



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE
IN EPSOM & EWELL**

**ASHLEY ROAD/ LANGLEY VALE
ROAD – TRAFFIC SIGNALS
IMPROVEMENT**

24th JANUARY 2005

KEY ISSUE

To consider a proposal to amend the existing traffic signals at the junction of Ashley Road with Langley Vale Road to improve road safety.

SUMMARY

The Accident Working Group (AWG) has highlighted the existing traffic signals at the junction of Ashley Road and Langley Vale Road as having a consistent pattern of personal injury accidents, involving vehicles turning right into Langley Vale Road across the path of oncoming vehicles.

This suggests that the alignment of the road and the existing signals arrangement may result in confusion or misunderstanding for some drivers.

Surrey County Council's Traffic Systems team has therefore produced an amended signals arrangement aimed at improving how the junction operates.

This report details the proposed new signals arrangement and recommends that it be approved for detailed design and implementation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree that:

- i. The new signals arrangement proposed at the junction of Ashley Road and Langley Vale Road (detailed in ANNEXE 2 of this report) is approved for detailed design and installation.
- ii. Funding for the proposals is sought through the Local Transport Plan devolved capital allocation for 2005/06.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Epsom and Ewell Accident Working Group has identified a consistent pattern of accidents at the signalised junction of Ashley Road with Langley Vale Road.
- 1.2 The Accident Working Group (AWG) meets twice a year and is attended by representatives from the Epsom and Ewell Local Transportation Service, Surrey County Council's Traffic and Road Safety Group and Surrey Police.
- 1.3 The signals currently have a right turn filter arrow for vehicles wishing to turn right into Langley Vale Road from Ashley Road. This is incorporated into the offside signal head for traffic heading straight on from Epsom towards the Grandstand. The filter arrow is only displayed when a sufficient number of vehicles are waiting to turn right and they have moved beyond the stop line into the "holding" area in the centre of the junction (and are therefore detected).
- 1.4 At present the left turn into Langley Vale Road from Ashley Road is not controlled by the signals and operates on a give-way basis.

2. ACCIDENT ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The accident plot attached as ANNEXE 1 to this report shows the personal injury accidents that have occurred at the junction over the 5-year period from November 1999 to October 2004 (the latest available data).
- 2.2 Over this period a total of 11 personal injury accidents have occurred. Nine of these accidents involved a vehicle turning right across the path of a vehicle heading straight on towards Epsom.
- 2.3 This clear pattern of accidents suggests that the existing arrangement controlling the left and right turns into Ashley Road (described above in paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4) may cause confusion for some drivers.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Following consideration of the accident pattern by the AWG, it was agreed that changes to the existing signals arrangement should be investigated. Surrey County Council's Traffic Systems team have therefore carried out an initial study and proposed an amended signals arrangement.
- 3.2 The proposed new arrangement is shown in the plan attached as ANNEXE 2 to this report. The principal changes that it includes are:
- Provision of a dedicated signal head for right turning traffic.
 - Introducing signal control on the left turn from Ashley Road into Langley Vale Road.
- 3.3 It is expected that these proposals will result in a significant improvement in road safety at the junction.
- 3.4 The proposed changes should not result in any loss of capacity at the junction and can be made within the limits of the existing junction.
- 3.5 The proposals include the use of street furniture and signal poles designed to be sympathetic to the surrounding environment.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Downs Conservators and local County and Borough Members have been informed about the proposed amendments to the signals. Any comments they have will be reported at the meeting.
- 4.2 Surrey Police have indicated their strong support for the proposed amendments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The initial study and design work has been funded centrally through the Accident Working Group.
- 5.2 The cost of preparing the detailed design and implementing the scheme is estimated at £65,000.
- 5.3 The finances required to carry out the detailed design and construction of the improvement will need to be made available from the 2005/06 Local Transport Plan capital allocation.

6. CONCLUSION AND REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The existing traffic signals at the junction of Ashley Road with Langley Vale Road have been identified as having a history of personal injury accidents. A large majority of the accidents that have occurred have involved vehicles turning right into Langley Vale Road.
- 6.2 Surrey County Council Traffic System's team have prepared an outline design for an improvement to the existing signals arrangement, which will help to improve safety at the junction.
- 6.3 This report recommends that the proposed changes to the signals are approved for detailed design and implemented, subject to funding being made available through the Local Transport Plan.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: