

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)****DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2013****LEAD OFFICER: ANDREW MILNE, NORTH WEST AREA HIGHWAYS MANAGER****SUBJECT: PETITION – INTRODUCE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AT THE HERMITAGE ROUNDABOUT****DIVISION: KNAPHILL AND GOLDSWORTH WEST****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A petition containing 114 signatures has been submitted for consideration by the Woking Local Committee. Residents have asked for pedestrian facilities to be introduced at the roundabout junction of Hermitage Road, Lower Guildford Road and Redding Way.

Improvements have recently been made to crossing facilities in Lower Guildford Road, and the speed limit has also been reduced. Since the changes were implemented, there have been no safety related incidents reported. Therefore, officers do not recommend making any further changes.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to note the contents of the report.**

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Recent alterations have improved the pedestrian crossing facilities on Lower Guildford Road and no safety related incidents have been reported at this location since these works were completed. To support these improvements, the speed limit has also been reduced. Although it is acknowledged that some pedestrians do prefer controlled pedestrian facilities, the facilities provided offer a safe crossing point, and there are no plans to make further changes or to introduce signal controlled crossings at this roundabout.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

1.1 A petition containing 114 signatures was presented to the Woking Local Committee at its meeting on 6 March 2013. Residents asked for "a safe pedestrian crossing with a traffic light on all corners of Hermitage roundabout".

**1.2 Wording of Petition**

1.3 Hermitage roundabout serves as a major route leading towards Woking, Guildford, Chobham and St Johns. In the mornings especially it is very busy. There are no pedestrian crossings or traffic lights anywhere at this

## ITEM 9

roundabout. Pedestrians find it very difficult to cross the roundabout at these busy times. The roundabout also lies on a way to the Winston Churchill School and many students have to cross this dangerous crossing without any protection. Children often have to run to avoid the cars coming around the corner because there is also limited visibility on some corners. Disabled people would not be able to cross this roundabout safely. There is more and more traffic and the situation is unlikely to get any better. This petition invites the council to consider a safe pedestrian crossing with a traffic light on all corners of Hermitage roundabout.

### **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Amendments were made to the kerb lines and crossing widths at the Lower Guildford Road and Redding Way arms of this roundabout at the end of the 2012/13 financial year following approval of this work by the Woking Local Committee. These changes have improved sight lines and reduced the distance that pedestrians have to cross the road. They should also have had an effect on vehicle speeds, although they are at locations where it would be difficult to carry out speed surveys and there is no before and after data to compare.
- 2.2 Four personal injury collisions have taken place around this roundabout in the last 3 years but none has taken place since the works were undertaken. One of the 4 collisions took place at the Lower Guildford Road exit from the roundabout and involved two pedestrians, although impairment by alcohol was recorded as a contributory factor.
- 2.3 The changes that have been made came out of work done a number of years ago with a view to introducing a signal controlled crossing on Lower Guildford Road, south of Northwood Avenue. This was not introduced as there were a number of pedestrian desire lines that no single crossing could cater for. It is not affordable or practical to introduce controlled crossing points at every desire line and this is the case with the Hermitage roundabout.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 We are not aware of any incidents or complaints since the kerb line alterations were carried out and which have greatly improved sightlines and reduced the width of road that pedestrians have to cross.
- 3.2 There are no proposals for any additional work at this roundabout although this does not preclude it from being put back on the ITS work programme should the need arise.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 No consultation has yet been carried out.

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

- 5.1 Proposed ITS schemes are prioritised to ensure that the maximum public benefit is gained from any funding made available. So far as is practicable, Officer proposals follow the Countywide scheme assessment process (CASEM) and the prioritisation order determined by this.

## **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 It is an objective of Surrey Highways to treat all users of the public highway equally and with understanding. An Equalities Impact Assessment is undertaken for each Integrated Transport Scheme as part of the design process.

## **7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 Through the views and needs expressed by local communities, and accommodating where possible the involvement of local communities in looking after the public highway, localism is routinely considered as part of the consultation and bidding processes for highway-related works. Specific details regarding localism are included in individual reports as appropriate.

## **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

## **9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 9.1 The recent alterations have improved the pedestrian crossing facilities on Lower Guildford Road and no safety related incidents have been reported at this location since these works were completed. Site observations indicate that the change to the geometry of the kerb has led to vehicle approach speeds being reduced, and this, combined with a reduction in the approach speed limits in Lower Guildford Road and Hermitage Road has served to improve public safety and address the concerns that petitioners have raised. In view of this, there are no plans to make further changes or to introduce signal controlled crossings at this roundabout.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 The petitions website will be updated with this response which will notify all the signatories of the outcome.

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**Contact Officer:**

Andrew Milne, NW Area Highways Manager 03456 009009

**Consulted:**

Internal review of option.

**Annexes:**

None

**Sources/background papers:**

- Local Committee papers – June 2013
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