



**A323 ALDERSHOT ROAD, ASH
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGE**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)**

14th DECEMBER 2006

KEY ISSUE

This report seeks approval for a scheme to provide a pedestrian refuge on the A323 Aldershot Road, Ash.

SUMMARY

Requests were made from members of the public, through their local Borough Councillors for a pedestrian island close to St Georges Store. The Borough Council is funding the scheme.

Report by

GBC HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY & DESIGN SERVICES

Surrey Atlas Ref.

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GUILDFORD B.C. WARD

ASH SOUTH AND TONGHAM

COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION

ASH

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) that the pedestrian refuge as set out in this report and annexes be approved for installation.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Local members have been campaigning for a pedestrian crossing facility on the A 323 Aldershot Road for a number of years.
- 2 The A323 leads off the A331 Aldershot exit and attracts a lot of HGVs bound in the direction of Woking direction; Woking is signed from the junction.

THE PROPOSAL

- 3 It is proposed to install a pedestrian island on the Aldershot Road between the boundary of the properties known as 'Thorndale' & 'Agincourt'. This is shown on the map attached as **ANNEXE 1**. This was found to be the only place that could accommodate a pedestrian island while maintaining sufficient running lane widths and visibility.

CONSULTATION

- 4 Consultation responses are detailed in **ANNEXE 2**. A public consultation was undertaken and 5 responses were received. The comments were mostly regarding concerns that the introduction of the island would affect parking outside the local shop. Suggestions were made to relocate the island further west. All comments and suggestions were investigated and it was found that the island would not affect sensible parking outside the shop. The option of moving the island further west was found not to be viable as the road is too narrow to accommodate the island and minimum width running lanes.
- 5 Councillors Carter, Richards, Sutcliffe, Rooth and Manning have all been consulted and all are in favour of the scheme.
- 6 The scheme has had Stage 1 & 2 Safety Audits and an exception report has been sent to SCC. All recommendations of the audits have been agreed to except one regarding parking outside the shop. The auditors recommended measures to deter parking on the approach to the crossing, outside the shop. Borough officers have agreed instead to monitor the situation and to address the situation later should parking prove to be a problem.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

