

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)**

**DATE: 5 MARCH 2014**

**LEAD OFFICER: JOHN LAWLOR, AREA TEAM MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: WEST STREET, DORKING  
PROPOSED FOOTWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

**DIVISION: DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS; DORKING HILLS**



**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A scheme has been developed in consultation with Mole Valley District Council and divisional Members to widen the footways in West Street Dorking. This report seeks approval to take this proposal to public consultation. In order to deliver the scheme before the 2014 Christmas embargo on highway works, delegated authority is sought to consider the results of the consultation and make a decision on whether or not to proceed to implementation.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to:**

- (i) Approve the proposal to widen the footways in West Street, Dorking, as shown in Annexes 1 and 2, for public consultation; and
- (ii) Authorise delegation of authority to the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and the local Divisional Members to consider the results of the consultation and make a decision on whether or not to implement the proposal, subject to funding from developer contributions.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To progress the proposed footway improvements for West Street, Dorking and facilitate implementation before the 2014 Christmas embargo on highway works.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The A25 West Street is part of the Dorking one-way system which runs from Station Road in the west to the High Street in the east. The carriageway in West Street varies in width along its length, from 7.3 metres at the western end to 3.3 metres at the traffic signals at the eastern end. There are footways on both sides of the road which are substandard in width, varying from 1.8 metres to 1.1 metres, with pinch points where the width is reduced to 0.6 metres.
- 1.2 West Street lies wholly within the Dorking Conservation Area. The frontages are primarily retail, with mostly independent retailers, and residential above. West Street is identified as a Character Area in the Dorking Area Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan published by Mole Valley District Council in April 2009. The Plan also prioritises improvements to West Street as part of the management plan, suggesting wider pavements and shared surface crossing points.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Working with the divisional Members for West Street and with the Mole Valley District Council Conservation Officer, proposals have been developed to improve the footways in West Street. A simple approach has been taken that does not seek to alter the street's character fundamentally, but works with the existing street scene. The scheme proposes providing 1.8 metre wide footways on both sides of the road where possible and improved crossing facilities at various locations, as shown in **Annex 1**.
- 2.2 The main features of the proposal are given below:
- Minor kerbline changes to provide 1.8 metre minimum width footways where possible whilst retaining an acceptable carriageway width for traffic
  - Provision of pedestrian dropped kerbs across all side roads and accessways
  - New informal pedestrian crossing points (dropped kerbs and tactile paving)
  - Informal approach to loading and unloading retained rather than providing formalised, marked bays
  - Use of materials sympathetic to the street (Yorkstone paving, granite kerbs, cast iron bollards), as shown in **Annex 2**
  - Reuse of existing granite kerbs, with new granite kerbs provided where necessary
  - Provision of black sign posts and signs that have black reverse panels to minimise the visual impact when viewed from the back of the sign
  - Conservative approach to the provision of tactile paving
  - New trees at the western end of West Street to provide a gateway feature, subject to underground services
- 2.3 Many of the properties in West Street have cellars that extend under the footway. A detailed cellar survey has been carried out and if any strengthening work is required, this will be carried out in consultation with the property owner/occupier.

**3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 **Option 1:** Footway improvements as set out in section 2 above.

3.2 **Option 2:** Do nothing.

**4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 The proposal to improve the footways in West Street has been developed in consultation with Mole Valley District Council and the divisional Members.

4.2 It is proposed to consult with the businesses and residents of West Street, the emergency services and other interested parties such as the West Street Association and the Mole Valley Access Group. Subject to Local Committee approval, it is intended to carry out the consultation in March 2014. It is proposed that the results of the consultation be considered by the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Local Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and divisional Members and delegated authority be granted to enable a decision to be made on whether to proceed with the scheme.

4.3 A stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been carried out and the recommendations arising from this have been incorporated into the scheme design.

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

5.1 A detailed estimate has not yet been prepared but the cost of delivering Option 1, as shown in Annex 1, is likely to be in the region of £250,000. The scheme will be funded from developer contributions collected by both Mole Valley District Council and Surrey Council Council. It is not intended to use a phased approach to deliver this scheme so sufficient developer contributions will need to be in place to enable all the works to be carried out at the same time.

**6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 West Street is used by vulnerable young people, the elderly and mobility impaired. The widening of the footway will be particularly beneficial for these groups of road users.

**7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 The Highways Service is mindful of the localism agenda and engages with the local community as appropriate before proceeding with the implementation of any highway scheme.

**8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below
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

#### 8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

A well-managed highway network can contribute to reduction in crime and disorder.

#### 8.2 Sustainability implications

The use of sustainable materials and the recycling of materials is carried out wherever possible and appropriate.

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

9.1 The widening of the footway in West Street would meet one of the priorities of the Dorking Area Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and improve the safety of pedestrians using West Street. It is recommended that the proposals set out in Annex 1 are approved for consultation. In order to deliver the scheme before the 2014 Christmas embargo, delegated authority is sought to allow the Area Team Manager, in consultation with the Local Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and divisional Members to consider the results of the public consultation and decide whether or not to implement the scheme, subject to sufficient developer contributions being available.

### **10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

10.1 Consultation will be carried out in March 2014. It is anticipated that work would start on site at the end of June 2014 and would last for around 14 weeks. The aim is to complete the work before the Christmas embargo on highway works starts in November 2014.

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#### **Contact Officer:**

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#### **Consulted:**

#### **Annexes:**

Annex 1: Scheme Drawings

Annex 2: Proposed Palette of Materials

#### **Sources/background papers:**

- Dorking Area Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, Mole Valley District Council, April 2009
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