



SHAWFIELD ROAD, ASH PEDESTRIAN FACILITY & TRAFFIC CALMING

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

14th JUNE 2007

KEY ISSUE

This report recommends the implementation of a scheme to improve road safety particularly for elderly and vulnerable pedestrians, in Shawfield Road, Ash.

SUMMARY

Concerns have been raised by residents of Japonica Court (sheltered housing accommodation for older people) about high traffic speeds and difficulty in crossing Shawfield Road to access local facilities. Other residents have also raised concerns about high traffic speeds and road safety in Shawfield Road. A feasibility study and public consultation have been undertaken, and a scheme comprising a pedestrian facility and traffic calming measures has been developed.

Report by

LOCAL HIGHWAYS MANAGER

Surrey Atlas Ref.

Pages 105, F1 and 2
Page 106, A2 and 3

GUILDFORD B.C. WARD(S)

ASH WHARF
ASH SOUTH AND TONGHAM

COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION(S)

ASH
SHALFORD

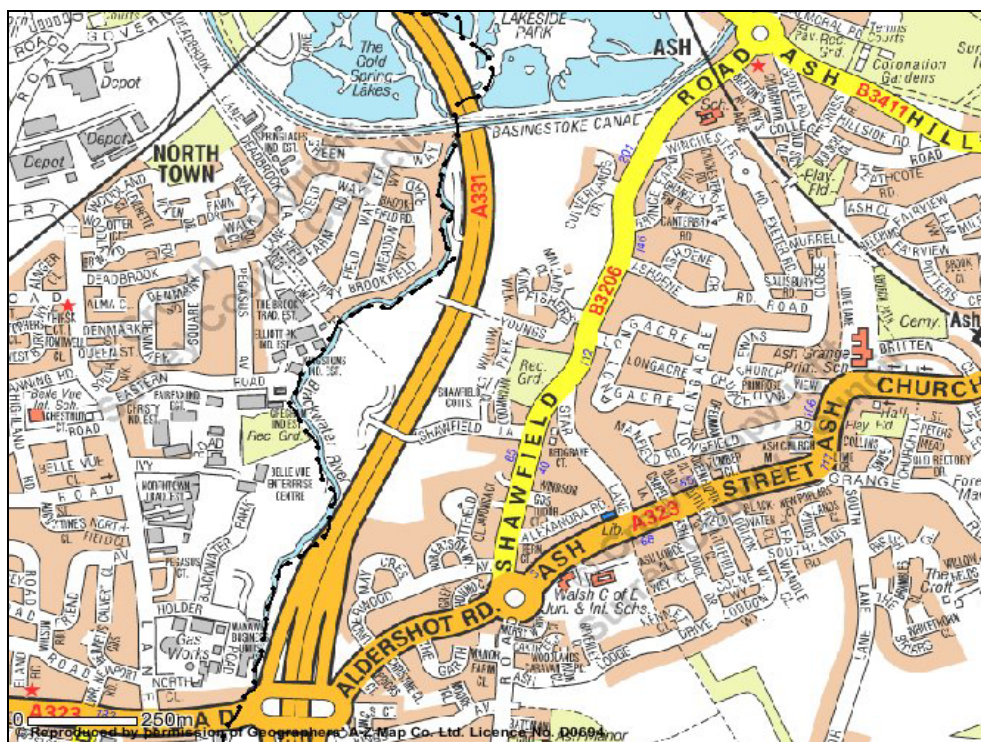
OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) that the scheme to provide traffic calming facilities on Shawfield Road and a zebra crossing outside Japonica Court as described in the report and shown on plan nos. 6343/30A and 31 attached as **ANNEXES B and C** be approved for detailed design and implementation.
- (ii) that the intentions of the County Council (a) to introduce the traffic calming measures and (b) to construct a zebra crossing as described in the report be advertised by notice in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- (iii) that the Local Highways Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and local Members (both County and Borough) be authorised to consider any minor modifications arising from the detailed design or advertising of the proposals, and if deemed appropriate include them within the scheme. Any major modifications would require the Committee's approval under a separate report.
- (iv) that following consideration and, where possible, resolution of any objections, the traffic calming facilities be constructed.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1 B3206 Shawfield Road forms part of the route linking Ash Vale, Ash and Aldershot. A location plan is shown below. The road is subject to a 30mph speed limit and is primarily residential, with a large sheltered housing unit called Japonica Court and adjoining Day Centre located at the southern end, close to the Greyhound Roundabout. There is currently no pedestrian crossing facility in the vicinity of Japonica Court.



