



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION AND RESPONSE

14 SEPTEMBER 2007

From Ms Julie Rand

As an accredited cycle instructor, I teach people to cycle safely in Godalming and the surrounding areas. As a mother, I cycle daily from Farncombe to Busbridge along the main roads, escorting my 10 year old daughter to school. However, my son, aged 13, prefers to ride on the pavement, along with many other cyclists, due to his fear of the traffic on Meadow, Bridge Road and Flambard Way. Can the Committee please explain why there has been no changes in the road infrastructure, such as, for example, traffic calming, to encourage people to cycle rather than use their cars for the short journey from Farncombe to Godalming over the past 11 years, despite repeated promises and assurances that such measures would be put in place? And would not the benefits of such measures in terms of better health, reduced pollution and congestion, fewer problems with parking, noise reduction, greater social mobility and increased safety for cyclists and pedestrians outweigh the relatively small costs involved?

Response

Surrey County Council, as highway authority, is committed to encouraging cycling. The Local Transport Plan target regarding cycling is to raise the proportion of cycling trips as a proportion of all trips in Surrey from 2% in 1999 to 4% in 2006, 6% by 2011 and 8% by 2016.

A number of schemes which assist cyclists, by reducing traffic speeds or introducing cycle lanes, etc, have been constructed in the Godalming/Farncombe area in recent years. These include traffic calming in Green Lane, Summers Road, and Brighton Road (Busbridge), and a shared surface and on-carriageway cycle lane for the A3100 north of the Alms Houses. Later this year traffic calming

will be introduced in the northern section of Brighton Road, and parking arrangements will be altered, which is also expected to benefit cyclists.

Improving the route for cyclists using Meadow, Bridge Street and Flambard Way is included in a prioritised list of Waverley cycling schemes adopted by this committee in July 2006 (see below), but has not been allocated funding in the current year, nor in previous years . Cycle schemes in Cranleigh and Farnham are being progressed this year.

Officers are aware that this route has been examined and discussed in the past, but are not aware of any specific commitment made on its implementation.

The Meadow/Flambard Way route has the joint highest score amongst cycle measures identified in Godalming on the prioritised list. The Godalming Transportation Task Group is responsible for bidding for funding for all types of highway improvement schemes in the Godalming area. That group will be aware of this high score when considering its funding bid for 2008/09.

Prioritised List of Waverley Cycle Schemes

Waverley Borough Council, as planning authority, has an important role in promoting and encouraging cycling in the Borough. Waverley BC adopted its first Cycle Plan in 1997, and established a Cycle Forum to bring together interested parties. The current version of the Waverley Borough Cycling Plan was adopted by the Borough as Supplementary Planning Document (SDP) in April 2005. The plan is intended to provide an up-to-date framework for future action that will assist in achieving increased cycle use. It includes a prioritised list of cycle schemes and measures covering the whole Borough.

This committee considered a report on Waverley's Cycling Plan in July 2006, and determined that the prioritised list of schemes it includes be approved for construction or implementation. Construction/implementation is, of course, dependant on available funding.

Both Surrey CC and Waverley BC officers are committed to maximise funding for cycle improvement schemes when considering planning applications and agreements throughout the Borough.