

Item 18

GUILDFORD ROAD, LIGHTWATER – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO PEDESTRIAN/BUS FACILITIES

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
SURREY HEATH**

22 SEPTEMBER 2005

KEY ISSUE:

To advise members on the outcome of the consultation and make recommendations for Guildford Road in order to improve bus and pedestrians facilities.

SUMMARY:

Surrey Heath Local Transportation Committee set aside £70,000 in the 2005/6 LTP for improvements in Lightwater.

The Local Transportation Service has been in liaison with the 'Lightwater Business Association', amongst others, in order to design a scheme that is sympathetic to the needs of pedestrians, road users and local businesses.

The footways along Guildford Road are in places narrow, sporadic and congested. This can result in some pedestrians feeling intimidated by vehicles, particularly when crossing the road or when using the bus stops. The proposed scheme addresses these issues and provides a controlled pedestrian crossing point.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee in Surrey Heath:

- i. Approve the scheme as shown on Appendix A, for construction and implementation as soon as possible, subjected to funding availability.
- ii. Approve the advertising of a Notice in accordance with the Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose of installing the zebra crossing and delegate authority to the Local Transportation Director and his subsequent successor, in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee or in their absence by their delegated representatives, to resolve any objections received in relation to the Notice.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The Surrey Heath Transportation Office has been in close liaison with the 'Lightwater Business Association', to design a scheme that is intended to accommodate the needs of all pedestrians, particularly the elderly or the disabled. However, whilst we promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, it is appreciated that there will always be a dependency on the private car for certain trips. Therefore, the proposals have been designed with particular attention to maintaining the current level of legitimate parking and vehicular access to the various properties that align the road.

2. Much of the footways and parking areas, particularly adjacent to the shops, are private. Therefore, as with all schemes of this nature, the works would be confined to within the limits of the public highway.
3. Guildford Road ranges between 7.5m to 10.5m, allowing the reallocation of some areas of carriageway to provide wider footways, whilst keeping the established parking areas.
4. It is also appreciated that the existing speed table located adjacent to the butchers is an established crossing point, however, it's primary function is to discourage excessive speeds. Therefore, drivers are not obliged to 'Give Way' to pedestrians wishing to cross the carriageway.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

5. Guildford Road is a single carriageway which transverses from the southeast to the northwest within the heart of Lightwater.
6. The primary function of the proposed scheme is to make Guildford Road less intimidating for pedestrians. Should the scheme be introduced it is expected that the area would become a more attractive place to shop, particularly by local residents. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the improvements may encourage other landowners to consider environmental improvements.
7. Further to the consultation and safety audit it is proposed to install the zebra crossing at the site of the existing speed table. This would make it obligatory for drivers to 'Give Way' to pedestrians who are waiting to cross the road. Charcoal coloured anti-skid surfacing would be provided on the approaches to the crossing.
8. The bus stops would be realigned to ensure that full access can be achieved, whilst allowing the buses to occupy the stop without obstructing the main flow of traffic. The footways adjacent to the waiting areas would be widened, to address the congestion that currently exists.
9. Where possible, footways would be widened and extended to minimise congestion, provide continuity and ease intimidation. Pram ramps and tactile paving would be provided to modern standards to assist pedestrians when crossing the road. Dropped kerbs would be provided at some vehicular accesses, to make it obligatory for drivers to give way to pedestrians, whilst maintaining full vehicular access.
10. Consideration has also been given, within the scheme, to provide pram ramps and tactile paving at all other pedestrian crossing points, within the extents of the public highway. Elsewhere, vehicle crossovers are proposed to allow vehicular access, whilst making it obligatory for drivers to 'Give way' to pedestrians.
11. It is appreciated that parking is at a premium within the area and so no legitimate parking would be removed as a result of the proposals.
12. Surrey County Council has subsequently produced a scheme (**Improvements to Pedestrian/Bus Facilities – Annex A**) which encompasses the following features:
 - The introduction of a zebra crossing at an established crossing point.
 - New road markings, new permanent and temporary traffic signs.

- The introduction of wider footways that are pedestrian friendly, whilst being sympathetic to the need of road users.
- The introduction of pram ramps and tactile paving to assist pedestrians, particularly the visually impaired, to cross the road.
- Improved access to the bus stops, enabling the drivers to fully vacate the road when occupying the stop.
- Anti-skid surfacing on the approaches to the crossing.

CONSULTATION

13. Letters were sent to 123 local residents and business people, to the County Councillor and Borough Council members together with Surrey Police, the 'Lightwater Business Association', Arriva Buses, Passenger Transport and 'Windlesham Parish Council.'
14. A summary of the responses received is shown on **Annex B**. Any further responses will be reported to the meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The Local Committee set aside £70,000 for construction of the improvements in 2005/06 within the Local Transport Plan for the Lightwater area. It is a requirement that the funding be used during 2005/06, as carryovers are not permitted, this financial year. Although the Local Transportation Service has not received an estimate for works as yet, it will be available following the completion of the detailed design. However, it is believed that this sum will cover the implementation of the scheme.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

16. 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

17. The Surrey Heath Crime and Disorder strategy seeks to continually improve the safety of the community. The proposals are expected to help remove the illegitimate parking, as the pram ramps will be more distinguishable with the tactile paving. Furthermore, the bus stops will be more clearly defined, due to the proposed alignment.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

18. Across the range of transportation issues and problems to be addresses, the needs of all highway users require equal consideration. Proposals may benefit a particular group or individuals, but it is important to consider and address how one impact may worsen others.

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

19. It is recognised that pedestrian facilities along Guildford Road are poor and do little to attract pedestrians to the area. The bus facilities are also sub-standard and can result in poor access or the obstruction of the carriage.
20. The improvements are expected to make Guildford Road a more attractive place to shop, particularly for local pedestrians. The proposals may also encourage other land owners to carry out their own environmental improvements. Further liaison would

occur with the 'Lightwater Business Association', in order to programme the works to minimise any disruption to the adjacent businesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Local Committee in Surrey Heath:

1. Approve the scheme as shown on Appendix A, for construction and implementation as soon as possible, subjected to funding availability.
2. Approve the advertising of a Notice in accordance with the Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose of installing the zebra crossing and delegate authority to the Local Transportation Director and his subsequent successor, in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee or in their absence by their delegated representatives, to resolve any objections received in relation to the Notice.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Number of Annexes: 2 **A: Plan of Proposed Scheme**
B: Consultation Responses