

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

**DATE:** 11 DECEMBER 2013  
**LEAD OFFICER(S):** JOHN HILDER, AREA HIGHWAYS MANAGER



**SUBJECT:** PETITION REPOSENSE 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

**DIVISION:** GUILDFORD SOUTH WEST

<b>Principal petitioner/organisation</b>	Rachel Lane, resident of Walnut Tree Close Attracting 342 signatures as submitted to SCC (162 of which came from SCC e-petition)
<b>SCC Division / GBC Ward</b>	Guildford South West/Friary & St Nicolas
<b>Summary of concerns and requests</b>	<p>We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to shut Walnut Tree Close/Woodbridge Meadows to through traffic, reverting them to no through roads, for the following reasons:</p> <p>To stop traffic driving on the pavement, compromising safety.  The road is too narrow for 2 way heavy volume traffic • To cut accidents and constant damage to parked cars • To eliminate the severe delays caused by long queues of through 'rat run' traffic, waiting to exit the road • To allow residents, visitors, employees and customers normal unimpeded access to homes and businesses • To ensure quick access for emergency services • To eliminate through traffic, which delays traffic exiting the train station • To create a safe, pleasant route for cycling and walking between the station, university and industrial parks • To reduce pollution and improve air quality • To cut erosion to properties from road water • To stop confusion over the road name • To improve access enabling potential residential and business development • To enhance the river as a place to visit and enjoy, not see a traffic jam</p>
<b>Response</b>	Walnut Tree Close and Woodbridge Meadows form a route linking the A25 Woodbridge Road to the town centre gyratory system at Guildford rail station. The carriageway is relatively narrow with parked sections effectively reducing the road to a single lane, forcing opposing traffic to give and sometimes mount the footways. The northern section of the road is home to various businesses with few if any residences, while the southern section on the approach to the station is predominantly residential.

	<p>Closing the road to through traffic, for instance by a point closure at an appropriate location, would provide the opportunity to introduce a dedicated cycle route and of course greatly reduce traffic volumes, improving the environment for residents, pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Such a closure would also result in through traffic which is currently using Walnut Tree Close re-routing, most likely using the A322 Woodbridge Road and Onslow Street, where increased peak hour congestion would be expected. Although it is understood that some businesses in Walnut Tree Close have signed the petition, it is likely that vehicular access to many would be affected by a closure, with potential increases in journey times and fuel costs.</p> <p>The gyratory itself is currently the subject of a study by SCC, aimed at reducing congestion and improving pedestrian amenity. Earlier in the year a bid valued at £5m was submitted to the Local Transport Board (LTB) for improvements to the gyratory, which has now been prioritised by the LTB. The County Council is now modelling options for the gyratory, a preferred option will be identified in 2014 with a detailed business case submitted to the LTB during the second part of the year. If successful, funding for implementation will be available in 2015.</p> <p>In November, the request for closure was considered by the Transportation Task Group (TTG) that advises this committee (see Highways Budget agenda item), but was not prioritised for funding in 2014/15 as it is closely linked with work on the gyratory, and they felt it could not be progressed in isolation. The TTG was also aware of current planning applications for residential development in Walnut Tree Close.</p> <p>It is recommended that the closure of Walnut Tree Close is included in the gyratory modelling currently underway in order to gain an appreciation of the effects on the local road network. It is also suggested that market research is undertaken with companies in Walnut Tree Close to establish their views on closure, with say £5,000 allocated from the current 2013/14 budget to meet costs.</p>
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