

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER 2015



LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER (NE)

SUBJECT: WALTON LANE, SHEPPERTON

DIVISION: LALEHAM AND SHEPPERTON

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

It was suggested that Walton Lane, Shepperton, should be closed to vehicular traffic between its junctions with Walton Bridge Road and Russell Road. The Divisional Member asked the Area Highway Manager to consult the local community to gauge support for this suggestion. Over 80% of those who responded to the consultation oppose the suggested closure. In addition two petitions were received during the public consultation, both calling for the suggestion to be rejected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to:

- (i) Defer indefinitely the suggestion to close Walton Lane, Shepperton, to vehicular traffic between its junctions with Walton Bridge Road and Russell Road.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Closing Walton Lane to vehicular traffic would transfer trips onto Marshalls Roundabout, which already suffers congestion during peak periods. There is no pattern of Personal Injury Collisions in the subject section of Walton Lane that would be ameliorated by the suggested closure. The local community are opposed to the suggested closure.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 It was suggested that Walton Lane, Shepperton should be closed to vehicular traffic between its junctions with Walton Bridge Road and Russell Road. At the present time, drivers use this section of Walton Lane to travel from Walton Bridge Road to Russell Road. If Walton Lane were closed, drivers would instead need to travel along Walton Bridge Road, through Marshall's Roundabout, and along Russell Road.
- 1.2 There was no suggestion to close Walton Lane to pedestrians, cyclists, or equestrians.
- 1.3 The subject section of Walton Lane is classified as the B376. The road is traffic calmed with a combination of road humps and speed cushions. Between Windmill Green and Dunally Park there is a one-way system in operation, with the direction of travel being in a generally north-easterly direction towards Shepperton. There is a cycleway in the one-way section, to allow cyclists to travel in both directions.

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- 1.4 Anecdotal evidence suggest that the subject section of Walton Lane is widely used as a through route between Walton Bridge Road and Russell Road, by drivers avoiding Marshalls Roundabout.
- 1.5 The Divisional Member asked the Area Highway Manager to consult the local community with a proposal to close Walton Lane on an experimental basis. This would have enabled residents and drivers to experience the change first hand, and then feedback their views to the Council. At the same time traffic surveys could be undertaken to measure the affect on traffic flow. The feedback and traffic survey evidence could then inform a decision on whether or not to close Walton Lane permanently.
- 1.6 During the public consultation two petitions were received:

Online petition signed by 36 signatories (at the time of writing on 8th September):

Petitioner: Lisa Rollin

"We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Reject any proposal to close Walton Lane.

Further information:

We feel the closure of Walton Lane will a) force even more traffic onto an already busy, fast and increasingly dangerous Russell Road; b) force more traffic onto the bottom end of Walton Bridge Road (Marshalls Roundabout) creating further congestion; c) Will not enhance the lives of residents of Walton Bridge Road, Russell Road and roads leading from it due to congestion, additional pollution, safety issues, noise and general traffic disturbance and; d) will impact negatively on the wider Shepperton community. Instead of closing Walton Lane we urge the Council to engage in a fuller survey of traffic and to undertake urgent traffic calming measures in Russell Road."

Paper petition signed by 77 signatories:

Petitioner: Mike Portch

"We, the undersigned, residents of Thames Meadow, Shepperton, object to the proposal for an experimental closure of Walton Lane, Shepperton. We call upon the council to:

- 1. Reject the proposal*
- 2. fully consult with all local residents on any future proposals."*

- 1.7 The lead petitioners will have opportunity to speak for three minutes each at this meeting.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The results of the public consultation are presented below:

Total letters sent	= 271(including Thames Meadow)
Total responses	= 206 (76%)
Supporting residents	= 38 (18% of the total responses)
Undecided residents	= 2 (~1% of the total responses)
Objecting residents	= 166 (~81% of the total responses)

- 2.2 A number of respondents wrote lengthy comments to accompany their response slip. It has not been feasible to transcribe these for the purposes of publication. Members of the Local Committee will be able to view these on the night of the meeting, and will have opportunity to view these ahead of the meeting by arrangement with the Area Highway Manager.
- 2.3 The response rate from this consultation is high. Typical public consultations on Highways matters result in a response rate of between 10% to 20%.
- 2.4 A high proportion of the respondents are opposed to the suggested closure of Walton Lane.
- 2.5 Officers also consulted the emergency services and Spelthorne Borough Council. No response was received from either the Ambulance Service or Spelthorne Borough Council. Surrey Police were not supportive. Surrey Fire and Rescue specifically objected.
- 2.6 If Walton Lane were to be closed, all the through trips on Walton Lane would be transferred to Walton Bridge Road, Russell Road and Marshalls Roundabout. The impact of this trip transfer has not been assessed. Part of the reason for proposing an experimental closure was to be able to test the impact in practice, before any permanent decision was made.
- 2.7 There is no pattern of Personal Injury Collisions in the subject section of Walton Lane that would be ameliorated by the suggested closure. In the last full three year period for which data is available, there were no Personal Injury Collisions on the section of Walton Lane between Walton Bridge Road and Russell Road. In the same period there was one slight Personal Injury Collision at the junction of Walton Lane and Russell Road. There were also four slight Personal Injury Collisions at the junction of Walton Lane with Walton Bridge Road, but this latter junction has been remodelled as part of the Walton Bridge project, and so the incidents at this latter junction cannot be considered in assessing whether or not to close Walton Lane.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Committee could choose to proceed with the proposed experimental closure, or to defer the suggested closure. The public consultation is not a referendum; Committee is not obliged to decide in favour of the majority view.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 As detailed in section 2 above.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 If Committee wished to proceed with an experimental closure it would cost approximately £5,000 to £10,000.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 It is an objective of Surrey Highways to take account of the needs of all users of the public highway.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The Local Committee prioritises its expenditure according to local priorities.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	A well-managed highway network can contribute to reduction in crime and disorder as well as improve peoples' perception of crime.
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 It is recommended to defer indefinitely the suggestion to close Walton Lane, Shepperton, to vehicular traffic between its junctions with Walton Bridge Road and Russell Road.
- 9.2 Closing Walton Lane to vehicular traffic would transfer trips onto Marshalls Roundabout, which already suffers congestion during peak periods.
- 9.3 There is no pattern of Personal Injury Collisions in the subject section of Walton Lane that would be ameliorated by the suggested closure.
- 9.4 The local community are opposed to the suggested closure.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 If Committee were to defer the suggested closure of Walton Lane the matter would be closed for the foreseeable future.

Contact Officer: Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager (NE)

Consulted: N / A

Annexes: 0

Sources/background papers: None