

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)****DATE: 7TH DECEMBER 2015****LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER (NE)****SUBJECT: GROSVENOR ROAD, LANGLEY VALE VILLAGE****DIVISION: EPSOM TOWN AND DOWNS****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report summarises the events leading up to a scheme to modify the entrance to Grosvenor Road from Langley Vale Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

For information only. The Committee is asked to note the report

1. SUMMARY OF EVENTS:

- 1.1 A petition was received led by a local resident. It was presented to Local Committee in September 2013 signed by over 100 residents. The petitioners' request was for action to reduce speeding in Langley Vale Village and to make it feel safer for pedestrians using the roads in the village
- 1.2 A meeting was arranged with the lead petitioner, the Divisional Member, and the Police to discuss options:
 - A number of suggestions were made such as a new 20mph speed limit and discounted for various reasons. The Police had found that speeds were not as high as suggested, so Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) would not have been appropriate and with no personal injury accidents traffic calming measures could not be justified.
 - One suggestion was to change the 'feel' of the area so that when vehicles turned off Langley Vale Road they were entering a different environment.
 - It was agreed that we would investigate what could be done at the junctions of Roseberry and Grosvenor Road to see if it was possible to change the 'feel' of the area with gateway signing and build outs to help reduce the speed at which vehicles enter the side roads.
- 1.3 A proposal was designed which reduced the size of the very wide junction at Grosvenor Road, which would have the benefits of slowing down vehicles turning left into Grosvenor Road and reduce the distance that pedestrians had to cover to cross what was an extremely wide junction.
- 1.4 Funding was found from Developer related sources.
- 1.5 At this point there should have been public consultation. However:
 - The Area Team Manager assumed that the works would be considered to be generally beneficial, and of low impact – rather like provision of mobility ramps.
 - The Divisional Member was not consulted with the details of the scheme.

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- No public consultation was carried out.
- 1.6 Surrey County Council's contractor was due to commence work in school summer holidays but after posting advance warning that work was due to start the work did not begin until around 9th September.
 - 1.7 The construction work caused a lot of problems mainly due to barriers, contractors vehicles, grab lorries etc and working unrestricted at peak times.
 - 1.8 During construction an error was identified which resulted in a slight change to the kerb line thereby reducing the impact of the new scheme.
 - 1.9 Following residents' complaints, it was agreed that work would be completed on one side of Grosvenor Road to complete the build out, but work suspended on the other side, where a slight build out was proposed.
 - 1.10 Officers are currently working with the Divisional Member to find a suitable gateway feature to be installed on the built out area. This will possibly be a gateway sign and flower bed.
 - 1.11 Local residents said they would contact us every time there was a dangerous incident. There have been no reported incidents since the last Committee meeting in September 2015.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 It was a mistake not to consult the Divisional Member with the details of the scheme. It was a mistake not to undertake public consultation. The Area Team Manager takes full responsibility for these mistakes, and would like to apologise for the consequent consternation.
- 2.2 Surrey County Council recognises that consistent consultation is vital, and a paucity of consultation can lead to communities becoming disenfranchised. To ensure consultation is adequate and consistent, consultation guidelines have been drafted, and presented to the Local Committee Chairmen for feedback. The guidelines are due to be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for endorsement in the next month or so.

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