



WOKING COLLEGE – ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

**LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR WOKING
22 OCTOBER 2003**

KEY ISSUE:

To consider proposals to improve pedestrian access to Woking College, including the provision of a pelican crossing on A247 Kingfield Road, and a new length of footway in Rydens Way.

SUMMARY:

A package of measures is proposed to overcome the problems of poor pedestrian access to Woking College, the lack of pedestrian crossing facilities on A247 Kingfield Road and the poor layout of the Rydens Way/Shackleford Road junction.

CONSULTATIONS:

The police have been consulted and have no objections to the proposals.

The appropriate County Council and Borough Council Members have been consulted and support the proposals.

Discussions with Woking College have been held, and the college has been notified of the proposals.

Surrey Ambulance Service, Surrey Fire and Rescue, Woking Cycle Users' Group and Woking For Pedestrians have been consulted and their views will be reported orally at the meeting.

Local residents will be consulted before the proposals are implemented.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree:

that the proposals shown on Drawing Nos. 11596, 11627 and 11628 be approved for construction.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1 Woking Sixth Form College is situated on the north side of Rydens Way, near its western end, and has approximately 1,000 students. Immediately behind Woking College, at the eastern end of Elmbridge Lane, is St John the Baptist School, with approximately 1,000 pupils between the ages of 11 and 18 years. (See location plan attached at Annex A). Many of the students and pupils arrive on foot, by bus or by coach.
- 2 The highway near the entrance to Woking College is not pedestrian friendly; there is no footway leading southwards from the college entrance to Shackleford Road, and the route for students and schoolchildren to the bus stops on Kingfield Road is partially unmade. There are no pedestrian crossing facilities on Kingfield Road, which is an "A" class road carrying large volumes of traffic.
- 3 Representations have been received from the college about the poor access arrangements.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 4 A package of improvements for the area is proposed. Drawing No. 11627, attached at Annex B, gives an overview of these measures, which are:
 - A pelican crossing on Kingfield Road, immediately north-west of Stockers Lane.
 - Footpath repairs and resurfacing within Stockers Lane.
 - Footpath repairs and resurfacing between the eastern end of Stockers Lane and Sundridge Road.
 - An improved crossing point at the Sundridge Road/Rydens Way junction.
 - A new footpath running southwards from the College to Shackleford Road.
 - An improvement of the junction of Rydens Way and Shackleford Road.
- 5 Surveys have shown that most students walking to the college approach either from Kingfield Road via Stockers Lane or from Shackleford Road. Of those coming from Kingfield Road, most travel by bus or coach, and use the bus stops at Kingfield Road. Despite the large numbers of pedestrians crossing Kingfield Road, there are no crossing facilities, and therefore a pelican crossing is proposed, as shown on Drawing No. 11596. (see Annex C). The crossing has been positioned between the bus stops and Stockers Lane, and is therefore directly on the route to and from the college. In order to accommodate the crossing, it will be necessary to relocate the bus stop and shelter on the north-eastern side of Kingfield Road by moving it north-westwards by approximately 20 metres. It is proposed to delineate the relocated bus stop, and its counterpart on the south-western side of the road, with red surfacing.
- 6 Stockers Lane is unadopted, but there is a Right of Way on foot from Kingfield Road to the western end of Rydens Way. The surface of this Right of Way is

generally satisfactory, but local repairs are proposed to bring the whole length up to an acceptable standard for pedestrians.

- 7 From the eastern end of the Right of Way, a footpath runs across a grassed area to an island in the mouth of Sundridge Road. Although this area of grass is unregistered land, it is again proposed to carry out localised repairs to the footway surface.
- 8 The island in the mouth of Sundridge Road will be enlarged, and dropped kerbs and tactile paving will be installed to provide a safe and convenient place to cross Sundridge Road.
- 9 Pedestrians walking to the college from Shackleford Road currently have to walk across a wide grassed area or walk in the road, as there is no footway between the two. In addition, the junction of Rydens Way and Shackleford Road is poorly laid out, encouraging drivers turning right into Shackleford Road to cut the corner. It is proposed to provide a new footway across the grassed area, and widen a short length of Rydens Way to improve junction safety, as shown on Drawing No. 11628. (See Annex D).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10 The cost of the proposals is estimated to be £55,000, funded from the Local Transport Plan for 2003/4.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11 The proposals will improve access on foot to both Woking College and St John the Baptist School, will provide a safe and convenient crossing point on Kingfield Road, and will improve safety at the junction of Rydens Way and Shackleford Road. The proposals are in line with the Local Transport Plan strategy of encouraging more journeys on foot.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 12 There are no crime and disorder implications.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 13 The proposals will provide improved access for the mobility impaired.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14 Pedestrian access to Woking College is currently poor. Despite the large numbers of pedestrians crossing Kingfield Road, there are no crossing facilities. The junction of Rydens Way and Shackleford Road is poorly laid out. The package of proposals will address these issues, and is therefore recommended for implementation.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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