

(TABLED PETITION RESPONSE)

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)**

DATE: 08 DECEMBER 2014
LEAD OFFICER: CLAIRE SAUNDERS, SENIOR COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS OFFICER

SUBJECT: PETITION 2 – TO REPAIR WALTON PARK LANE TO A STANDARD SUITABLE FOR ALL EXISTING USERS INCLUDING WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES.

DIVISION: WALTON SOUTH & OATLANDS

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

A petition containing 124 signatures has been submitted for consideration at the meeting.

Wording of Petition

We the undersigned, petition SCC Local Committee (Elmbridge) to repair Walton Park Lane to a standard suitable for all existing users including waste collection vehicles.

1. The North end of Walton Park Lane off Rydens Road which connects Hersham station with Rydens Road is in a bad state of repair with a continuous series of craters and potholes.
2. This lane is used by adjoining garage owners, commuters, school children, cyclists and dog walkers: The craters and potholes are damaging our cars and present an ever increasing risk of injury to pedestrians and cyclists.
3. The heavyweight trucks used for multiple waste collections are the primary cause of damage to the lane.

Officer Response:

Walton Park Lane is an unregistered private lane with a public right to pass and repass on foot only. Therefore, the County Council, as highway authority, is only liable to maintain it to a standard suitable for pedestrian traffic. There are no public vehicular rights of access over Walton Park Lane. The residents are exercising a private right to use the Lane to access their properties and extend those private rights to the waste collection lorries.

The Countryside Access Officer for Elmbridge is aware of the issues on Public Footpath 35 (Walton & Weybridge) and has been out to inspect the route within the last two weeks. The surface of the Footpath is adequate for those passing and repassing on foot. The surface of the Footpath will continue to be monitored.

The surfaced section of footpath that is only accessible on foot does require vegetation clearance and this will be scheduled in over the winter. The width of the driven section of Walton Park Lane is sufficient to accommodate the public use.

Where a public right of way forms the access to properties or adjacent land, there may be a relatively large amount of wear and tear on the surface as a result of these additional uses. The Council's responsibility for maintenance of a footpath only extends to public use of the footpath; there is no duty to facilitate access to private properties.

Contact Officer:

Hannah Gutteridge, Countryside Access Officer - 03456 009009