



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

**EQUESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT
TATTENHAM CORNER**

24th JANUARY 2005

KEY ISSUE:

Equestrian, pedestrian and cycle safety improvements at Tattenham Corner Road between Old London Road and Tattenham Crescent.

SUMMARY:

A traffic signal controlled crossing is proposed to improve safety for equestrian access to Haynes Yard, with improvements for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Tattenham Corner Road near to the Tea Hut. Approval is required to carry out detailed design and construction.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee is asked to agree that:

- i) the scheme in annexe 1 be approved for detailed design,
- ii) subject to the approval of the Downs Conservators and Local Member Working Group the scheme is approved for construction

1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 25th October 2004 a report was approved by this Committee to allow detailed design of a traffic signal controlled crossing near the junction of Tattenham Corner Road and Old London Road to take place. This was based on a feasibility design commissioned in November 2001 to look at the needs of the equestrian community, both racing and leisure. The study was completed in July 2003.
- 1.2 On 10th November, following the Committee meeting, a letter was received from Mr J Akehurst to formally notify Surrey County Council that he had taken over the stables known as Haynes Yard at Tattenham Corner Road.
- 1.3 The stables would house 60 horses when refurbishment was complete and there would be strings of 25 horses crossing from the yard to the gallops two or three times every morning.
- 1.4 The main user of the original proposed traffic signal location near Old London Road was Mr Akehurst when taking strings of horses from his South Hatch Stables to the Downs. The number of horses crossing on this desire line would therefore drop dramatically.
- 1.5 At present there is no provision for horses / riders on Tattenham Corner Road.
- 1.6 This Committee, on 25th October 2004, approved the proposed National Cycle Network Route NCN 22, which passes through Epsom.
- 1.7 NCN 22 enters the Borough of Epsom and Ewell along Tattenham Crescent. The route crosses Tattenham Corner Road and then follows Bridleway 127 across the racecourse and downs before leaving the Borough at the end of Sheepwalk. The desire line for cyclists crossing Tattenham Corner Road would be in the vicinity of the tea hut.

2. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 A traffic signal controlled crossing would provide a safer crossing for horses / riders from the Haynes Yard stables, and for pedestrians going to and from Tattenham Corner railway station. The proposed layout is shown on drawing No. 6503/02 in annexe 1. A larger copy of the plan will be on display at the meeting.
- 2.2 The area of land in front of the Tattenham Corner Public House does not have any existing footways. The proposals would allow cyclists on the National Cycle Network to leave the carriageway and cross Tattenham Crescent at the refuge heading towards the tea hut. This would be a shared use proposal as pedestrians would be able to access the bus stop located on Tattenham Corner Road.

- 2.3 The tea hut is popular with pedestrians and cyclists and an improved link between the tea hut and the Downs would be necessary, although it would not require a traffic signal controlled crossing on Tattenham Corner Road. A refuge is proposed with a width suitable for cyclists to cross the road in two halves. A shared use path would be required on both sides of Tattenham Corner Road to form a quality link to the Downs area.

3. CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 The Equestrian Feasibility report was discussed, shortly after it was completed, with Simon Dow of the Racehorse Trainers Association. The measures were accepted as important in maintaining safety in the equestrian community. Although the proposed location was included in the original report it was not given a high priority at the time because of the low numbers of equestrian movements from Haynes Yard. The situation is now different with potentially 3 strings of 25 horses crossing each way every morning.
- 3.2 The initial route for NCN 22 was developed following an investigation of suggestions made by local cycle forums in each District. In November 2003 consultations were carried out with County and District Councillors, Borough and Parish Councils, Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators, The Cyclists Touring Club, Local Cycle Forums, The British Horse Society, the Ramblers Association, Surrey Police, and the Surrey Access Forum.
- 3.3 Should approval be given for the proposed improvements, consultation with all interested groups would be required.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A detailed design and estimated cost will be produced once approval is given.
- 4.2 There is an allocation of £60 000 for the Recreational Accessibility Theme within the approved Local Transport Plan Programme for 2004 /05.

5. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Careful signing will be required on the Downs to make the routes clear to all users. Signs reminding cyclists to give way to horses and pedestrians can be erected if necessary.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed improvements will provide a safer route for all vulnerable road users including those with mobility impairment.
- 6.2 National Cycle Network paths are designed for shared use by cyclists of all abilities, walkers, those with prams or buggies, and wheel chair users.

7. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The proposed improvements offer an opportunity to provide a safer crossing of Tattenham Corner Road for equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists. In addition the proposal will enhance the area providing accessibility to the amenities that the Downs offer.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None