- 2 Elderly residents of Japonica Court, some of whom use walking aids, have reported difficulty in safely crossing Shawfield Road to access bus stops, the local shops, the library and the post office. In addition, other residents have raised concerns about high traffic speeds and road safety in Shawfield Road.
- 3 There are several schools in the area, including Shawfield Primary, Walsh Infant & Junior and Ash Manor. School children cross Shawfield Road on their way to and from school, and to access the bus stops, the local shops and the recreation ground.
- 4 A speed survey carried out in July 2003, between Shawfield Lane and Windsor Gardens, showed the 85th percentile speed results to be 36 mph (southbound) and 38 mph (northbound). Although in excess of the speed limit, these results are fairly typical of similar urban roads.
- 5 Over the past ten years there have been 30 personal injury accidents between the Greyhound Roundabout, at the southern end of Shawfield Road, and the railway bridge at the northern end. The table below summarises these accidents.

	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
1997	0	0	3	3
1998	0	0	2	2
1999	0	1	4	5
2000	0	0	2	2
2001	0	2	3	5
2002	0	1	1	2
2003	0	1	5	6
2004	0	0	2	2
2005	0	1	1	2
2006	0	0	1	1
Total	0	6	24	30

Of these accidents, eight involved pedestrians (four serious, four slight) and two involved cyclists (both slight). Five of the accidents involving these vulnerable road users occurred at the southern end of Shawfield Road. The remainder occurred in the vicinity of the recreation ground.

THE PROPOSALS

- 6 A feasibility study was undertaken in 2003. The report recommended the construction of a series of traffic islands and pedestrian refuges, to both slow traffic and provide safe pedestrian crossing points. However the proposal required carriageway widening which in turn required utility company diversions. The high cost of these led to the scheme being reconsidered.

- 7 The proposals were subsequently redesigned in 2005/6, discussed with local Members and were the subject of public consultation. The proposals consulted upon are shown on plans numbered 6343/30 & 31, attached as **ANNEXES A and B**. Full size versions of these plans are available for inspection at SCC offices at Grosvenor House, Guildford and will be on display at the meeting. The main features of the scheme prior to consultation were as follows:
- (a) A chicane and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing arrangement outside Japonica Court.
 - (b) A series of speed cushions along Shawfield Road between the Greyhound roundabout and the railway bridge, together with associated traffic signs and road markings.
 - (c) A Vehicle Activated Sign with a speed limit reminder and 'SLOW DOWN' message, located in advance of the northern end of the traffic calming measures, aimed at slowing approaching vehicles that are exceeding the speed limit.

CONSULTATIONS

- 8 Officers have sought the views of Guildford Borough Council, Ash Parish Council, locally elected Borough and County Council members, Emergency Services and bus operators (the latter via SCC Passenger Transport Team). Respondents were supportive of the overall concept and objectives of the scheme. However, requests were received from Guildford Borough Council and Ash Parish Council for a controlled pedestrian crossing to be installed at Japonica Court, instead of the proposed chicane and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing arrangement.
- 9 A public exhibition was held at the Ash Centre between 9 and 14 March 2007, with officers present on the evening of the final day to explain the proposals. Ash Parish Council advertised the exhibition by notices, a letter drop and an article in the local press.
- 10 Members of the public were invited to complete and return feedback forms by 23 March 2007. A total of 60 feedback forms were received before the closing date. A summary of the results is provided in the table below.

	Responses Received	Respondents in Favour of		
		Chicane/ Uncontrolled Crossing	Traffic Calming Measures	Vehicle Activated Signs
Shawfield Road	19	12 (63%)	12 (63%)	16 (84%)
Star Lane	13	5 (38%)	8 (62%)	8 (62%)
Other roads off Shawfield Road	17	4 (24%)	8 (47%)	12 (71%)
Other roads in Ash & Ash Vale	11	5 (45%)	6 (55%)	10 (91%)
Totals	60	26 (43%)	34 (57%)	46 (77%)

