

**Item 23**

RESPONSE TO A PETITION  
BUS ACCESS AT FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL, FRIMLEY

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SURREY HEATH

18 MARCH 2004

**KEY ISSUE:**

To advise members of the receipt of a petition and to receive the officers response.

**SUMMARY:**

The Surrey Heath Local Transportation Service has received a petition, via Surrey Heath Borough Council, from residents of Frimley Green. The petition contains 60 signatures and seeks improved bus access at Frimley Park Hospital, Frimley.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee note receipt of the petition and the action being taken by the Local Transportation Service.

**INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND**

1. The Local Transportation Service has received a petition, via Surrey Heath Borough Council, from residents of Frimley Green. The petition contains 60 signatures and seeks improved bus access at Frimley Park Hospital, Frimley. Many residents seeking access to the Hospital by bus are elderly and the new bus stop on Portsmouth Road now requires an additional walk.
2. More recently bus services at Frimley Park Hospital were improved by the amended Route 35 service. This forms part of a Quality Bus Partnership, operated by Arriva, and has increased the frequency of buses to the Hospital. The Route 35 service has benefited from other improvements along its route and a more detailed report was given at the last meeting of the Local Committee (15<sup>th</sup> January 2004 Local Committee - Item 24).

3. One improvement has been the introduction of low floor buses to assist disabled users and parents with pushchairs. Whilst these buses provide obvious benefits, their length is such that they can no longer turn within the Hospital grounds. As a result a new bus stop was provided outside the Hospital on Portsmouth Road.
4. Some bus accessibility remains within Frimley Park Hospital fronting the main Hospital entrance. However, at certain times of the day, access within the hospital is restricted, due to congestion and most bus operators allow their drivers the discretion to stop on Portsmouth Road to avoid these delays.

#### **ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

5. Following receipt of the petition the Surrey Heath Local Transportation Service has begun to investigate access problems within the Hospital grounds with a view to improving bus accessibility. Cllr Dr Coffin has funded this preliminary work from his member budget, which also supplements the major highway investigations currently being undertaken for the A325 Portsmouth Road.

#### **CONSULTATIONS**

6. The Local Transportation Office will continue its investigative work and undertake consultations with the Hospital on the problems found and any potential solutions. Consultations would be extended to all bus operators and users at the appropriate time.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no financial implications at this stage.

#### **DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

8. Surrey has embraced the concept of sustainable development, which is the foundation of Surrey's Local Transport Plan and is committed to the vision of making Surrey a better place. Funding from the integrated transport budget will be expended on projects and schemes in line with this vision whilst fulfilling its key commitments.

#### **CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9. Whilst the new bus stop on the Portsmouth Road directly fronts the Hospital it is likely that passenger confidence would be raised and the fear of crime decreased if buses were to stop within the Hospital Grounds again.

#### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10. When considering transportation improvements the County Council will assess the opportunities and constraints of pedestrian mobility impairment with the aim of achieving the best possible outcomes whilst having regard for budget and practicality. In this instance conditions do not currently permit bus access and this clearly creates difficulties for some users.

## **CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is no doubt that a desire exists overall to resume all bus termination within the Hospital grounds. This absence currently creates difficulty for some passengers and traffic movements in general along the Portsmouth Road would also benefit greatly from this. However, until congestion issues and turning constraints within the grounds can be overcome then buses will be required to stop on the Portsmouth Road.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: None**

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