



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)**

PETITION REPORT

**PETITION FOR THE CLOSURE OF
THE CENTRAL RESERVATION OF A217 AT
BUCKLAND ROAD/SMITHY LANE JUNCTION,
LOWER KINGSWOOD**

20 JUNE 2011

KEY ISSUE

To consider a petition calling for the closure of the central reservation of the A217 at the Buckland Road/Smithy Lane junction in Lower Kingswood.

SUMMARY

A petition has been received, signed by 33 residents, calling for the closure of central reservation on the A217 at the Buckland Road/Smithy Lane junction, in order to prevent the use of Smithy Lane as a rat run for morning traffic into Kingswood Fields and to improve safety at the junction.

Response from the Area Team Manager South East, Surrey Highways

Surrey Highways are aware of the concerns of residents that increasing volumes of traffic are using Smithy Lane to access the Kingswood Fields Business Park via the rear entrance in Green Lane. Officers have been working with the Divisional Member for the area, Mr Michael Gosling, to look at options for reducing the level of rat-running traffic in Smithy Lane. As a result, a letter from Mr Gosling was included in the latest issue of the Lower Kingswood Residents' Association's Village News inviting the views of local residents on the possibility of making Smithy Lane one-way northbound i.e. from the A217 to Green Lane. The aim of this consultation is to determine if there is sufficient support locally for the proposal to justify carrying out detailed investigation into one-way working in Smithy Lane.

Whilst the consultation period for receipt of comments on one-way working does not close until 24 June 2011, early indications are that the majority of the respondents do not support the proposal. A number of respondents have expressed particular concerns about the increase in traffic using Green Lane to access the A217 and the suitability of this junction in terms of sight lines and geometry to safely accommodate this increase.

The impact of one-way working on the local area, particularly on traffic levels in Green Lane, is similar to the effect that would result from closure of Smithy Lane at its junction with Green Lane, as proposed by the petitioners. Therefore, the concerns raised to date as part of the one-way working consultation would also apply to any closure of Smithy Lane.

Once all consultation responses have been received, a full analysis of the comments will be carried out and the results discussed with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Divisional Member and Area Team Manager. This discussion will consider both the one-way working proposal and the petitioners' request for the closure of Smithy Lane. The petitioners will be informed of the outcome of this discussion. If any changes are agreed, officers will ask the Local Committee to approve funding for an initial design in the next financial year, 2012/13.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Petition