- 11 Public support for the proposed chicane and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing was below 50% and 17 of the respondents specifically requested that a controlled crossing be considered as an alternative. The proposed traffic calming measures achieved a small majority in favour, while the proposed vehicle activated sign received strong support.
- 12 As a result of the feedback received from the consultations, the chicane and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing arrangement, referred to in paragraph 7(a) above, has been replaced by a zebra crossing. This revised proposal is shown on plan 6343/30A attached as **ANNEXE C**. A full size versions of this plan is available for inspection at SCC offices at Grosvenor House, Guildford and will be on display at the meeting.
- 13 In addition to the measures proposed under this scheme, funding has been approved from County Councillor Marsha Moseley's Member Revenue Allowance for a separate feasibility study to be carried out in 2007/8, to consider the provision of a second zebra crossing in the vicinity of the recreation ground. Depending on its conclusions and subject to the recommendation of the Members Task Group, and then agreement by the full Committee, this proposal could be added to the Minor Improvements list. It has further been indicated by GBC Councillor Nigel Manning that there may be a possibility of funding the construction during 2007/2008 from Section 106 funds held by the Borough Council.

RESPONSES FROM STAR LANE

- 14 Of the 13 responses received from residents of Star Lane, eight were in favour of the introduction of traffic calming measures in Shawfield Road. However, an equal number were concerned about an consequent increase in traffic using their road to avoid Shawfield Road and therefore requested that calming measures also be introduced in Star Lane, to act as a deterrent.
- 15 It is intended that following the implementation of the measures in Shawfield Road, the situation in both Shawfield Road and Star Lane be monitored to consider their effectiveness and their impact on the surrounding area. While it is possible that some displacement of traffic may take place, the comments received were in relation to the scheme which included the chicane and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing outside Japonica Court. As described above, this has now been replaced with by a zebra crossing, so the traffic displacement may not be realised in practice. In the event that there were adverse impacts on Star Lane the Members Task Group could be asked to consider a further scheme in due course for the full Committee to consider adding to the Minor Improvements List.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 16 Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding has been secured for this scheme, based on its original estimated cost of £95,000 (see report at Item 12 on this agenda). However the cost of the scheme is now estimated to be £130,000, mainly due to the design modifications referred to in paragraph 12 above. The LTP funding available to the Committee was reported to the previous meeting as being £620,000 but this figure has been slightly increased to £657,000 so the increased cost of this project is still affordable.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 17 The completed scheme is expected to reduce the accident rate in Shawfield Road to below half its present level, thus improving road safety for all highway users.
- 18 The scheme will also improve the quality of life for residents, by reducing the speed of through traffic. This may have the effect of encouraging local walking and cycling journeys.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN OBJECTIVES & MONITORING

- 19 The effectiveness of this project against LTP objectives and strategies, and the monitoring regime planned is as follows:

LTP OBJECTIVES	EFFECT (including delivery of TARGETS)
Safety	Scheme will improve safety and perceived safety of all highway users
Environment	Positive benefits related to health.
Economy	No measurable effect
Integration	No measurable effect
Accessibility	Improved accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

LTP STRATEGIES	EFFECT
Passenger Transport	No effect
Walking	Direct positive effect
Cycling	Direct positive effect
School Travel	Direct positive effects on travel to schools in the vicinity.
Traffic Management	Minor contribution to reduction in traffic levels and encouragement for traffic to use the most suitable routes.
Speed Management	Direct positive effect on reduction in speed along Shawfield Road
Transport Telematics	No effect
Parking	No effect
Road Safety	Positive potential benefits to all road users
Travel Awareness	No effect
Highway Maintenance	No effect
Bridge Management	No effect

MONITORING CARRIED OUT OR PLANNED	
'Before' monitoring	Accident records, speed surveys and public consultation.
'After' surveys	Quantitative: Repeat of speed surveys and scrutiny of accident records Qualitative: Canvass views of those who have commented already, notably Ash Parish Council and Surrey Police.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 20 The proposed scheme should reduce the number of personal injury accidents occurring in Shawfield Road and improve highway safety, especially for pedestrians and residents of Japonica Court. It is therefore recommended that the Committee approve the scheme for detailed design and implementation during 2007/08.
- 21 Alternatively, the Committee may be concerned at:
- the increased cost of the project following consultation amendments
 - the controversy which often follows the implementation of traffic calming proposals
 - the potential for displacement of traffic onto Star Lane

