



**PETITION FROM RESIDENTS
OF FOX CORNER, GUILDFORD**

GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE

3rd MARCH 2005

KEY ISSUE

This report sets out details of a petition presented to the Committee by Cllr Mrs. Laker last October, together with details of subsequent discussions between the residents, their Councillor and officers. It proposes a list of actions which have been agreed with the residents to address the reported problems.

SUMMARY

The petition was presented to the Committee on 21 October 2004, citing specific issues of excessive traffic speed, road maintenance and environmental considerations and requesting traffic calming measures at Fox Corner. Officers have met with the residents and have agreed a list of actions. The residents have also agreed to delete some of their suggestions as being impractical.

Report by

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Surrey Atlas Ref.

Page 88, C2

GUILDFORD B.C. WARD(S)

PIRBRIGHT

COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION(S)

WORPLESDON

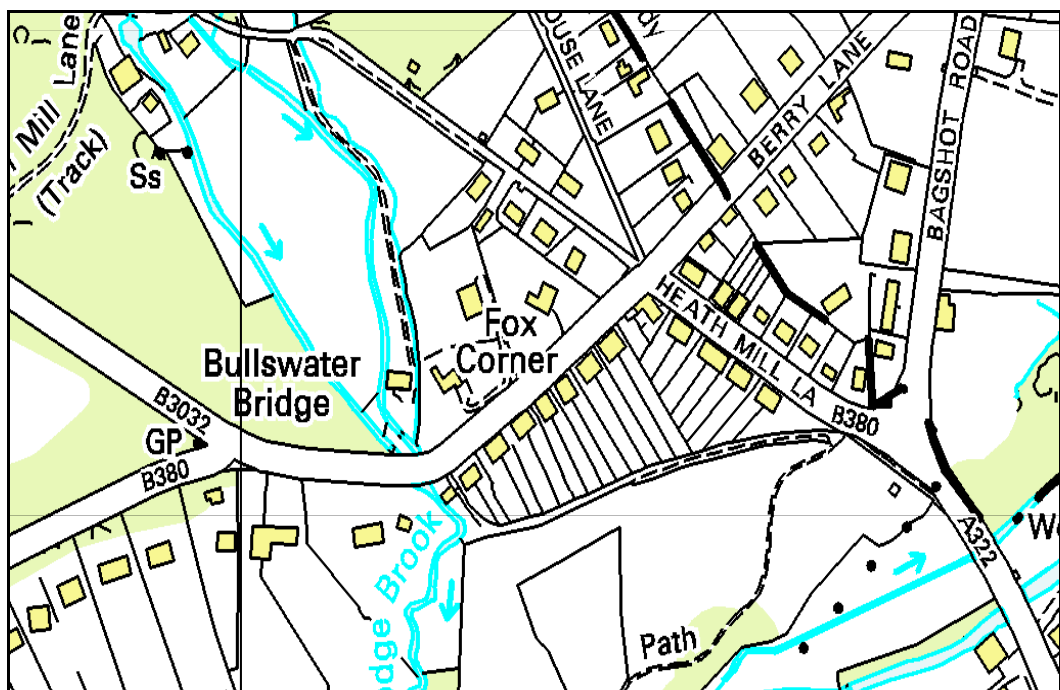
OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) that receipt of the petition of residents of Fox Corner, Guildford be noted.
- (ii) that the actions set out in paragraph 13 be approved, with those requiring funding by the County Council being addressed during 2005/06 subject to funding being made available.
- (iii) that officers be authorised to seek further funding from external sources such as the Parish Council, Guildford Borough Council or Members' revenue allowances for those items which do not constitute road safety measures.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1 Fox Corner is a residential area, close to the boundary between Guildford & Woking boroughs. It consists of some 100 properties and a public house. The majority of the roads are publicly maintainable with few private roads.
- 2 The main road through Fox Corner residential section is the B380 Guildford Road. The residential section is approximately 450 metres in length. The entry to this section of the road from the southeast is controlled by a roundabout at its junction with A322 Worplesdon Road / Bagshot Road. This is followed by a sharp bend 170 metres to the northwest at its junction with Berry Lane and further shallow bend approximately 120 metres to the southwest of the Berry Lane junction. A location plan is shown below.



THE PETITION

3 At the meeting of this Committee on 21 October 2004, Cllr. Mary Laker submitted a petition signed by 91 residents of Fox Corner petition to the Committee. The Petition stated that:

“A very large majority of support was obtained for traffic calming measures in one form or another. The survey did not find an exhaustive method of calming but has shown that further discussions would be welcomed on the matter with the community at large. What was evident was the intention of the rural identity of Fox Corner which is being quickly eroded by the quantity and speed of passing traffic.”

