



**B3165 STRATFORD ROAD ASH
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SCHEME FOR
HOLLY LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

24th JUNE 2009

KEY ISSUE

This report recommends approval of the footway widening works along Frimley Road and Stratford Road up to Holly Lodge Primary school.

SUMMARY

The scheme consists of widening the existing footway from Holly Lodge school along Stratford Road and Frimley Road to the Guildford Borough boundary. It also provides an uncontrolled dropped crossing point with good visibility. A small splitter island is proposed to slow vehicles approaching the crossing location. The existing 'school warning' signs are to be replaced and may be enhanced with 'wig-wag' flashing amber lanterns.

Report by

Surrey Atlas Ref.

GBC HEAD OF OPERATIONAL
SERVICES

Pages 85, F1 and 105, F8

GUILDFORD B.C. WARD (S)

COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION (S)

ASH VALE

ASH

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) that the proposed footway widening, crossing point and splitter island, as shown on the drawing attached as **ANNEXE 1** be approved for implementation.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1 The pupils of Holly Lodge primary school generally arrive by 2 modes of transport, either by car or walk. They normally travel along either Lysons Avenue or Stratford Road. The school has some 420 pupils on the school roll. The school took out a School Travel Plan in 2004 to improve the health of the children and to contribute to a safer and more sustainable journey to and from school. The school has in the past had a very active walking bus which has now ceased operation but with the help of the safer routes scheme they hope to reinstate this.
- 2 A few years ago the County Council installed a controlled pedestrian crossing on Lysons Avenue and the Borough Council carried out some footway widening from the crossing to the school.
- 3 These proposals continue these improvements and include the widening of the footway into the verge along Frimley Road and Stratford Road to 2.5 metres for approx 307 metres, where possible. The existing width varies between 1.2 and 1.8 metres.
- 4 The crossing point will be installed at the point where the widening changes from one side of the road to the other.
- 5 The existing 'school warning' signs are in poor condition, these are to be replaced with new signs, possibly with a yellow background. In addition 'wig-wag' flashing amber lanterns are under consideration, in order to raise drivers' awareness as they approach the school. This is especially important, as many vehicles from the southwest may have just come off the A331 dual carriageway which is no more than 400m away, and vehicles may still be travelling above the speed limit.

SAFETY AUDIT

- 6 A Stage 2 Safety Audit was carried out on this scheme in February 2006 and its recommendations were addressed in the design.

CONSULTATIONS

- 7 Local Borough and County Councillors are fully supportive of the proposals. The Parish Council has been consulted and drawings of the scheme and a comments book were on display at the Ash Centre between 12 and 28 May 2009.

- 8 The residents of Frimley Road and Stratford Road, in the vicinity of the footway widening along with Holly Lodge School have been consulted by way of letter and were informed about the display at the Ash Centre.
- 9 Up to the time of drafting this report, 7 responses were received from the 67 residents consulted. These are summarised below:

Respondent	Address	Comments
Mrs Wingrove	Frimley Road	Supports the scheme. Asked would the footway widening affect her chances of applying for a new driveway?
Mr Melvin Taylor	Stratford Road	Supports the scheme. Highlighted concerns about the proposed splitter island on Stratford Road. Feels that it may impede the flow of traffic during the school pm pick up run when cars queue back up past where the island is to be constructed. Cars may park too close to island and will restrict through traffic, which includes HGV's and coaches. Flooding occurs on the highway at the proposed location of the island and vehicles then use the middle of the road to avoid the standing water. With the proposed island this may cause problems.
Mr John Hooker	Stratford Road	Supports the scheme. Raised concerns about the footway gully and verge, outside his house which is set low. Drivers sometimes park their vehicles on the verge and they become grounded on the road kerb. A bollard is needed to prevent vehicles parking on the verge and grounding the underside of their vehicles.
Mr Bowler	Frimley Road	Supports the scheme. Raised concerns as to whether widening the footway may encourage cars to park on the footway and verges. Cars currently turn around on the existing footway and verge causing damage to the verge. A request for bollards to be installed on the edges of verges was received. Cars obstructing the footway could be ticketed. Existing footway gullies are blocked, causing localised flooding, maintenance required.
Mrs Linda Trussler	Frimley Road	Supports the scheme. Queried what happened to the pelican crossing scheme that was proposed a few years ago on Mytchett Road in Surrey Heath.
Mr Lucas	Ash	Concerned about the flooding that occurs on Stratford Road at the proposed crossing location. Will the drainage be rectified?
Resident	Ash	Resident telephoned to complain about the speed of traffic along Stratford Road.

- 10 Most of the respondents expressed support for the scheme, while no objections were received. There were some minor issues were raised by the residents. These issues will be addressed together with the Local Highways Manager.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 11 The budget estimate for scheme is approx £26,000. The works are being funded by the Guildford Borough Council Minor Capitals Scheme programme.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 12 Providing a wider footway, will improve walking conditions, thereby encouraging more parents and pupils to walk to school bringing health benefits.

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 13 The proposal does not have any crime and disorder implications.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 14 The proposal does not have any equalities implications.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15 The proposed works will provide a better facility for pedestrians and hopefully will encourage a modal shift from arriving by car to walking. The Committee is therefore recommended to approve the scheme.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 16 Assuming that the officer recommendation is approved, the proposals will be implemented during the school summer holidays of 2009.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

ITEM 13, ANNEXE 1 : PLAN OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

