operation.
- 2.3 The new kerb build-out uncontrolled pedestrian crossing will be located approximately 15m west of the existing location to enable improved visibility for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic on the slight bend.
- 2.4 It is also proposed to provide an additional lamp column on the southern side of the road in this vicinity, to further improve the crossing point during the hours of darkness.

### **3 OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The Surrey County Council's Elmbridge Community Travel Advisor has already carried out much consultation direct with the School, to ensure that the most appropriate solution is introduced.
- 3.2 This option also incorporates the flexibility that a pedestrian refuge island can be built in the future, should the need arise.

### **4 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultation with the School has been ongoing to ensure that the most appropriate design solution is introduced.

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

- 5.1 The estimated cost of the proposal is £15,500 to be funded from the LTP capital budget.

### **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposed dropped kerbs will be constructed flush with the existing carriageway and will therefore be of benefit to the visually and mobility impaired together with parents with push chairs.

### **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Not applicable.

### **8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The report recommends improvements to the current crossing layout outside this school to increase road safety in the area.

### **9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The proposal would improve pedestrian safety and encourage walking by creating a safer environment.

### **10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

10.1 If the Committee agree with the recommendations and approve the scheme, all stakeholders will be consulted and the construction phase will be started this financial year.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

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