



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

25 SEPTEMBER 2015

The following petitions have been received:

1. A petition presented by Ms J Rawlings requesting the bus stop in Ewhurst to be reinstated outside the school or the terminus of the 53 service from Guildford and Cranleigh to be at The Glebe and not at the Bull's Head green.

Response

The response provided by Surrey County Council Highways to the formal complaint raised by Ms Rawlings is outlined below. This complaint, and one other, is now being considered at Stage 2 of the corporate complaints process by an independent investigator from Customer Relations. The investigation is expected to conclude within the next two weeks and a draft report will be issued to Mrs Rawlings and Surrey Highways for their comments.

'Surrey County Council recently provided an uncontrolled crossing facility for Ewhurst School to help improve safety for the children and parents as they negotiate crossing the busy B2127 The Mount, Ewhurst. Unfortunately, Road Safety Audit deemed it unsafe to retain the bus stop at this location together with the new crossing due to the potential conflict of cars overtaking a stationary bus on the brow of a hill and reduced visibility for pedestrians. Despite our best efforts to keep the bus stop in the immediate vicinity it was necessary to relocate approximately 200m south of the school at the next viable location. The statutory consultation process was carried out for the relocation of the bus stop. However, this does not take into account bus service users as this information is largely unknown.

Since the scheme has been completed, it has been brought to our attention that the bus stop that previously existed at the school was used by some of The Glebe residents. This has resulted in difficulties for these users on their return journey as they are no longer able to alight near The Glebe as before. Surrey County Council Officers, Surrey Police and representatives of the bus operator Arriva, have actively tried to resolve this problem by meeting residents with Parish, Borough and County

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Councillors on site to explore all of the potential solutions. Regrettably, it is not possible to restore the bus stop at the school, as is the wish of The Glebe residents, for the reasons already mentioned and the remaining options are extremely limited due to safety restrictions on visibility and vehicle speeds, which are currently being checked by Surrey Police.

A proposal has been put forward to introduce a new stop between the Bulls Head Pub and The Glebe which is north of the school, however this suggestion has been rejected by the residents. Ewhurst Parish Council have asked Arriva if passengers can remain on the bus and alight at The Glebe at no additional cost as the bus makes its return journey to Cranleigh. We wait for an official response.

In the meantime we will continue to work with all of the key stakeholders to try and find a suitable compromise to the problem.'

The Area Highway Manager would remind the committee that making the crossing point at Ewhurst C of E Infants School safer was prioritised following lengthy lobbying from the school, parents and local councillors. A number of options were developed, all of which involved removing the lay-by immediately outside the school, since anyone crossing had to stand within this lay-by in order to best see approaching traffic, unprotected by a kerb. As stated above, without a lay-by to pull into it would be unsafe for buses to stop outside the school, since it is at the brow of a hill and anyone attempting to drive around a stationary bus would not have sight of oncoming traffic or anyone crossing the road. The preferred scheme, with the lay-by converted to footway and the bus stop moved 200m to the south, was installed over a year ago as part of the 2014/15 Integrated Transport Scheme programme sponsored by this committee and has been welcomed by the school and parents. The Area Highway Manager cannot recommend that the lay-by is reinstated allowing the bus stop to be returned to its original position.

Measures to help residents of The Glebe are still being pursued, These include alterations at the green opposite The Bull public house which would allow buses to turn at the end of the route without reversing (a manoeuvre that requires passengers to temporarily disembark). Residents of the Glebe on their return journey home can elect not to disembark at the re-located stop, remain on the bus to the journey-end turning point at the Bull and disembark at the bus stop at the end of their road, so avoiding having to walk further and cross the road. However, buses can stand at the Green for up to 15 minutes, adding to the duration of their journey.

An update, including the Stage 2 complaint response by the Customers Relations team, will be brought to the next local committee meeting on 11 December 2015.

2. An online petition submitted by Mrs N Foskett requesting that the County urgently review and improve road safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on Chapel Road and The Avenue in Rowledge.

Response

Surrey County Council (SCC) can confirm that the public highway is inspected on a regular basis, any safety defects such as potholes being noted and repaired after the inspection. Members of the public can also report potholes via the SCC website or by phoning the SCC Contact Centre. Chapel Road forms part of the Project Horizon resurfacing programme, which is due for treatment between April 2016 and March 2018. Affected residents will be informed closer to the time of the proposed treatment, which is currently planned as inlay resurfacing.

Rowledge is a rural location, which has narrow winding roads with very limited pedestrian footways. The majority of hedges and verges do not form part of the publicly maintainable highway and are therefore outside of our jurisdiction for regular maintenance. The Local Highways Officer has been in contact with various property owners to ask that they cut back their trees and hedges to increase sight lines and to improve safety for pedestrians. Enforcement action could be taken should a property owner fail to comply with the request and it is deemed dangerous to the highway user.

A speed limit assessment could be carried out in Rowledge subject to prioritisation and funding via the Farnham Task Group and approval by the Waverley Local Committee in the Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) highway works programme for 2016/17.

A highways engineer will review the buff-coloured strip in The Avenue, which was installed as part of an ITS highways improvement scheme in 2013 aimed at improving pedestrian safety and also included the provision of lowered kerbs at the junction of The Long Road and The Avenue to provide a safe crossing area for pedestrians.

3. A petition presented by Ms A Emersic requesting the County Council to investigate and complete the resurfacing originally scheduled for The Street, Thursley with the addition of Highfield Lane hill including the church hill up to the end of the grass verges, in a manner which is in accordance with the British Horse Society and County Councils' joint guidance pamphlet Horses and Highways Surfacing, to which Surrey County Council is a contributor.

Response

Two years ago a section of Highfield Lane approximately 300m in length was resurfaced following similar complaints from horse riders after a rider falling from a horse suffered serious injury. The area team will again review surface condition, particularly of the section identified by the petition, and take action as necessary and as funds permit, keeping the local member informed. Riders would be well advised to consider taking their own precautions where they consider they may be dismounted due to surface conditions.

4. A petition presented by Ms Lucy Weldon requesting the Local Committee to support new traffic calming measures along Elmbridge Road, Cranleigh, in particular in and around the priority road system over the Wey and Arun Canal.

Response

Surrey County Council Highway Officers have worked with the Weldon family since May when the problem was initially highlighted, carrying out several site visits and assessments, whilst keeping in regular contact with Lucy Weldon. The most recent meeting was held on 8 September together with a representative of Surrey Police Road Safety Team and Surrey County Council Road Safety Team, where a safety assessment of Elmbridge Road was carried out with the view to looking at what improvements can be made to the existing signs and road markings. The provision of a Vehicle Activated Sign is also being considered.

It is expected that the conclusions of the safety assessment will suggest some improvements that will be submitted to the Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Task Group for consideration in the Integrated Transport Schemes highway works programme for 2016/17. This location is also being discussed by the Road Safety Working Group in November, which comprises of representatives of Surrey Police Road Safety Officers together with Local Highways Engineers and Road Safety Team Engineers, with a view to investigating collisions at the location of the bridge. It is possible that further funding could be provided towards safety measures subject to evaluation and prioritisation against other sites in the county.