



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
EPSOM & EWELL**

**THE EDGE OF THE COMMON**

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007**

**KEY ISSUE**

Setting up a Working Group to report back on issues raised by residents living in roads bordering the Stamford Green edge of Epsom Common.

**SUMMARY**

Local residents are complaining about problems in roads bordering Epsom Common, involving traffic congestion, parking problems, access difficulties for refuse collection etc. and damage to kerbs and to grassy areas.

Although funding is likely to be a problem, members have expressed the view that these related problems should be examined and recommendations made as considered appropriate.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to agree that:**

- (i) An “Edge of the Common” working group should be set up.**
- (ii) The Members should be County Councillors Jean Smith (chairman) and Colin Taylor, Borough Councillors Nigel Pavey and Mike Richardson, Helen Dibley (Stamford Ward Residents Association) and a representative (name to be advised) from the Epsom Common Association.**
- (iii) The terms of reference should be as set out in this report.**
- (iv) The working group should submit their recommendations as soon as practicable (and not later than 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008) and it should then be wound up.**

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 A petition was received at the 4<sup>th</sup> June meeting of the Committee from residents of Bracken Path, requesting that the road be widened, thus utilising existing common land, to improve the layout of on-street parking and to ease the flow of traffic.
- 1.2 Highways Engineers reported that:
  - The land concerned is common land and as such the County Council have no jurisdiction over it.
  - Any transfer of land would be a lengthy legal procedure and road widening would be an expensive scheme to take forward.
  - At this time there is no funding for work of this nature.
- 1.3 Members agreed that a Working Party be formed and asked Colin Taylor (as the local member) to make suitable arrangements, including representatives of the Epsom Common Association and the Stamford Ward Residents Association.
- 1.4 Subsequently correspondence has been received stating that not all the residents of Bracken Path supported the petition.
- 1.5 During the recent consultation on Waiting Restrictions, residents of Wheelers Lane raised related issues.
- 1.6 The local county and borough members have been made aware over the years of the following problems related to the narrow roads around this edge of the common, including:
  - Difficulties of access for EEBC refuse collection vehicles.
  - Difficulties of access for EEBC recycling vehicles.
  - Damage to grassy open spaces classed as common land.
  - Damage to road edges.
  - Displacement of long runs of kerbstones, apparently by heavy vehicles squeezing past parked cars.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 An important factor is that Bracken Path and most of the other roads bordering this edge of Epsom Common also lie within the Stamford Green Conservation Area.
- 2.2 The roads that appear to be subject to the same set of problems are:
  - Stamford Green Road
  - Church Side
  - Bracken Path
  - Bramble Walk
  - Lewins Road
  - Wheelers Lane

- 2.3 In some cases only part of the road is involved, but the whole of Church Side and Bramble Walk and most of Bracken Path are affected.
- 2.4 In addition to the Officer advice already given by Highways Engineers, it is anticipated that the working group would benefit from the expertise of EEBC officers concerned with the refuse collection and recycling operations and from the advice of the Borough's design and conservation officer and their countryside manager.
- 2.5 EEBC's Environment Committee has agreed in principle to Anthony Evans advising the working group. The advice of the other experts could be sought by Borough members through the usual channels.
- 2.6 Depending upon the recommendations of the working group it may be necessary for members to seek further advice from Highways Engineers in due course.
- 2.7 It is proposed that the working group arrange to walk together around the roads concerned, noting the symptoms of the various problems. An informal meeting to agree the next steps would follow this.
- 2.8 During most of this summer, a large part of one of the roads concerned has been affected by road works related to buried services, obscuring and compounding the normal problems affecting the area. It was therefore judged better not to start work until the position was more normal. The road works continued so far into August that it seemed best to wait until after this Local Committee meeting.

### **3 OPTIONS**

- 3.1 No options are apparent at this stage.

### **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 Depending on the outcome of the Working Group's deliberations, it may be appropriate to consult the local residents concerned. The local councillors in collaboration with the Residents Association could do this.

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

- 5.1 No expenditure by SCC is envisaged at this stage.

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

- 6.1 There are no implications for the purposes of this report.

## 7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no implications for the purposes of this report.

## 8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The committee is recommended to set up a working group comprising county and borough members, with local representatives as follows:

- County Councillors Jean Smith (chairman) and Colin Taylor,
- Borough Councillors Nigel Pavey and Mike Richardson,
- Helen Dibley (Stamford Ward Residents Association),
- A representative from the Epsom Common Association.

8.2 The terms of reference should be:

- Arrange to visit the roads concerned.
- Review the list of problems.
- Obtain expert advice from relevant officers.
- Consult local residents as appropriate.
- Agree a list of recommendations.
- Report back to the Local Committee.

## 9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Local residents have identified a range of related problems related to the services and responsibilities of both the county and the borough council. Currently there do not appear to be appropriate funds allocated for dealing with many of the issues raised. However members consider that the problems identified ought to be considered by the Local Committee.

## 10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 The working group should arrange a site visit and an informal meeting as soon as practicable.

10.2 The working group should report back not later than 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

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Version No.      Date:      28/08/07      Time:      Initials: CT      No of annexes: 0