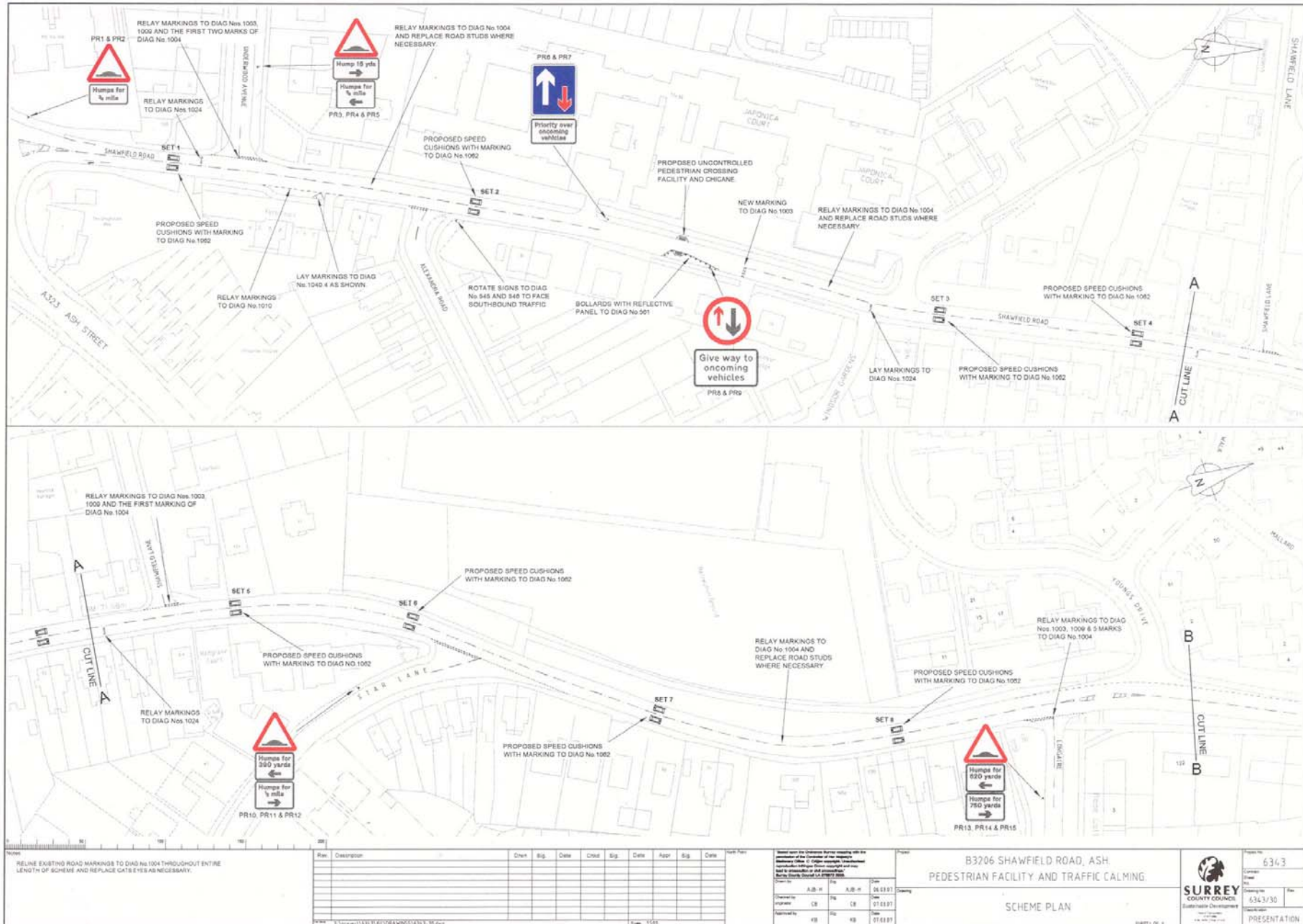
If so, the Committee may consider that the scheme should not proceed.