4 In addition to the above statement, the residents put forward a list of specific suggestions or requests. Some of these items were as follows:

- Reduce speed limit on Bagshot Road to 40mph
- Provision of a roundabout at the junction of Ash Road
- Reduction in the numbers of HGVs
- Reduce scale of signing and lighting at Bagshot Road roundabout
- Use of speed detectors to increase awareness of speed
- Road width restrictions or chicanes
- Speed cameras
- Red surfacing for speed reduction and pedestrian crossing points
- Quieter road surface to all residential roads
- Rural gateways, road lines and signage to approaches to Fox Corner
- Discreet parking lines in Berry Lane
- Encourage traffic back to use main roads
- Review of traffic signs needed
- Poor condition of roads, pavements, kerbs, white lining and reflectors

THE INVESTIGATION

5 Officers were made aware of the incoming petition in early October, prior to its submission to Committee. As a result, speed and classified traffic surveys were carried out at two locations in the vicinity of the Old Police House and outside the Fox Public House between 14 and 21 October 2004. The results of the surveys are shown below. It should be noted that the residents have expressed the view that the location of the surveys were such that the speeds measured do not align with residents’ perception of traffic problems.

	Fox Public House		Old Police House	
	Northeast bound	Southwest bound	Northwest bound	Southeast bound
HGVs (average / day)	73	89	102	87
85th percentile speed	35mph	34mph	33mph	30mph
Mean speed	30mph	30mph	28mph	26mph

- 6 The surveys show that the average level of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using Fox Corner is some 175 per day (in both directions). The speed surveys also indicate that the speed of traffic through Fox Corner is lower than on many similar roads. The environment and alignment of the road through Fox Corner is a major factor in keeping the speed of traffic close to the signed limit.
- 7 The Personal Injury Accident (PIA) records have also been investigated for the period from 01/09/2001 to 31/12/04. The total number of recorded PIAs was 5 on the length of road concerned, of which 4 were slight and 1 was serious.
- 8 Two PIAs occurred at the junction of Ash Road. One (05/11/02, serious) was as a result of a driver pulling out of the junction across oncoming traffic and second one (23/05/03, slight) was a shunt at the junction.
- 9 The third PIA (22/03/04, slight) occurred when a vehicle waiting to turn left into the public house was shunted from behind by another vehicle.
- 10 The fourth PIA (23/12/02, slight) involved a vehicle which crossed the centre line on the bend at the junction of Berry Lane and collided with an oncoming vehicle. The final PIA (02/08/02, slight) involved a vehicle overtaking on the bend on Guildford Road 100 metres prior to Fox Corner, having crossed the white lines, which collided with an oncoming vehicle.
- 11 Site visits have also been carried out to determine the condition of the road surface, signs and road markings in the area with a view of formulating a way forward on how these items could be improved.

CONSULTATION

- 12 Following completion of site visits and collection and analysis of the data, a meeting was arranged on the 6th January 2005 with Mr Jonathon Bohling representing the Fox Corner residents and Councillor Mary Laker. During the meeting all issues and concerns were discussed in detail. Officers provided an explanation of the criteria and guidelines which apply in respect of measures such as vehicle-activated signs and speed cameras.

THE PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

- 13 It was agreed that action should be taken on the following items within the resources available:
 - a) Surrey Police will be made aware of residents' views on the speed of motorcycles
 - b) A quieter road surface will be considered as part of major maintenance of the road when this becomes due.
 - c) The condition of road and footway surfaces will be inspected. Any safety defects noted will be rectified.

- d) The existing signing and road markings will be reviewed and, where necessary, enhanced without detracting from the rural setting.
- e) Officers will refer a reduction in the speed limit on Bagshot Road (the section within Guildford) to the next meeting of the Transportation Task Group for inclusion onto the assessment list.
- f) Officers will approach SCC's Woking Local Transportation Service to request a similar speed reduction on Bagshot Road in the borough of Woking.
- g) The provision of gateways will be investigated on all three approaches to Fox Corner, subject to funding being made available from an outside source, e.g. the Parish Council or County Member revenue allocation.

14 It was also agreed that the following items could not be justified:

- Provision of a mini roundabout at Ash Road.
- Speed camera, Police speed detection or vehicle activated signs
- Marking of parking bays in Berry Lane due to the nature of the lane and being a cul de sac and only accessible to residents and their visitors.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15 All signing and road marking enhancements could be met from the Aids to Movement Budget allocation in the 2005/06 financial year, subject to confirmation of the level of funds to be made available.
- 16 The cost of the gateways will depend on third party funding being secured.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 17 These proposals have no direct economic effects, but may result in small improvements to the local environment.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 18 While the traffic problems of Fox Corner are not as great as those experienced in many other residential parts of the borough, it is hoped that implementation of the measures in paragraph 13 will provide some relief to the concerns expressed by the petitioners.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF FOX CORNER GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE 21.10.04
