



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE**  
(Surrey Heath)

**Response to a Petition**

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**KEY ISSUE**

This report is to update members on the response to the petition requesting a safe place to cross Church Hill, Camberley.

**SUMMARY**

A petition containing 177 signatures was presented to the Local Committee at its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The petition requested a safe place to cross Church Hill, Camberley and called upon the Committee to approve funding for a controlled pelican crossing on Church Hill, Camberley by St Paul's Church to replace the existing traffic refuge.

A previous investigation explored the possibility of providing a controlled pedestrian crossing at the junction of Crawley Hill/Church Hill and Crawley Ridge and this followed Surrey's Safe Routes to Schoolwork with Crawley Ridge Infant and Junior Schools. The investigation looked at a number of options at the top of the hill each requiring improvement to the junctions of Crawley Ridge and Waverley Drive. Due to the poor road alignment at this location both vertical and horizontal visibility was checked for each option and in each case the minimum desirable standard could not be achieved resulting in none of the options being considered appropriate.

It would be possible to conduct a check on the location of the existing refuge, which was not investigated previously. However, this is still likely to result in difficulties due to the requirement for visibility and current design standards. A further possibility could be to consider if the junction of Waverley Drive/Grange Road could be engineered sufficiently on the west side to theoretically bring the location of a crossing further eastward (or slightly further toward the crest of the hill).

There is no capability to undertake this further investigation in the current financial year due to other commitments. However, the work could be programmed during the 2008/09 financial year should members decide to proceed.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath)

- i. agrees to undertake the further investigation required to determine if a controlled crossing can be provided on Church Hill, and
- ii. agrees to make budget provision in the 2008/09 financial year to undertake the work.

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. A petition containing 177 signatures was presented to the Local Committee at its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The petition requested a safe place to cross Church Hill, Camberley and calls upon the Committee to approve funding for a controlled pelican crossing on Church Hill, Camberley by St Paul's Church to replace the existing traffic refuge.

**ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

2. A previous investigation explored the possibility of providing a controlled pedestrian crossing at the junction of Crawley Hill/Church Hill and Crawley Ridge. This followed Surrey's Safe Routes to School work with Crawley Ridge Infant and Junior Schools. During discussions with parents and the School a crossing facility was considered to be a desirable aid to assist with parents wishing to walk their children to school.
3. The investigation looked at a number of options at the top of the hill each requiring improvement to the junctions of Crawley Ridge and Waverley Drive. The locations of the crossings in each case were situated between the two junctions as this offered the best location to benefit the pedestrians crossing desire line. In each case the crossing position was slightly different and requiring kerblines changes to the adjacent junctions.
4. Due to the poor road alignment and this location both vertical and horizontal visibility was checked in detail for each option and in each case the minimum desirable standard could not be achieved. This was deemed an unacceptable risk and none of the options were taken forward.
5. At that time the existing location of the refuge was not considered mainly because it was away from the ideal desire line for pedestrians crossing. It is possible to conduct a check on this location although it is still likely to result in difficulties due to the requirement for vertical visibility and current design standards. A further possibility could be to consider if the junction of Waverley Drive/Grange Road could be engineered sufficiently on the west side to theoretically bring the location of a crossing further eastward (or slightly further toward the crest of the hill). The disadvantage of both these positions is that the crossing would not meet everyone's direct needs although the use of the crossing is likely to be an individual decision and one that may well be made differently by the same person depending on the time of day. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the level of usage but this could be considered in further if the alternative locations were investigated.
6. There is no capability to undertake the further investigation in the current financial year due to other commitments. However, the work could be programmed during the 2008/09 financial year should members decide to proceed.

**CONSULTATION**

7. The local member has been consulted and supports the provision of further investigations to determine if a suitable location exists for a crossing.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. Further investigations will require budget provision to be made. It is estimated that this could cost up to £3,000 and would typically be funded from the Local Allocation budget. Traditionally this budget has been made available to Local Committees but at this early stage it has not been confirmed if one is available in 2008/09. Should members agree to proceed with further investigation then a commitment would be required either from this budget or from an alternative source.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

9. Surrey has embraced the concept of sustainable development, which is the foundation of the County Council's Local Transport Plan, and it is committed to the vision of making Surrey a better place. The proposed Speed Management Programme will contribute towards making Surrey's roads safer for all users.

**CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no direct implications with regard to a request or the provision of a crossing although the petitioners refer to the high traffic speeds along Church Hill and surrounding roads. Speeding is identified as a main concern for residents in Surrey Heath and Surrey remains committed to working with the Surrey Police to tackle issues of speeding and to provide speed management and other measures wherever possible. Speed management measures are currently being considered for the road.

**EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11. 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 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. There is no doubting that a pedestrian crossing would provide additional assistance to pedestrians needing to cross Church Hill and Crawley Hill. This would not only assist parents and school children but the many other users who require access to local facilities. An improved crossing point would also assist access to the bus stops at those locations. There are off course no guarantees that the alternative locations, referred to in the report, would enable a controlled crossing to be provided but given that these options have not been looked at in detail it would be sensible to undertake a the detailed investigation.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

13. Should members agree to proceed with the further investigation then budget provision would be made for the 2008/09 financial year and the work programmed amongst the other projects in that year.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None

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