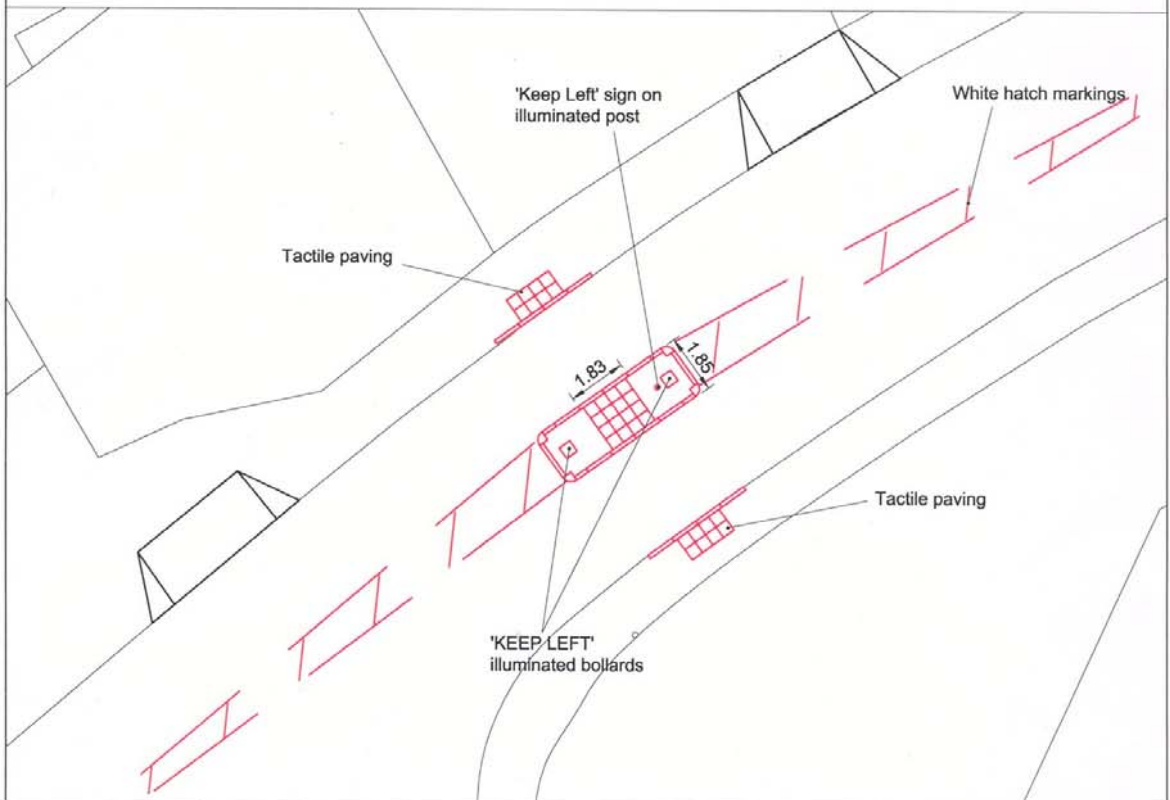
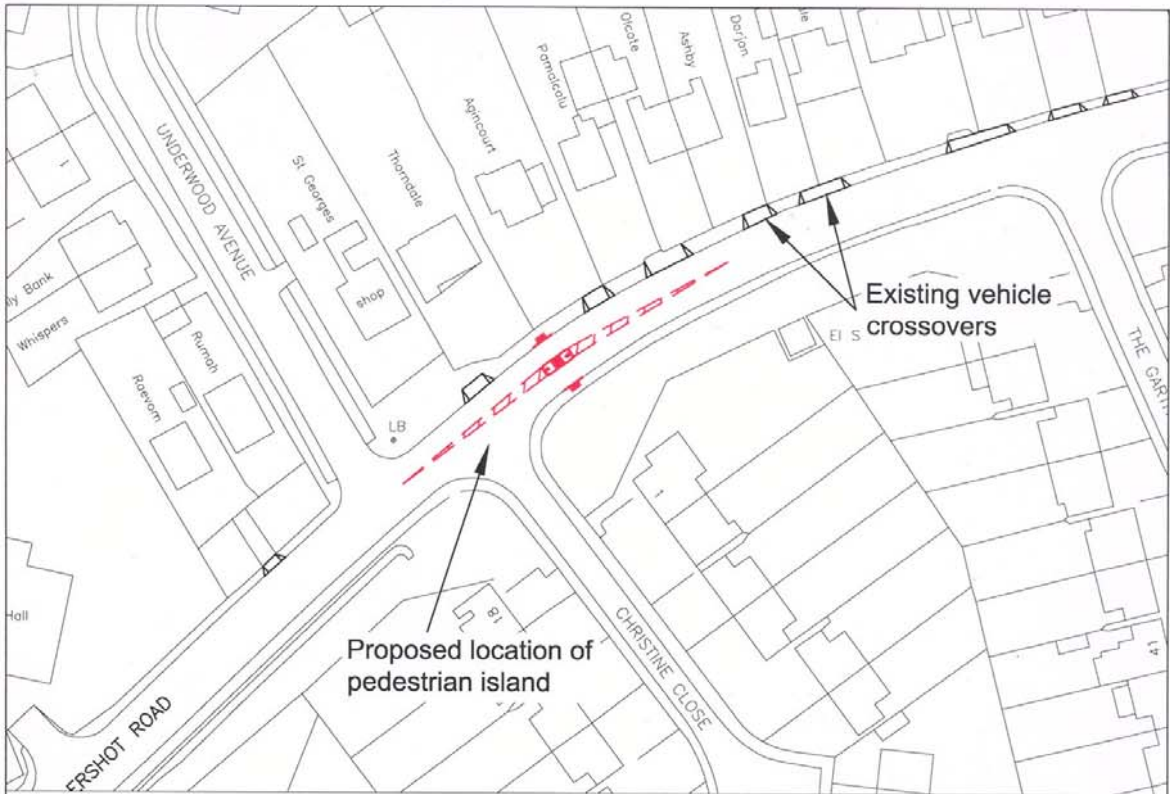
- 7 There are no immediate financial implications for the County Council. The scheme is to be constructed and funded by the Borough Council. The County Council is requested to maintain the island once constructed.


CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 8 Aldershot Road is heavily trafficked and the introduction of the pedestrian island will provide a safe crossing point to the local shop for vulnerable road users.
- 9 Motorists mostly use the shop and providing a crossing point will increase access for pedestrians and help keep a local business alive.
- 10 The introduction of the pedestrian island will reduce the speed of the traffic on the road.
- 11 If the Committee agree with the proposal an order will be placed with the Borough's Annual maintenance Contractor to carry out the construction work as soon as practicable.