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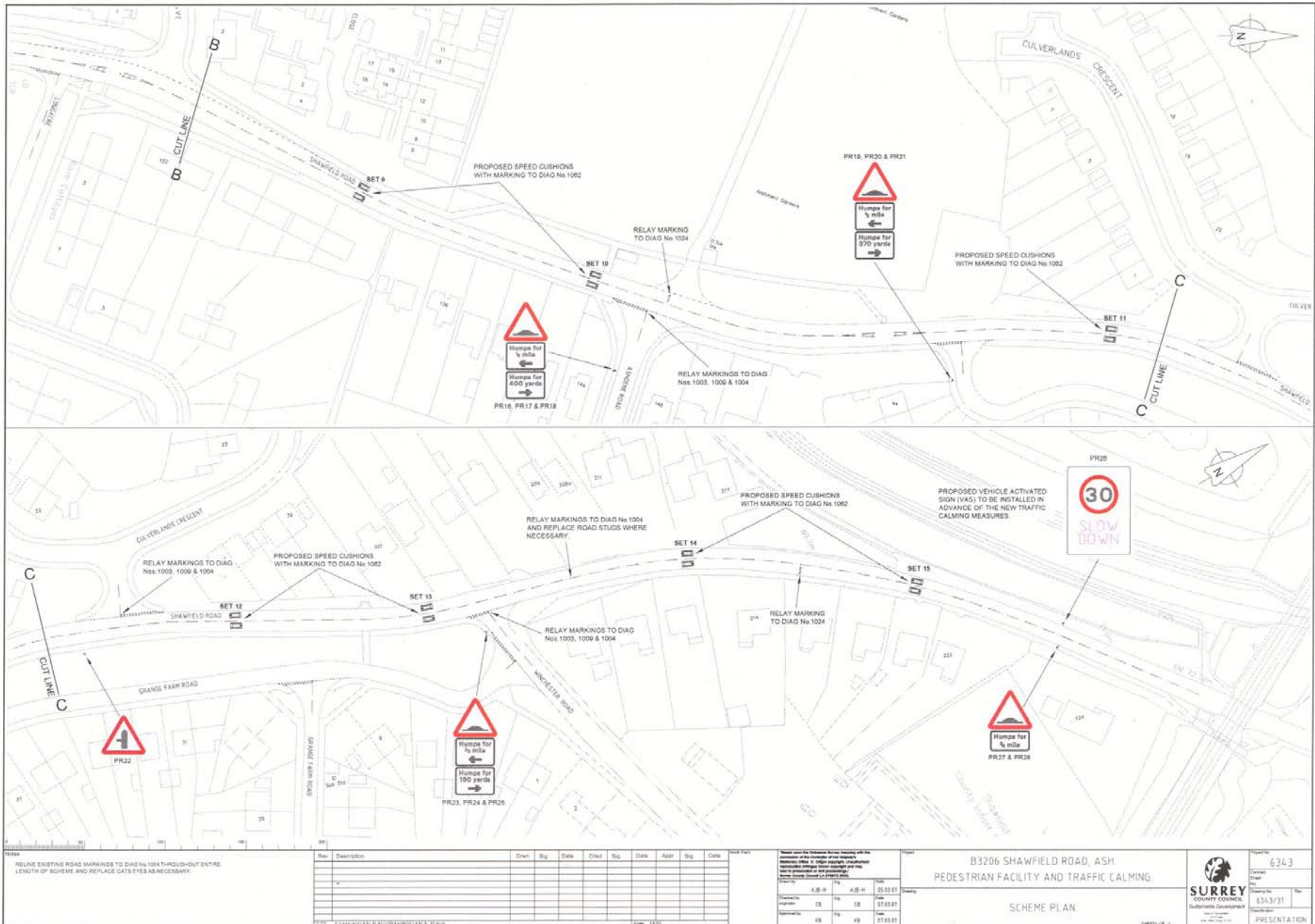
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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE

ITEM 15 : ANNEXE A : PLAN 6343/30 PRIOR TO CONSULTATION (Not to Scale)



ITEM 15 : ANNEXE B : PLAN 6343/31 PRIOR TO CONSULTATION (Not to Scale)



Notes
 1. RELINE EXISTING ROAD MARKINGS TO DIAG No 1004 THROUGHOUT ENTIRE LENGTH OF SCHEMES AND REPLACE CAT'S EYES AS NECESSARY.

Rev.	Description	Drawn	Sig.	Date	Checked	Sig.	Date	Appr.	Sig.	Date	Work Item

Rev.	Description	Drawn	Sig.	Date	Checked	Sig.	Date	Appr.	Sig.	Date

B3206 SHAWFIELD ROAD, ASH
 PEDESTRIAN FACILITY AND TRAFFIC CALMING
 SCHEME PLAN

6343

SURREY
 COUNTY COUNCIL
 Sustainable Development

6343/31
 PRESENTATION

