



LOCAL COMMITTEE  
(RUNNYMEDE)

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION  
5th DECEMBER 2012

**1. Question from Mr John Healy, a resident of Virginia Water and spokesman for the Stroude Road Accident Blackspot Campaign**

“Will the Committee confirm that the following minimum campaign requirements have been recommended by the Highways Department, and confirm the earliest practicable implementation date?”

**Road marking requirements:**

1. “no overtaking” lines in the centre of the stretch of Stroude Road where three fatalities have occurred;
2. Prominent “Slow” markings on the approaches to the bend in this section of Stroude Road.

**Signage:**

1. Vehicle activated lit up signs which provide a sufficiently clear and graphic warning, e.g. Slow Down, with the added warning “Dangerous Bend”
2. Graphic posters with a hard hitting message, strategically located on the more distant approaches to this section of road – a typical suggestion has been made of a graphic image of a coffin, with a succinct message such as “Live and Let Live”, as used on the continent.

**Lighting:**

as proposed by BELRON including (it is understood) their offer to provide funding.”

**The Chairman has given the following reply with advice from the Highways team:**

“The Local Committee is aware that tragically there have been 3 fatal accidents in Stroude Road since 2005, and recognises that local residents feel strongly that further measures should be introduced to improve road safety. However, it also recognises the need to carefully examine relevant information and the potential effectiveness of any road safety measures considered for implementation.

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Surrey County Council (SCC) has previously erected upgraded signs to give drivers improved warning of the series of bends near Great Fosters Hotel. These signs were placed on yellow backing boards to increase their conspicuousness.

Following the latest fatal accident, Stroude Road was considered by the Runnymede Road Safety Working Group. This working group consists of specialist road safety officers from both Surrey Police and SCC and seeks to identify and implement road safety improvements at locations with a history of personal injury accidents.

Following discussions at the meeting, the working group visited the site and identified the following measures for further consideration:

- a double white line system in the centre of the carriageway through the series of bends near the Great Fosters Hotel (including the bend where the recent fatal accidents occurred).
- “SLOW” markings on the carriageway (these would be located adjacent to either the VAS or existing yellow back signs to increase the overall impact by creating more of a “gateway” effect).
- vehicle activated signs on both approaches to the bend where the recent fatal accidents occurred. These would display a bend warning sign combined with the wording “SLOW DOWN” (legislation does not permit the use of the wording “Dangerous Bend” as suggested).

The above proposals are being actively considered and both SCC Officers and Surrey Police feel they could provide a general improvement to road safety. However, it must be emphasised that as there is no clear pattern to the fatalities, none of these proposals would be likely to have prevented these tragic accidents from occurring.

It must also be recognised that the Police investigation into the latest accident is still ongoing, and for this reason it would be inappropriate at this stage to pre-empt the findings or recommendations of this by determining which safety improvements may be appropriate.

Initially, cost estimates are being obtained for each of the proposed measures. Following the conclusion of the Police investigation, and having established costs, SCC Officers (in consultation with Surrey Police) will then assess whether all or some of the measures should be implemented. Although there is presently no budget allocated for these proposals, if it is decided to proceed with installing any of the measures, then Officers will work with the Local Committee to identify a source of funding.

In the meantime, Surrey Police’s Casualty Reduction Team has been carrying out speed enforcement and high visibility patrols in Stroude Road. The Local Committee understands that Inspector Nield from Surrey Police has provided residents with information about the number of Police interventions (stops, arrests etc) in Stroude Road.

Whilst it is noted that residents have also suggested erecting posters displaying “hard hitting” images, this is not a measure being considered. SCC has used road safety posters to target

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certain locations in Runnymede in the past (including the 30mph section of Stroude Road). However, posters have usually been erected for a limited period of time as part of a rolling programme at sites with a 30mph speed limit. For posters to be legible on higher speed roads they would have to be larger which creates practical difficulties. Furthermore, in some circumstances posters may actually cause a distraction to drivers and could undermine the effectiveness of essential road traffic signs.

Finally, Belron is keen for lamp columns to be installed in the section of Stroude Road between New Wickham Lane and Whitehall Lane (where currently there is no street lighting). This is to improve personal safety for members of staff wishing to walk between Egham Station and their premises. Subject to the cost of the scheme, Belron have indicated they would be willing to fund the installation of the new columns. SCC and their street lighting contractor, Skanska, are therefore working to provide a cost estimate.

At present there are no proposals to install additional lamp columns in the remainder of Stroude Road. However, all existing lamp columns in Stroude Road will either be replaced or refurbished as part of a 5-year countywide replacement programme.

I hope that the above information is helpful and reassures residents that their concerns are recognised and are being acted upon.