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Surrey Highways
 Grosvenor House,
 Cross Lanes,
 Guildford.
 GU1 1FA

Your Ref:

Our Ref: LTS/D3676/Paxton Gardens consultation

10 January 2008

“Rat Running” – Service Road Woodham Lane to Sheerwater Road

The issue of “rat running” along the service road between Woodham Lane and Sheerwater Road has been raised for a number of years as a problem to local residents. The Surrey County Council Highways team for Woking has carried out an investigation to establish whether this rat running occurs and if so the actual number of drivers undertaking these journeys. The purpose of the practice is to avoid the queues, which build up at busy period negotiating the roundabout where Sheerwater Road meets Woodham Lane; drivers would then have the difficulty of re-entering the main flow of traffic, which in itself may be a deterrent.

METHODOLOGY

A survey was conducted on Thursday 1 November 2007 between 0700 and 1000 hours and 1600 and 1900 hours – the peak periods.

Each vehicle entering the three access points off Woodham Lane (for A: Priory Close/B: Broadwater Close/C: Paxton Gardens) and then exiting onto D: Sheerwater Road were counted and also in the reverse direction – Sheerwater Road to Woodham Lane.

RESULTS

The majority of drivers entering the area through ABC or D did not immediately travel to a different ABC or D point and therefore were not “rat running”. Instead they had a legitimate reason to enter the area – residents, visitors, deliveries etc.

WOODHAM LANE TO SHEERWATER ROAD

	Total Vehicles	Visitors/Residents	“Rat Running”
0700 – 1000	45	31	14
1600 - 1900	61	58	3

SHEERWATER ROAD TO WOODHAM LANE

	Total Vehicles	Visitors/Residents	“Rat Running”
0700 – 1000	35	31	4
1600 - 1900	60	54	6

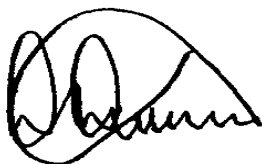
OUTCOME

The number of drivers “rat running” is not significant and despite resident perception that this occurs clearly the majority of drivers have a legitimate reason to enter the area (residents/visitors/deliveries etc).

There is no intention on the part of Surrey County Council to take any action on this issue. Had a problem been found then the most obvious solution would have been to close the service road east of Paxton Gardens and create turning areas in the existing grass verges. This may have caused greater inconvenience to residents than the problem it sought to remedy.

This letter is sent for your information. The facts will be reported to the Woking Local Committee of County and Borough Councillors at their next meeting on 20 February 2008.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Durrant', written in a cursive style.

David Durrant
Local Highways Team - Woking