



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE Tandridge

### NEW ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENT AT JUDGES CORNER, COPTHORNE SCHEME UPDATE AND PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT

02 October 2009

#### KEY ISSUE

To provide a progress report about the new roundabout being constructed at Judges Corner, Copthorne and to seek approval to implement a 40mph speed limit on the roads immediately surrounding it.

#### SUMMARY

A new roundabout scheme for Judges Corner was approved by the Local Committee on 26 January 2007 and funding of £900,000 for the works was agreed by the Executive on the 26 March 2007. The scheme is intended to reduce collisions and improve road safety at the junction of the B2028 West Park Road and B2037 Snow Hill/Effingham Road, a long standing accident site.

Since that time the detailed design, land acquisition and construction have started. This report provides an update and seeks approval for a new 40mph speed limit on the roads around the roundabout.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the progress to complete the new roundabout
- ii) Approve the imposition of a 40mph speed limit, subject to the usual statutory procedures, on the roads surrounding Judges Corner as shown in Annex 2.

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The junction of the B2028 West Park Road with the B2037 Snow Hill and Effingham Road in Copthorne is known as Judges Corner.
- 1.2 The old junction was originally a crossroads that was altered in about 1960 to a staggered crossroads. The junction stagger was substandard and heavy traffic flows made it a difficult junction to use. Long queues formed in the peak periods and some traffic used other routes to avoid the perceived dangers of the junction.
- 1.3 There were 57 recorded traffic incidents involving personal injury in the 14 year period between 1995 and 2008. These 57 incidents resulted in 108 casualties, of which 12 involved a serious injury.
- 1.4 The roundabout has been designed to meet Department of Transport Design Standards which to some extent dictate its shape and size. The new design could not be accommodated within the extent of the existing highway at the junction and consequently additional land has been acquired from surrounding properties.
- 1.5 Surrey County Councils Contractor, Bardon Contracting started work at the site in May 2009. The original contract period was planned for 6 months and the layout of the new roundabout is shown in Annex 1. Bardon started by carrying out some site clearance and then utility companies took over the site in order to divert some of their existing equipment to suit the new layout.
- 1.6 Utility companies have a statutory right to place their cables and ducts in or under the highway and when a highway authority such as Surrey County Council wants to change the road layout it is necessary to divert any affected apparatus at the expense of the Highway Authority.
- 1.7 British Gas, Virgin, East Surrey Water, BT and EDF started work to divert their apparatus to suit the new road layout in March 2009. This work required road closures for safety and was carried out by the utility companies concerned. Problems and delays were encountered by British Gas and Sutton and East Surrey Water who found unrecorded equipment that needed to be moved in addition to their planned work. This has extended the overall construction period.
- 1.8 Traffic flows have been maintained through the site where possible however road closures have been in operation to ensure the safety of the contractors workforce and the public while construction is underway. It also allows the works to be completed more quickly and efficiently than attempting to maintain traffic flows through the site.
- 1.9 The northern section of West Park Road was initially closed to allow construction of that half of the roundabout and then opened in mid

August. The southern part of West Park Road was then closed to allow the construction of the other half.

- 1.10 Initially it was thought that the overall scheme would be completed in September however the utility company diversionary works took longer than planned and the programmed completion date is for mid to late October.
- 1.11 The Contractor has increased their working week from 5 to 6 days to improve performance in an effort to make good delays and reopen the road as soon as possible.
- 1.12 The roundabout has been designed to meet current standards however the detailed design and safety audit process recommended that a 40mph (rather than the existing 50mph limit) speed limit be introduced on the roads immediately surrounding the roundabout to reduce approach speeds.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 Judges Corner has long straight approaches from all directions and it is proposed that as well as the usual warning signs, that the speed limit is reduced from 50 to 40 mph on all of these approaches as shown in Annex 2. A reduction in approach speeds should reduce the likelihood of shunt type accidents and vehicles over running the central island.
- 2.2 The speed limit signing can be introduced at the same time as the roundabout construction work.

## **3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The expected scheme cost is approximately £900,000 and is funded as an Intermediate scheme from the Local Transport Plan settlement from central government. The additional cost of the speed limit is in the region of £6000 and can be paid for by the contingencies allowance in the scheme budget.

## **4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications associated with this work.

## **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this work.

**6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The new roundabout at Judges Corner should prove to be a much safer junction than the previous layout. The proposed 40mph speed limit will help drivers approach the roundabout at a speed more appropriate to the new road layout.

**7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 To improve safety at the new roundabout.

**8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 8.1 The new speed limits will be formally advertised and implemented with the roundabout scheme.

**LEAD OFFICER:** David Curl  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 08456 009009  
**E-MAIL:** [east Surrey highways@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:east Surrey highways@surreycc.gov.uk)  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Dave Pearcey  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 08456 009009  
**E-MAIL:** [east Surrey highways@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:east Surrey highways@surreycc.gov.uk)  
**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**