LEAD OFFICER	TIM PILSBURY
TELEPHONE	GBC TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS MANAGER 01483 444521
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

ITEM 13
ANNEXE 1 : PLANS OF PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN ISLAND



 <small>Head of Environmental Policy and Design John Davey DipTP, AADip, MKTPI, MIIBC</small>	GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL	<small>DRAWN SAW</small>	<small>DATE 6/09/06</small>
	Public Consultation Proposed pedestrian island Aldershot Rd, Ash	<small>SCALE 1:1000</small>	<small>DRG No 3102/03</small>

ITEM 13
ANNEXE 2 : CONSULTATION RESPONSES

CONSULTEE	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Surrey County Council	SCC Officers have agreed to the proposal	No response needed
Surrey Police Fire & Rescue Surrey Ambulance Service	No Reply	No response needed
Christine Close Nos.1 to 4 Christine Close Nos. 6 to 13 Christine Close Nos. 15 to 18	No Reply	No response needed
Christine Close No. 5	I commend the proposed island but feel that it will be wrongly situated, and to the detriment of St. George's Stores. The shop relies of passing motorists stopping to shop, which would be very difficult for them to do when the island is in place. Therefore in future we could have a crossing point but no shop to go to. I suggest that the crossing could be moved further along the road possibly near the fence junction between 'Olcote' and 'Ashby'.	Road too narrow at this location, running lanes would be sub-standard
Christine Close No. 14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The road is too narrow and a refuge in that situation would be too dangerous. There would be insufficient room for - say a pedestrian, with a pram and perhaps toddlers to perch in the middle of what is an extremely busy road. 2. We value our local shop, St. George's Stores, (particularly as it had been previously closed for such a long time), and your proposal would mean that potential customers would not be able to park in front of the shop and therefore would not stop at all. 3. SUGGESTION: a Pelican crossing would be much safer for pedestrians and much more visible to oncoming traffic. 4. SUGGESTION: there is ample room in front of the shop for a lay by which would solve the "no parking" situation. It seems to me that your proposal is attempting safety on the cheap. As we pay one of the highest local rates, I think Ash deserves better. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The road at this point is of sufficient width to accommodate minimum width running lanes and a 1.85m pedestrian island, adequate for a pedestrian & pushchair. 2. Attached drawing shows parking outside the shop will not be affected 3. Pedestrian movements in this area are not sufficient to justify installation of a pelican crossing and funds are insufficient for this project. 4. Insufficient funds for this project to provide a lay-by.

CONSULTEE	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
<p>Aldershot Road – St. George’s Stores</p>	<p>I have already spoken to a Miss Samantha White and had a personal visit from Mr Tony Rooth and have raised my concerns which will occur when work will be in progress and crossing will be placed. The crossing in question is about 100 yards from my shop which will make parking for passers difficult. I personally feel it is a good idea to place a crossing because it will help the elderly and mothers with pushchairs and children cross safely, but I also feel it will stop a majority of our passing trade, and will cause a lot of traffic on the road, also we have are delivery drivers stop in front of the shop to do deliveries it will cause a lot of disruption. We are trying to support are local community by offering them the usage of the village shop and a lot of customers rely on St George’s Stores, mainly the elderly, children, people that can not drive. We do rely heavily on passing trade and strongly suggest to take account every thing I write if not already discussed with Miss White and Mr. Rooth.</p> <p>Me and my wife have both left are daytime jobs to run the business. We have two young children that rely on us and a baby on the way in December. We are still in the process of getting this business established because it was closed for 18 months before me and my wife re-opened it on the 1st June 2005. We’ve have also put every thing we earned and saved over the years in to the business.</p> <p>Regarding passing trade we had an incident which occurred 6 March till 14 March 2006, South East Water Ltd had carried out some pipe work, when they handed out the letters they did not find it necessary to let us know it would be held in front of the shop. Our daily takings had fallen to half, and caused a lot of disruption, any passing trade could not stop and delivery drivers were finding it hard to park to do their jobs.</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-evaluate the position of the crossing either further down the road, or 2. Provide the shop with a lay-by or dropped kerb for passing trade and deliveries and it would ease the traffic, and also mean people can still use the crossing which is a win - win situation for everyone. Please consider the above before making any decision, as this business is our livelihood. <p>If you decide the crossing and the work to go ahead, would you compensate me for any loss of trade whilst the work is carried out and after when crossing is complete.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road too narrow at this location, running lanes would be sub-standard 2. There are insufficient funds for this project to finance a lay-by or dropped crossing, both of which would have to be agreed with SCC Highways first.

ANNEXE 2 : CONSULTATION RESPONSES

CONSULTEE	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Aldershot Road, Thorndale	<p>The crossing will be a great help to all crossing a particularly busy & sometimes dangerous road, especially older people because of the lack of visibility of approaching traffic & is ideally situated for the local shop.</p> <p>We would like you to consider adding a white indication line along the road/vehicle crossover for the Bungalow "Thorndale". This would help to alleviate the problem of access & exit obstructions due to inconsiderate parking when people stop to use the shop next door. The problem already exists & will be exacerbated by the pedestrian island being located between Thorndale & Agincourt, effectively stopping parking on this stretch of the road.</p>	An access protection marker will be provided if agreed by SCC Highways.
Aldershot Road: Agincourt, Palmcalu, Olcote, Ashby, Dorjon, Stubdale	No Reply	No response needed