

Item 28

**A322 GUILDFORD ROAD, BISLEY
PROPOSED EQUESTRIAN CROSSING AND SHARED
CYCLEWAY/FOOTWAY**

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

26th July 2007

KEY ISSUE:

To seek authority to:

- advertise the introduction of a signal controlled crossing for the combined use of equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians.
- permit sections of footway to be widened and used by cyclists.

SUMMARY:

As part of the A322 Route Management Study a package of highway improvement measures have been developed for the A322 Guildford Road. These measures are gradually being introduced as funding is secured.

The Local Committee for Surrey Heath has agreed that 2 further schemes proposed by the study should be implemented as part of the approved 2007/08 Local Transport Plan programme for Surrey Heath. These schemes are as follows:

- A signal controlled equestrian crossing with combined crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, at the point where public bridleway 147 crosses the A322 Guildford Road.
- A shared cycleway/footway on the eastern side of the A322 Guildford Road between its junctions with Limecroft Road and Clews Lane.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee

- i. Approve the advertisement of a public notice in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effects of which will be to install an equestrian crossing combined with pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities at the point where bridleway 147 crosses the A322 Guildford Road as shown in Annex 1.
- ii. Approve the use of the footway along the eastern side of the A322 Guildford Road, Bisley as a shared cycleway/footway over the length shown in Annex 1.
- iii. Approve that the Local Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee and Local Members consider any representations received in response to the public notice or any issues arising following completion of the detailed design of the proposed measures.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Following its decision in September 1997 to abandon the proposed Knaphill, Bisley and West End bypass, Surrey County Council opted to undertake a Route Management Study along the length of the A322 between its junctions with the A319 Bagshot Road and the D3000 Cemetery Pales.
2. As a result of the study a package of highway improvements were developed for the A322 and these are gradually being implemented as funding becomes available.
3. The Local Committee for Surrey Heath has agreed that 2 further schemes proposed by the study should be progressed as part of the 2007/08 Local Transport Plan Programme for Surrey Heath. These schemes are as follows:
 - A signal controlled equestrian crossing with combined crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at the point where public bridleway 147 crosses the A322 Guildford Road, Bisley.
 - A shared cycleway/footway on the eastern side of the A322 Guildford Road between its junctions with Limecroft Road and Clews Lane.
4. In order to progress these schemes, approval is required from the Local Committee to:
 - allow the conversion of the existing footway to a shared cycleway/footway.
 - to advertise a statutory public notice detailing the proposed introduction of the crossing.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

5. The proposed length of cycle route will run along the eastern side of the A322 Guildford Road between Clews Lane and Limecroft Road, providing a link between existing facilities at these junctions. It is intended that further lengths of cycle route will be created in the future to link with other existing facilities to provide a continuous route.
6. The introduction of the shared footway/cycleway will involve widening the existing footway to provide sufficient width to allow its use by both pedestrians and cyclists, installing signs to indicate the shared footway/cycleway, implementing lighting improvements and making some changes to carriageway markings to enhance safety.
7. Measures will also be introduced to help highlight the edge of carriageway and footway area outside the Fox Garage where there have been ongoing issues with vehicles causing obstruction for pedestrians. These measures will assist the Police in taking action if obstruction of the area continues to occur. In the longer term Surrey County Council will seek to secure the provision of a footway surface with a full height kerb as part of a potential development of the site.
8. The proposed equestrian crossing will be located at the point where bridleway 147 crosses the A322 Guildford Road. The crossing will incorporate a holding area on its approaches, equestrian type signal aspects and equestrian push button units mounted at high level to allow equestrians to register a demand without dismounting.
9. The equestrian crossing will be combined with a crossing facility for cyclists and pedestrians. The equestrian and pedestrian/cycle parts of the crossing will be segregated but will form part of the same signal installation.

CONSULTATION

10. Consultation has previously been undertaken with the Parish Council and local residents about the potential for introducing the proposed shared cycleway/footway.
11. The Parish Council indicated their support for the scheme but requested that the maximum possible area of grass verge be retained.
12. A number of residents suggested that the shared cycleway/footway should be provided on the opposite side of the road (western side) since drivers emerging from driveways would have better visibility of any approaching cyclists. However, providing the shared cycleway/footway on the eastern side will allow greater potential to link it to other existing cycle routes to create a continuous route without the need for cyclists to keep crossing between opposite sides of the road. The visibility concerns highlighted by residents will be considered further as part of the detailed design to see whether any measures can be incorporated into the scheme to try and overcome them.
13. Letters have recently been sent to those residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed equestrian crossing. Any comments received prior to the 26th July 2007 will be reported verbally to the Local Committee at the meeting.
14. In accordance with statutory requirements, a public notice will be advertised prior to the installation of the crossing and a minimum period of 21 days will then be allowed for any representations to be submitted in response to the notice.
15. Consultation has been undertaken with Surrey Police who have raised no objection to the proposals at this stage. Further consultation will be undertaken once the detailed design has been completed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. £160,000 has been allocated from the 2007/08 devolved Local Transport Plan budget for Surrey Heath to fund the detailed design and implementation of the proposed measures.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. The proposed improvements for cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians support the concept of sustainable travel and contribute towards the aim of reducing reliance on the car.

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

18. The Surrey Heath Crime and Disorder strategy seeks to continually improve the safety of the community. Measures to improve facilities for cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians will assist this strategy.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

19. 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.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Number of Annexes: 1