



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE REIGATE AND BANSTEAD

ROYAL ALEXANDRA AND ALBERT SCHOOL PETITION REPORT

21 JUNE 2010

KEY ISSUE

To consider a petition signed by local residents, parents, teachers and friends of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Reigate, organised by Mr Clamp, requesting Surrey County Council construct a signaled crossing over the A242 Gatton Park Road by the only pedestrian entrance to the school.

SUMMARY

A petition has been received, signed by 384 local residents, parents, teachers and friends of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School with the following heading:

"We, local residents, parents, teachers and friends of Royal Alexandra and Albert School, ask you to construct a safe traffic light crossing over the busy A242 by the only pedestrian entrance to the School as soon as possible."

A second petition on the same issue, signed by 207 pupils at the school was sent in addition, with the following heading:

"We, the students of Royal Alexandra and Albert School, ask you to construct a safe traffic light crossing over the busy A242 by the only pedestrian entrance to the School as soon as possible."

In support of their petition, the petitioners state that hundreds of children aged 7 to 18 attending the growing Royal Alexandra and Albert School in Reigate cross the busy A242 every week. They note that it is the only pedestrian entrance to the school, that there is no safe place to cross and that, despite speed restrictions, the A242 is a fast road used by many heavy vehicles. The petitioners believe that a serious accident is imminent and whilst they know that the local Highways Committee is considering a crossing, they need to show how much they need this crossing right now to protect children's' lives.

Response from the Local Highways Manager

The Royal Alexandra and Albert School is located in Gatton Park with vehicular access via Rocky Lane and an additional pedestrian entrance in Gatton Park Road opposite Monson Road. There is no footway on the northern side of Gatton Park Road. The speed limit in this section of Gatton Park Road is 30mph.

In July 2009 the Local Committee considered the five year forward programme of Integrated Transport Schemes for Reigate and Banstead, approving in principle work to be carried out in 2010/11. A review of safety issues including the investigation of crossing facilities on the A242 Gatton Park Road in the vicinity of the pedestrian entrance to the Royal Alexandra and Albert School was one of the schemes agreed in principle for this financial year.

The forward programme assumed that the total annual budget of £300,000 remained constant over the next five years. However, there is no Local Transport Plan or Local Allocation budgets allocated for Integrated Transport Schemes in Reigate and Banstead in 2010/11 and there is not expected to be any next financial year. Therefore, no funding has been allocated to progress crossing facilities on Gatton Park Road in 2010/11.

The review of safety issues on the A242 Gatton Park Road near Monson Road will remain on the forward programme although it is not possible at this stage to give any indication of when the work will be carried out. This will be dependent on funding becoming available and the programme will be subject to future Local Committee approval