

Item 19

**Upper Chobham Road, Camberley
Proposed Footway**

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)

18th July 2006

KEY ISSUE:

To advise members on the outcome of the consultation and to seek approval for the construction of a footway along the eastern side of Upper Chobham Road, Camberley.

SUMMARY:

The Local Transportation Service has progressed a scheme to implement a footway to improve pedestrian safety along Upper Chobham Road for children and parents. This will improve pedestrian links to Carwarden, Ravenscote Tomlinscote and St Augustine's Schools.

The footway will run along the eastern side of Upper Chobham Road between its junctions with Old Bisley Road and Goldney Road. Works would entail cutting into the verge area on this side of the road together with selective vegetation removal and the construction of a bituminous footway. Street lighting improvements would also need to be made along this side of the road. This improvement would bring positive benefits to parents, school children and residents in the local area.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Surrey Heath Local Committee:

- i. note the comments listed in Annex A, following the consultation,
- ii. approve the scheme to construct a footway along the eastern side of Upper Chobham Road, between Old Bisley Road and Goldney Road, as indicated in Annex B,
- iii. that the scheme be programmed for implementation, within the existing budgets and at the earliest opportunity.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The Surrey Heath Transportation Service continues to promote safety at Schools and the Local Committee has shown a continuing commitment to Surrey's Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) programme. Some schools actively promote walking and cycling whilst others encourage parents to park away from the Schools to improve safety and ease congestion. Carwarden House, Ravenscote, Tomlinscote and St Augustine's Schools, local to the proposal, are keen to extend the availability of walking to parents and pupils. Some residents in the area have also requested a footway to improve pedestrian provision and help safety along this section of Upper Chobham Road.
2. Following a review in 2005 it was proposed to construct a footway along the eastern side of Upper Chobham between Old Bisley Road and Goldney Road. Subsequently, money was set-aside from the 2006/07 devolved LTP budget in order for construction to take place.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

3. At present there is only a footway on the western side of Upper Chobham Road between Prior Road and Chobham Road. Many parents still choose to drive their children to the four local Schools but previous Safe Routes to Schools improvements have enabled and offered many more opportunities for walking. To encourage this further and to improve pedestrian safety a new footway is proposed along the eastern side of Upper Chobham Road between the junctions of Old Bisley Road and Goldney Road. This would particularly benefit those people walking from the Heatherside area. The extent of the proposal is shown in Annex B.
4. The footway would enable parents and pupils to access Carwarden and Ravenscote Schools without the need to cross at the top end, near to Prior Road and back again later. The footway would also benefit those seeking to access Tomlinscote and St Augustine's Schools, as they would be able to use the new footway and cross Upper Chobham Road using the School Crossing patrol outside Ravenscote School. This is seen as a major benefit and one that would influence and offer greater choice for getting to and from School.

CONSULTATION

5. Letters were sent to the County Council and Borough Council ward members, Surrey Police, the Head Teachers of Carwarden, Ravenscote, Tomlinscote and St Augustine's Schools as well as local residents. These were sent out the 10th May 2006 and asked for responses by the 2nd June 2006.
 - A summary of the responses received, are shown in Annex A.
 - A number of varied comments were received and the main ones are discussed below.
 - a. **Could the speed limit be further reduced along the road?**

There are no plans at present time to reduce the speed limit along Upper Chobham Road or to implement traffic calming measures as it is difficult to attract funding unless a speed related accident history exists. There is no such problem along this section of the road and speed data collected

suggests that vehicle speeds along it are within an acceptable range of the limit. However, it has been agreed to provide additional marker posts on the bend of Upper Chobham Road near to Carwarden House School. Also to give community reassurance this section of Upper Chobham Road has been added to the sites for the use of 'Interactive Speed Signs'.

b. Could the footway be used as a cycleway?

Unfortunately due to the constraints of vegetation and residents' boundary fences/walls the Local Transportation Office is only able to construct a footway that is 1.8 metres wide. It will not be possible to also provide a cycling facility.

c. Will vegetation have to be removed from the verge area?

There will have to be some vegetation removal along the length to facilitate construction, to clear the lantern heads on lamp columns and to enable pedestrians to walk safely along the length. Upper Chobham Road is designated as a 'Green Corridor' under the Borough's Local Plan 2000 and Surrey would seek to avoid removing, unnecessarily, any trees or vegetation. If relevant the scheme would seek to relocate or replace any vegetation removed. Some lighting columns will be relocated or upgraded to bring the lighting up to standard, but this will not have a detrimental effect on the area or neighbouring properties.

d. Can the scheme be constructed during the school summer holidays?

It will not be possible to carry out the works in the School summer holidays due to the timing of the Local Committee. Whilst it is not possible to mobilise the contractor for the summer period it is possible that construction could be undertaken to include the autumn half-term week. The works are likely to take approximately four weeks to complete.

e. What will be done to prevent vehicles parking on the footway?

Street furniture such as bollards to prevent parking or additional safety features such as railings can be considered at the detailed design phase although these can cause future maintenance problems. Following completion of the footway the location would be monitored and a view taken as to whether it may be necessary to consider parking restrictions or other preventative measures.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. £100,000 has been set aside from the 2006/07 devolved LTP Budget for construction. Until the detailed design has been completed it is uncertain whether the entire length from Old Bisley Road to Goldney Road will be constructed. It is expected that at least the section from Old Bisley Road to Winding Wood Drive will be achievable and this will still greatly benefit residents and children from the Heatherside area.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

7. 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 AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8. The Surrey Heath Crime and Disorder strategy seeks to continually improve the safety of the community. Measures to reduce congestion and improve pedestrian facilities will assist this strategy.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9. Throughout the scheme development process the Local Transportation Service 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. A trained officer also assesses relevant schemes and consults with the local disabled access group (DASH) regarding any potential difficulties.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Number of Annexes: 2

A: Consultation Responses

B: Extent of the proposed footway