



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

### **CYCLE ROUTE 6 – WOKING TO BYFLEET VIA PYRFORD – PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE**

**31 OCTOBER 2007**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

To consider an alternative route for Cycle Route 6, from Woking to Byfleet via Pyrford, and the objections thereto.

#### **SUMMARY**

Cycle Route 6, from Woking to Byfleet via Pyrford, has been identified as one of the routes radiating from Woking Town Centre to the outlying village centres. Part of the route, from Woking to Old Woking Road in Maybury, is already in place. This report gives details of the changes to the route which have been made since this matter was reported to the Committee on 28 February 2007, and the objections which the Council has received.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to agree that:**

- (i) **No further work on the proposed route be carried out at the present time**

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Committee received a report on the proposed Cycle Route 6, between Old Woking Road and Byfleet, at its meeting on 28 February 2007. Although the route had received widespread support from local cycling groups, the Committee deferred making a decision as a number of objections to the proposed route had been received.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 The Ramblers' Association and the Open Spaces Society objected to the use of a public footpath for part of the route, as did the Pyrford, Byfleet and West Byfleet Residents' Association, who also had reservations about other sections of the route. As a result, an alternative route was sought, avoiding the public footpath, and this has been the subject of further consultation. However, there are still objections from the Pyrford, Byfleet and West Byfleet Residents' Association and from a number of other consultees.

## **3 OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The original proposal, as discussed by the Committee in February 2007, is shown at Annex A. The revised proposal, which has been the subject of further consultation, is shown at Annex B. The difference between the two routes is that the use of Right of Way 73, a public footpath, has been avoided by continuing the route along Pyrford Common Road, then into Upshot Lane and hence to Engliff Lane. The route then follows the same alignment as the original proposal.
- 3.2 Although the Ramblers' Association and the Open Spaces Society have now withdrawn their objections, and local cycling groups support the proposal, other objections remain. The National Trust, which owns the Wey Navigation, does not wish to see the canal towpath designated in any way as a cycle route, neither does it wish to see any cycle direction signing on the towpath.
- 3.3 There have been other objections of a more general nature, concerning potential conflict between cyclists and pedestrians and horseriders, public safety, and the use of narrow roads, such as Upshot Lane, by cyclists.
- 3.4 Doubts have also been expressed about the value for money aspect of upgrading bridleways to facilitate cycling.
- 3.5 It is impossible to cycle from Pyrford Common Road to Byfleet without using either Upshot Lane or local bridleways. Therefore, it is impossible to overcome all the objections. The alternative is for cyclists to remain on Old Woking Road, then to use Parvis Road. However, Parvis Road is heavily trafficked, and there are no off-road cycle facilities. These facilities should be provided as part of the Broadoaks development. It is

suggested, therefore, that no further work on Cycle Route 6 should be undertaken unless and until off-road cycle facilities are constructed along Parvis Road. At that time, it will be possible to provide cycle signing to Byfleet via the A245, but at present no other route can be provided which does not elicit objections.

- 3.6 Cyclists may still legally use the route shown at Annex B, but no signing will be provided, and it may be difficult or impossible for the route to be used at certain times of year, due to surface conditions.

## **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 The following were consulted on the route shown at Annex B:

Woking Cycle Users' Group  
 Cyclists' Touring Club  
 Appropriate Ward and Divisional Members  
 Local schools  
 National Trust  
 Open Spaces Society  
 Ramblers Association  
 Pyrford, Byfleet & West Byfleet Residents' Association  
 British Horse Society  
 Surrey Police

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

- 5.1 £65,000 had been set aside for this project. If the Committee agrees not to proceed, then this funding will be available for other projects within the five year LTP rolling programme.

## **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

## **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

## **8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Although the proposed modified route has received support, there have been a number of objections, which cannot be overcome. The recommendation is therefore not to proceed with this project at present.

## 9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 As the objections cannot be overcome, it is therefore recommended not to proceed with the planned extension of Cycle Route 6.

## 10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Further work will be carried out on Cycle Route 6 when the off-road cycle facilities alongside Parvis Road have been constructed.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Item 17, Local Committee (Woking), 28 February 2007

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