



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (Epsom and Ewell)

### CUDDINGTON AVENUE AND VALE ROAD PROPOSED ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

8 DECEMBER 2010

#### KEY ISSUE

To consider proposals to introduce a road table in the mouth of Cuddington Avenue and a pedestrian refuge in the mouth of Vale Road where the two roads intersect at the Cuncliffe Parade roundabout.

#### SUMMARY

Funding has been received from the developer of the site formerly occupied by Cuddington Primary School, which may be used for local pedestrian improvements. Subsequently, a meeting has been held with the Divisional Member and local stakeholders to identify how the available funds may best be used. The recommendations of this report reflect the findings of that meeting.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- i) Approve the measures illustrated in Annex A, subject to consultation.

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Concerns have been expressed by teachers and parents of children attending schools adjoining Cuddington Avenue that many drivers travel at inappropriate speeds along the road. The perception is that this poses a particular risk for children and may serve to discourage parents from allowing their children to walk to school.
- 1.2 No recent speed surveys have been conducted along Cuddington Avenue but a review of statistics reveals there have been no accidents resulting in injury in the road during the last four years.
- 1.3 Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 makes provision for the local highway authority to seek funding for local improvements which is considered to address the negative impact a new development may have on the highway. The Council has entered into a Section 106 Agreement with developers of the land formerly belonging to Cuddington School.
- 1.4 Under the terms of the Agreement, enhancements to benefit pedestrians are included within the scope for which the funds received may be used.
- 1.5 Observations on site have identified that many pedestrians, including those travelling to and from local schools, cross the road at the northern end of Cuddington Avenue and across the mouth of Vale Road on the east side of Cuncliffe Parade roundabout.
- 1.6 At a meeting with the Divisional Member and local stakeholders there was consensus that improvements for pedestrians would be beneficial at the locations identified and this could best be achieved with the measures illustrated in Annex A.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 A pedestrian refuge can improve safety for pedestrians by narrowing the width of road to be crossed and allowing the individual to concentrate on traffic approaching from one direction only for each part of the journey across the road.
- 2.2 In addition, the reduced road width will force drivers to slow and take greater care when passing the refuge. The refuge also allows pedestrians to wait in a position of prominence where they can readily observe oncoming traffic and be easily seen by drivers.
- 2.3 Further, a formal crossing point will encourage pedestrians to cross at the prescribed location where drivers will be more alert to the possibility of someone crossing the road.

- 2.4 Whilst the road width of Cuddington Avenue is too narrow for a pedestrian refuge, the proposed road table will serve to slow approaching drivers and heighten awareness of the possibility that people may be crossing the road.

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

- 3.1 Funding for the scheme will come from Section 106 contributions.

### **4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The proposals will include measures to benefit those who may be blind or mobility impaired. The raised table will be of particular value for wheelchair users.

### **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None perceived.

### **6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members approve the measures illustrated.

### **7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposed measures meet the aspirations of the local community and may be delivered within available funding.

### **8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 8.1 If approval is awarded, consultation will be carried out with local residents and the emergency services. Should any objections arise, the Divisional Member and the Committee Chairman will consider these.
- 8.2 Subject to resolution of any objections to consultation, construction of the scheme will take place during 2011.

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