

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)****DATE: 11 DECEMBER 2014****LEAD OFFICER: ANDREW MILNE****SUBJECT: PETITION RESPONSE – THE AVENUE AND HEATHERLEY ROAD****DIVISION: CAMBERLEY WEST****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To respond to the question received by Surrey Heath Local Committee on 2 October 2014, worded as follows:

“There is an urgent need for traffic reduction and calming methods to be employed in these residential roads.

18 months on from our first petition, was The Avenue added and ranked within the ITS works program as per item 4 of agenda to meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013? Could we please have an update, are the ITS works program tables published? Do the Council accept that while increasing visitor numbers and revenues in to Camberley, they also have a duty to protect the amenity of residents and rate payers living near to what is already a choked town centre? How is this to be delivered, other than the A30 plan?”

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to:**

- (i) Note the contents of this report.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

With improvements already planned in and around Camberley Town Centre, traffic levels and behaviour on The Avenue will change over the next few years. Changes are expected to the amount of traffic using The Avenue and surrounding roads as an alternative to London Road (A30) and Frimley Road (B3411).

A scheme to Traffic calm The Avenue, Camberley, was added to the ITS scheme list. However, this ranks 36<sup>th</sup> out of 43, and must be considered as a low priority in comparison to other requested schemes.

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

- 1.1 The Avenue is a D-class road, approximately 800m in length. The road connects London Road (A30) and Frimley Road (B3411). The road generally runs north-south apart from a section of road near the junction with Frimley Road. The road is linked to the town centre via Southwell Park Road and is in close proximity to two schools and nurseries.
- 1.2 The majority of The Avenue is covered by the Camberley Controlled Parking Zone. This includes formalised parking restrictions between London Road and Seaton Road. Other parking restrictions are located on The Avenue between Frimley Road and Donnington Close but parking is largely uncontrolled between Seaton Road and Donnington Close.
- 1.3 Heatherley Road is a D-class road, approximately 450m in length. The road is shaped as a horse shoe with The Avenue, connecting both ends some 340m away from each other. Access from Heatherley Road to Frimley Road (B3411) can be sought via Woodway and Woodlands Road. This is seen by residents as an alternative route to the A30 when congestion builds up.
- 1.4 Surrey Heath Local Area Committee received a petition on 3 October 2013 requesting traffic calming along the length. A response to the petition was provided at the meeting on the 5 December 2013.
- 1.5 In line with the conclusion of the petition response, a scheme to traffic calm The Avenue was added to the ITS scheme list and scored. However, the scheme was not considered for funding in the forthcoming financial year due to impending major improvements along the A30 and at the junction between the A30 and the A331, sometimes referred to as Meadows Gyratory. This was in line with the recommendations of the previous response.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Following the recommendations of the previous petition response, traffic calming The Avenue was added to the ITS scheme list and scored in line with the data available. However, the resulting score is low in comparison to other schemes already identified throughout the borough (36<sup>th</sup> out of 43).
- 2.2 Since the last response, Surrey County Council has had confirmation that the bid for funds to improve the flow of traffic along the A30 and A331, including the junction, also known as the Meadows Gyratory, has been approved. The scheme is currently expected to start in 2015.
- 2.3 Given the successful bid for funds, and in line with the previous response, the Traffic Calming scheme for The Avenue was not included in the original list of schemes for funding in the upcoming financial year.
- 2.4 There is a second bid currently being considered by the Local Enterprise Partnership for the area. The bid is to improve the traffic flow in and around Camberley Town Centre. The Local Enterprise Partnership is set to decide on the bid in January 2015.
- 2.5 Earlier in the year, Surrey Heath Borough Council adopted the Camberley Town Centre Area Action Plan to outline planned improvements within the town up until 2028. The document included improvement of accessibility to

the town centre by all modes of transport and included both sustainable methods of transport as well as the road network and parking facilities.

2.6 The residents have made clear in the past that vertical traffic calming is their preferred method of traffic calming. However, during further discussions, it was mentioned that they understood that it may not be appropriate along all of The Avenue. However, signage alone is not supported.

2.7 Whatever the extent of the works could be, this cannot be considered in isolation, as the major schemes will affect the movement of traffic in and around Camberley, including along The Avenue. Until these schemes are complete, it is unknown whether traffic calming would be necessary.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 Option 1 - Wait for the outcome of the upcoming improvements in and around Camberley before considering funding any scheme on The Avenue, other than maintenance. Reassess the situation on The Avenue once the impacts of the major schemes have had time to take effect. This is the recommended option.

3.2 Option 2 - Consider funding traffic calming along The Avenue in the available capital funds in the upcoming financial years. The scheme should be considered against other schemes on the ITS scheme list.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 Consultation is routinely carried out for highway-related schemes with relevant key parties, including residents, Local Members, Surrey Police and Safety Engineering. Specific details regarding consultation and any arising legal issues are included in individual scheme reports as appropriate.

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

5.1 Without undertaking a full assessment, vertical traffic calming measures along the length of The Avenue could cost between £80,000 and £150,000. The variation depends on the type of vertical measures and the regularity of them, and the possible need to provide additional gullies.

### **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 A scheme to Traffic calm The Avenue, Camberley was added to the ITS schemes list. However, the scheme has been ranked 36<sup>th</sup> out of 43, and is a low priority.
- 9.2 With the successful bid for improvements to the A30 and A331, and the second bid for additional funds to improve the A30 and Camberley Town Centre being considered early 2015, the traffic flow around Camberley is expected to change over the next three or more years.
- 9.3 As well as the planned improvements to the highway network through the above schemes, Surrey Heath Borough Council's Camberley Town Centre Area Action Plan has identified other improvements to the area when funds become available.
- 9.4 It is recommended that no planned funds are allocated towards traffic management along The Avenue until Surrey Highway's major schemes for the area have been completed. Once the effect of these schemes has been determined, the situation may be reassessed and the priority altered in line with the findings.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 It is recommended that the scheme for traffic calming The Avenue is retained on the ITS scheme list for consideration. If the scheme is still on the list at the end of the improvements in the area, the scheme is reassessed and reprioritised in line with the findings.

**Contact Officer:**

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**Sources/background papers:**

- THE AVENUE, CAMBERLEY – RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES – LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH) 5 DECEMBER 2013 [ITEM 4]