

Surrey County Council Local Committee (Guildford) 13 June 2012**Petitions [Item 4]**

Principal petitioner/organisation	Mr Rob Case-Green, on behalf of 185 signatories
SCC Division / GBC Ward	Worplesdon / Worplesdon
Summary of concerns and requests	<p>We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Introduce a safe crossing point next to the railway bridge on Salt Box Road, Guildford.</p> <p>A blind corner exists along Salt Box Road where it passes under the London to Portsmouth railway line. Immediately to the West of this bend a public bridleway crosses the road. This bridleway is used by many pedestrians as the main access point to Whitmoor Common, and the crossing is at the moment extremely dangerous.</p> <p>The road under the railway bridge does not have a pavement or verge. Therefore people wishing to walk under the bridge to access Britten's Pond have to walk in the road, a hazardous experience</p>
Response	<p>Salt Box Road is classified as the C14. Although classified as a 'C' ROAD, Salt Box provides a link for traffic from the west to access the A3 Trunk Road. It is heavily used in peak period with traffic queues at both its eastern and western junctions. Despite high traffic volumes there is only one reported accident in the vicinity of the bridge in the past five years, this being a two-vehicle accident.</p> <p>The request is for a safe crossing point of Salt Box Road for persons using Bridleway BW 434 which in this location runs parallel and to the west of the railway line. There is a restricted height (11'6") rail bridge to the immediate east of the crossing point, the road curves to go under the bridge. Salt Box Road is bounded by Common Land on either side. The petition also makes note that there is no footway under the rail bridge. The speed limit in this area is 40mph. The area is not within a system of street lighting. Currently there are signs advising of pedestrians in the road to either side of the crossing point. Due to the existing geometry of the road sight lines on at the crossing point are poor.</p> <p>A safe uncontrolled (non signalised) crossing point on line with Bridleway BW 34 cannot be provided, as the sight lines to the east cannot be improved. This means that any</p>

	<p>uncontrolled crossing point would have to be moved significantly, at least 80m with 100m being the desirable sight line, to the west – this would take the crossing point away from the desire line and hence make it very unlikely to be used. The position is compounded by the common land issues, as there is no automatic right for the Highway Authority to carry out construction on the Common Land, possibly precluding construction of a footway.</p> <p>With regard to pedestrians walking under the rail bridge, there is insufficient room to provide a footway under the bridge, while maintaining two way traffic flows.</p> <p>A solution to both the crossing of Salt Box Road for those using Bridleway BW434 and those wishing to walk under the railway bridge however is possible. The solution would be provision of traffic signals controlling flows under the bridge, basically making it alternate way. The signals would then allow footway construction on either side of the road under the railway bridge. The signals could also incorporate a pedestrian phase with push button controls to allow pedestrians and equestrians to cross the road while traffic in both directions is stopped. The traffic signal installation would require the area to be provided with a system of street lighting. The common land problem remains an issue.</p> <p>Traffic signals would have a significant impact on traffic flows in Salt Box Road leading to increase congestion, journey times and possibly rat running on other roads in the area.</p> <p>Costs for the signalised arrangement described above would be in the region of £150,000 and would entail the closure of Salt Box Road for their implementation.</p> <p>SCC officers would not recommend the implementation of the scheme described above to the local committee, since there have been no accidents involving pedestrians and the impact the introduction of traffic signals would have on congestion in Salt Box Road and the surrounding road network.</p> <p>Officers will investigate placing signs on the Bridleway as it approaches Salt Box Road advising those crossing of poor visibility and to cross at a point sufficiently far from the bridge that in their judgement they may cross the road safely.</p>
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