



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

### **ROOK LANE, CHALDON PROPOSED FOOTWAY EXTENSION**

**7 September 2012**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

To seek approval for implementation of the proposed extension of the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon.

#### **SUMMARY**

Following full public consultation in October 2011, Tandridge Local Committee approved, in principle, the extension of the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon for construction. A complaint was then received that raised concerns about the assessment and prioritisation of the scheme, the decision making processes followed and the involvement of Chaldon Village Council. The complainant asked that the issue be revisited before any work commenced. A full investigation of the complaint has been carried out and it was concluded that there were no grounds to uphold the complaint and that a further report would be brought to Local Committee to seek final approval for scheme implementation.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:**

- (i) Note the findings of the investigation into a complaint regarding the processes followed in developing and approving a scheme to extend the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon; and
- (ii) Approve the extension of the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon for construction.

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A report was considered by Local Committee on 9 December 2011 which set out the results of a consultation carried out with all residents and businesses in Chaldon Parish, the emergency services and other interested parties. A total of 258 responses were received, a response rate of 39%. Of these, 177 respondents (69%) were in favour of the proposal and 81 respondents (31%) were against.
- 1.2 Members agreed that the outcome of the consultation was compelling and agreed that the extension of the footway in Rook Lane, Chaldon be approved, in principle, for construction.
- 1.3 A complaint was subsequently received in April 2012. The complaint can be broken down into three main areas of concern: the use of the CASEM (Congestion, Accessibility, Safety, Environment and Maintenance) tool to assess and prioritise the scheme, the decision making processes followed and the involvement of Chaldon Village Council. The complainant requested that the whole issue be revisited before any work commenced.
- 1.4 This report summarises the findings of the investigation carried out by Officers in response to the complaint and seeks final approval to implement the footway extension in Rook Lane.

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 **CASEM Assessment and Prioritisation:** The CASEM methodology was endorsed by the Tandridge Local Committee in March 2006 for use to assess and prioritise schemes based on the objectives of the Local Transport Plan. The Rook Lane footway scheme was scored using CASEM in 2007 and at that time was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of the 71 schemes assessed. The scheme was re-assessed in 2009 and ranked 16<sup>th</sup> out of 69 schemes assessed. On the basis of the CASEM scores and taking into account available funding, Local Committee agreed to include the Rook Lane footway scheme on the Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) forward programme.
- 2.2 **Decision Making Process:** From the first time the Rook Lane scheme was included on the Tandridge ITS forward programme in 2007 through to the most recent 'in principle' approval for scheme construction, all the correct County processes and procedures have been followed. Decisions have been made through the Local Committee process, meetings of which have been held in public and are minuted.
- 2.3 As part of this democratic process, a petition was submitted to Local Committee in June 2011. In recognition of the concerns expressed in the petition, the Local Committee asked that a full consultation be

carried out. Taking into consideration the results of the consultation, Local Committee agreed in December 2011 to approve, in principle, the construction of the Rook Lane footway extension.

- 2.4 **Chaldon Village Council:** A number of issues have been raised regarding the involvement of Chaldon Village Council in this scheme. Surrey Highways cannot comment on the processes, consultations and decisions made by Chaldon Village Council.
- 2.5 **Environmental Concerns:** To address concerns expressed regarding the environment impact of the scheme through the removal of an 80 metre length of grass verge, an ecological assessment has been carried out. The report concludes that, in view of the assessment and the limited extent of the scheme, there will be no significant ecological impacts resulting from the extension of the footway in Rook Lane.
- 2.6 An estimate has also been made of the impact of hardening this length of grass verge on rainwater runoff and drainage. It has been estimated that over the length of the proposed works, including all the surfaces that will affect the drainage system, the permeable surfaces would be reduced by 9.2%. It was concluded that, with no historical drainage issues in the area and with routine maintenance before and after the works, the runoff from the additional footway surface would have a negligible effect on the existing drainage system.

### 3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Full consultation on the option to extend the existing footway in Rook Lane was carried out in October 2011. A total of 258 responses were received, a response rate of 39%. Of these, 177 respondents (69%) were in favour of the proposal and 81 respondents (31%) were against. The Police had no objections to the proposal.
- 3.2 Surrey's legal team was consulted in relation to the response to the complaint received by Surrey Highways and further advised that given the 'in principle' agreement, the matter needed to return to the Local Committee for final determination.
- 3.3 The County's Countryside Management and Biodiversity Manager has been consulted with regard to the ecological assessment and he concurs with the findings of the report.

### 4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The revised construction cost for extending the footway in Rook Lane is approximately £38,500 (+ Skanska costs). The 2011/12 Integrated Transport Schemes capital allocation £15,000 has been carried forward and Chaldon Village Council has agreed to contribute £15,000 towards

the cost of the scheme. It was agreed by Local Committee in December 2011 that the financial shortfall would be met by augmenting the existing £15,000 Committee funding by a further £13,000, either from 2011/12 underspends or from the 2012/13 allocation.

## **5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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.

## **6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 A review has confirmed that all the correct County processes and procedures have been followed in the development and approval of the Rook Lane footway extension scheme. Additional work has been carried out in relation to the scheme, which has not identified any reasons why the scheme cannot proceed. It is therefore recommended to proceed with the implementation of the proposal.

## **8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 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.

## **9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 9.1 Subject to Local Committee approval, the scheme will be programmed for construction, which is likely to place in October 2012.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Local Committee reports: July 2009, September 2010, December 2011 Petition to Local Committee: June 2011 Complaint ref no. CO11794 Rook Lane, Chaldon - Ecological Assessment, May 2012 CASEM spreadsheets 2007 and 2009