

ANNEX 1

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****PETITION: PROPOSED RESPONSE****18 MARCH 2016**

The following online petition has been received, posted by Mr D Chandler and attracting 86 signatories:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to: 'Widen Portsmouth Road Hindhead to Avoid Accidents.'

The petition's details read:

Ever since the Hindhead Tunnel was opened I have been amazed that the Portsmouth Road is so narrow with an unusually wide pavement. This road is now an arterial road to get to Haslemere from the A3 since it is quicker and shorter than going back up to Hindhead and down. There are many lorries (particularly construction) and coaches (for Woolmer Hill School) that use this road and it is barely wide enough to pass. One day there is going to be a serious accident here which can easily be avoided by widening the road and making the pavement a normal size. Upper Hammer Lane should also be widened up to the junction with Woolmer Hill Road for the same reasons.

Proposed response

During the early stages of planning and design of the Hindhead tunnel a public enquiry was held in 2004, which stipulated that the old A3 Portsmouth Road would be de trunked and reclassified to the A333 Portsmouth Road and Portsmouth Road South, with ownership passing from the Highways Agency to Surrey County Council. It was also a requirement that the provision of cycling facilities be introduced along the Portsmouth Road from Hammer Lane to the junction with the A287 Tilford Road. Consequently the footway was widened between the double roundabouts at the A3 junction and Hammer Lane to create a new shared use cycle path footway. The footway between the A3 junction to the A287 Tilford Road was already at a sufficient width to accommodate a shared use cycle path. The work was carried out by the Highways Agency as part of the tunnel construction project with the intention of creating a more rural road and quieter environment for the local residents.

Since completion of the tunnel, traffic studies have been carried out by the Highways Agency which have revealed a higher volume of traffic than initially predicted using the Portsmouth Road South as access to Haslemere and mainly Grayshott via Crossways. Collision data for this location shows only two recorded injury accidents within the last three years. Both appear to be random isolated incidents, which are not attributed to the width of the carriageway. Hampshire County Council has also carried out a traffic calming scheme along Crossways and has extended the cycle path along Hammer Lane up to the junction with Woolmer Hill Road, where pedestrians previously had to walk along the carriageway.

On this basis, the Surrey County Council would not propose to widen the carriageway, reduce the width of the footway and remove the cycling facilities, which would take away an important part of the infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists that currently use Portsmouth Road South as access for Woolmer Hill school, The Edge leisure centre and Haslemere town without significant justification in terms of numbers of recorded collisions and a history of poor road safety.