

**Item 23**

**RESPONSE TO A PETITION  
TRAFFIC AROUND FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)**

8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2005

**KEY ISSUE:**

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

**SUMMARY:**

The Local Committee at its meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 received two petitions from residents of Frimley, containing 102 and 105 signatures respectively, strongly urging effort be put into traffic engineering within areas of Frimley to help alleviate severe congestion and indiscriminate on street parking.

The Local Committee has previously approved a highway improvement scheme for the Frimley Area and has provided funding for the investigation of parking problems around the Hospital. The report indicates the current position with regard to both proposals.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee:

- i. note the current position regarding the funding of intermediate schemes in relation to proposed works at Frimley;
- ii. agree the indicative programme contained in the report for the investigation, consultation and proposed implementation of a parking solution in the vicinity of Frimley Park Hospital;

## INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. The Local Committee at its meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 received two petitions from residents of Frimley, containing 102 and 105 signatures respectively. The petitions ***'strongly urge that planning effort be put into traffic engineering within these areas (Parkside & The Grove) with the aim of alleviating the present severe congestion'***. The term congestion is taken to include the problems of indiscriminate parking.
2. In addition to the two petitions the Local Transportation Service (LTS) has also received a letter from Mr Chas Bradfield, Director of Customer Services at Surrey Heath Borough Council. This followed a motion from Full Council and requests that ***'Surrey County Council undertake an urgent review of the situation in relation to traffic flow and parking around Frimley Park Hospital and to bring forward proposals for mitigation measures. We would also request that Surrey County Council reviews, as appropriate, any green travel plans pertinent to the area of Frimley Park Hospital'***.

### Highway Improvements

3. The Local Committee received a report in December 2004 regarding traffic improvement proposals for the Frimley area and in particular the junction known as 'Toshiba' roundabout. The Committee considered four options and resolved to implement in principal the introduction of traffic signals at the junction as the preferred means of addressing congestion and road safety, as well improving crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. The Committee also recognised that implementation of these relatively high cost measures would be dependant upon the availability of funds arising from development agreements in the Frimley area. Furthermore, the Committee authorised further investigative work on other lower cost measures to reduce congestion in Portsmouth Road.

### Parking

4. A review of parking in the vicinity of the hospital was considered as part of the highway improvement study. However, because some of the options being considered would displace parking more than others that this review be conducted following Committee approval of the preferred option. As a result of this budget provision was made by the Committee to undertake a parking review during the 2005/06 financial year.

## ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

### Highway Improvements

5. The estimated cost of highway improvements at 'Toshiba' is £750,000. As previously acknowledged by the Committee the implementation of the scheme would be dependant on funds arising from development agreements in the Frimley area. Whilst some contributions have been secured to assist with the project these are time limited and further sums cannot be presumed within that time. If further development funding does not become available then the consideration of LTP funding to support the scheme would need to be made.

6. The overall cost of the project and level of funding required means the scheme would be classed as an intermediate scheme under the County Council's funding allocation process and therefore out of the scope of the Committee's local budget. Intermediate scheme budgets are administered centrally although the ability to fund them has never been realistic due to the overall cost of schemes and the continued pressure of the integrated transport budget. As a result the method of funding intermediate schemes is to be reviewed and until this has been completed it will not be possible to forecast how such schemes will be approached in the future.
7. The Local Committee has previously nominated, as instructed, one intermediate scheme and currently this is the provision of safety fencing along the A322 Lightwater Bypass.

#### Hospital Travel Plan

8. The LTS holds regular meetings with the facilities department of Frimley Park Hospital. However, recent changes in personal have meant that these meetings will require re-scheduling. In addition a meeting is planned with Surrey's Travel Plan Officer due to the organisational changes within the Transportation Services structure.

#### Parking

9. The County Council in partnership with Surrey Heath Borough Council are scheduled to take over parking enforcement powers from the Police in 2006. This is more commonly known as Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE). To facilitate DPE it is a requirement that all existing parking orders within an area are consolidated. Therefore, it is not possible to continue implementing new restrictions whilst this process is ongoing and no new restrictions will be considered or implemented until after DPE has commenced. The commencement date for DPE was schedule for 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006 although there is still a need to resolve some legal issues meaning that it is unlikely to go live on that date. The actual start date of DPE would not affect the review of parking in the Frimley area.
10. Having assessed the area to be reviewed and given the work required to develop a solution(s) the timetable below gives an indicative programme for the development of parking controls in the area. This is realistic given the current level of resources available and the amount of other projects to be delivered during this period.

Initial Consultation	December 2005/January 2006.
Develop Ideas and possible solution(s)	February, March & April 2006.
Consultation	May/June 2006.
Local Committee approval	Summer 2006.
Subject to approval - Statutory processes	Summer/Early Autumn.
Possible Implementation	Mid – Late Autumn 2006.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### Highway Improvements

11. A consultative group was formed to identify traffic problems and help develop solution. The group met in August and October 2003. In January 2004 the Local Committee considered a report on the work carried out with the Consultative Group, and authorised public consultation on four options.
12. A public exhibition of the four options was held in Frimley in May 2004. The exhibition was advertised in local papers, and publicity leaflets were distributed in the Frimley area. During the three days over 500 people attended. The exhibition set out the current situation at the Toshiba junction, describing peak hour queue lengths, traffic flows, accident records, traffic speeds, pedestrian & cycle movements and bus services. Four options were presented, and for each the main advantages and disadvantages were listed.

### Parking

13. Initial consultation will be undertaken by writing to local residents seeking information where problems are encountered and for views on potential solutions. This information would be used to form solutions, which would be subject to further consultation prior to seeking Committee approval and implementation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. The County Council has previously made budget provision in the 2005/06 financial year to investigate options for parking control. Further funding to implement any parking control measures will be required in subsequent years.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15. 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**

16. It is clear that indiscriminate parking in the vicinity of the hospital has increased over time and in particular more recently. Obstruction of driveways and parking close to junctions are mentioned frequently by residents and through reports from the Police. It is clear that some parking controls would help reduce the number of reported instances.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

17. Across the range of transportation issues and problems to be addressed 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**

18. The Local Committee has previously made budget provision for the investigation of parking problems in the vicinity of the hospital. Without some level of parking control the problems experienced currently by residents will continue and worsen over time meaning it essential for a satisfactory solution.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee:

- i. note the current position regarding the funding of intermediate schemes in relation to proposed works at Frimley;
- ii. agree the indicative programme contained in the report for the investigation, consultation and proposed implementation of a parking solution in the vicinity of Frimley Park Hospital.

**Report by: Ian Haller, Local Transportation Manager, Surrey Heath  
Transportation Service**

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: Petitions presented to Local Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup>  
September 2005.  
Letter from Surrey Heath Borough Council dated  
25 October 2005.  
Report to the Local Committee 'Toshiba'  
Roundabout on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2004.**

Version No. 1    Date: 28/11/05    Time: 17.31    Initials: ILH    No of annexes: 0

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