



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

ROOK LANE, CHALDON PROPOSED FOOTWAY EXTENSION

9th December 2011

KEY ISSUE

To consider the results of a public consultation into the proposed extension of the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon and to seek approval for implementation.

SUMMARY

A feasibility study was carried out in 2008 to investigate options for addressing the parking issues in the vicinity of St Peter & St Paul's School in Rook Lane, Chaldon. The study recommended that the existing footway to the east of the school could be extended to provide an additional area where parents could park to safely drop off/collect their children. Public consultation was carried out in October 2011 which indicated strong support for the proposal. Therefore it is suggested that the footway extension is approved for implementation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the results of the public consultation regarding the proposed extension of the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon; and
- (ii) Agree that the extension of the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon be approved for construction.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Chaldon Village Plan, published in 2007 by the Parish Council, sought to seek solutions to problems caused by parking on Rook Lane adjacent to St Peter and St Paul's school. A length of footway extending eastwards from the school was constructed several years ago in order to provide convenient access to the school for those drivers parking in Rook Lane. This provision is no longer sufficient for the numbers of cars being parked in the vicinity of the school and increasingly drivers have been parking on the south side of Rook Lane to the west of the school where a double white line system is in place. In the past the Police have expressed concerns over this practice.
- 1.2 A feasibility study was carried out in 2008 to investigate these issues and put forward possible solutions. The study recommended that the existing footway to the east of the school be extended to provide an additional area where parents could park to safely drop off/collect their children.
- 1.3 The five-year forward Integrated Transport Scheme programme approved by Local Committee in July 2009 made provision for the footway extension in Rook Lane to be progressed in 2010/11 – 2011/12. In September 2010, Local Committee agreed to part fund the scheme, contributing up to £15,000. Chaldon Parish Council has agreed to contribute towards the remaining cost of the scheme.
- 1.4 A petition was presented to Local Committee in June 2011 asking the Local Committee to reconsider the proposed Rook Lane footway extension scheme. One of the petitioners' concerns related to the lack of consultation on the proposal. It was agreed that full consultation would be carried out with all residents and businesses in Chaldon Parish and with the emergency services and other interested parties.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 A letter, plan and questionnaire were delivered to 670 residents and businesses in Chaldon Parish in October 2011. The consultation documents are attached as **Annex 1(a)**. The views of the emergency services, other County services and the Tandridge Access Group were also sought.
- 2.2 A total of 258 responses have been received, a response rate of 39%. Of these, 177 respondents (69%) were in favour of the proposal and 81 respondents (31%) were against. Additional comments were received from some respondents and these are summarised in **Annex 2**.
- 2.3 A further 7 responses have been received from residents living outside of Chaldon Parish, all in favour of the proposal.
- 2.4 The Fire Service has no objections to the proposed footway extension. No response has been received from the Ambulance service. The views of the Police will be reported verbally at the meeting. The County's Travel Advisor

for Tandridge supports the proposals and comments that the parked vehicles will act as traffic calming for vehicles travelling at inappropriate speeds. The County's Cycling Officer advised that he had no comments to make on the proposal. The Tandridge Access Group are also supportive but comment that they would wish to see the footway constructed at the correct widths and gradients.

- 2.5 The Head Teacher and Chair of Governors of St Peter & St Paul's school both support the proposal. The school has commented that they have been proactive over the years in trying to find a solution to the parking problems and have introduced a number of changes to try to improve the safety of children at the start and end of the school day. They have also met with local residents to discuss the proposed footway extension. The school's primary concern is the safety of the children and fully supports the proposed footway extension. The solution would also benefit the large numbers of people who use the village hall on a daily basis.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 The 2008 feasibility report considered two options: extension of the existing footway construction and the provision of a lay-by. The report concluded that the only feasible option was the footway extension with the lay-by option being rejected on technical grounds (levels and gradient). The footway extension provides a facility for the occupants of parked cars to alight and access the school and was the subject of recent consultation.
- 3.2 The proposal includes extending the existing lower footway to the east for a distance of approximately 80 metres to provide a new footway of 2 metres in width. The embankment would be re-profiled and 2 lamp columns and a School warning sign with wig-wags would be relocated to the back edge of the new footway. There would be minor amendments to the existing kerblines to ensure there is adequate road width to accommodate the parking. The new length of footway would be able to accommodate around eleven parked cars. The proposal is shown on the plan attached as **Annex 1(b)**.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Full consultation on the option to extend the existing footway in Rook Lane was carried out in October 2011, the results of which are reported in section 2 above.
- 4.2 A Stage 2 (detailed design) Road Safety Audit will be carried out on the proposed footway extension.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of extending the footway in Rook Lane is approximately £25,000, although this figure may change as costs have not yet been finalised. £15,000 of the cost of the works will be met from the Integrated Transport

Schemes capital budget 2011/12. Chaldon Parish Council has agreed to contribute towards the remaining cost of the scheme.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Highway Service is mindful of its needs within this area and attempts to treat all users of the public highway with equality and understanding.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A well-managed highway network can reduce fear of crime and allow the Police greater opportunity to carry out their enforcement duties.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Full consultation with local residents and businesses in Chaldon Parish, the emergency services and other interested parties has indicated a strong level of support for the proposal to extend the footway in Rook Lane, to the east of St Peter & St Paul's School. It is therefore recommended to proceed with the implementation of the proposal.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To provide a new length of footway to the east of St Peter & St Paul's School where parents can park to safely drop off/collect their children.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Subject to Local Committee approval, the design of the footway extension will be finalised, incorporating any changes recommended by the Stage 2 Road Safety Audit, and the scheme will be constructed before the end of the 2011/12 financial year.

LEAD OFFICER: John Lawlor, Area Team Manager (SE)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009

E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk

CONTACT OFFICER: Anita Guy, Engineer

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009

E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Report: Rook Lane, Chaldon, published January 2009
Local Committee reports: July 2009, September 2010
Petition to Local Committee: June 2011