



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE - PETITION

3 DECEMBER 2008

KEY ISSUE

To advise the Committee that a petition has been received.

SUMMARY

White Rose Lane extend our footpaths

The petition has 250 signatories.

Wording of Petition

This is a petition to Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council for pedestrian improvements in White Rose lane. The section of road between the Jack and Jill steps and the Old Woking Road has no footpath, pedestrians are at considerable risk and children are generally not permitted to walk along this narrow winding piece of road where the hedges are not routinely cut back. The road is an important through route for vehicles connecting the Woking Rail Station with Old Woking, Send and feeding both the A3 and M25

Concerns

Residents and pedestrians are unable to walk along the road safely. School children cannot safely walk to the Hoe Bridge School so that many school pupils are unnecessarily driven to school by car. Walkers and dog walkers cannot access the White Rose Lane Nature Area of which Woking Borough Council is seeking to encourage more use.

Pedestrians cannot access the emerging recreation areas, which include the Hoe Bridge Golf and Sports Club. Residents from the Fusion Estate in Old Woking cannot safely walk to Woking Town Centre or the Railway Station without a long detour.

Proposed Solution

The desired outcome is that Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council will facilitate a self-help scheme being prepared by the White Rose

ITEM 4 – PETITION A

Lane Extend Our Footpath Group, under which (in both cases after full consultation with local residents):

- (a) Surrey County Council will build a footpath to extend the path that terminates at the Jack and Jill steps as far as Toad Hall: and
- (b) Woking Borough Council will permit the building of a trodden footpath from Toad Hall, initially on a cleared area adjoining the highway and then on a Boardwalk, inside the Nature Reserve, exiting by the Nature Reserve entrance with a suitable crossing to the other side.

Paul Fishwick, Local Highways Manager, responded

I will firstly comment on the White Rose Lane section from opposite Jack and Jill steps to Toad Hall. The carriageway is fairly narrow along most of this length and widens at the bend outside 44 and Toad Hall. Over all of this length, except outside Toad hall, the highway boundary is either just behind the kerb or up to 1 metre behind the kerb, which is not sufficient width to create a 2-metre footway. Therefore, land acquisition would be required and possible accommodation works with six separate landowners, as the carriageway width should not be reduced over this length, as it would create single line working.

The section outside High Barn and Toad Hall could be constructed to a suitable footway.

As land acquisition is required this would take many years and some landowners may not agree as they have small front gardens now.

Turning to the Woking Borough Council owned land beyond Toad Hall, Woking Borough Council have stated the following: 'Officers believe that the proposal to construct a footpath route on Council owned land at White Rose Lane Nature Reserve should be supported in principle. This is subject to agreement over the choice of materials and exact location in order to minimise disturbance to mature trees. Arrangements for provision of finance for future maintenance of the footpath would also need to be determined.'

However, the above does not provide a quick solution therefore a possible option could be to use Footpath 55 and then the Hoe Stream Path, as indicated on the attached plan. This route takes walkers to the rear of the school crossing the Hoe Stream at the back of the playing field.

The Hoe Stream Path is managed by Woking Borough Council, but this route maybe a little muddy during the 'winter' period and therefore require an some improvements. Woking Borough Council has indicated that this could be an alternative route but any improvements to the Hoe Valley Path would need to be approved by them.