

CHANGES TO THE ROAD LAYOUT OF WALNUT TREE CLOSE

During a public consultation in autumn 2015, we asked for your feedback on seven proposals known as the Guildford Town Centre Transport Package. The proposals would make travelling in or around Guildford on foot, by bike and by bus safer, easier and faster.

You can view details of each of the seven proposals at: surreycc.gov.uk/guildfordtransportschemes

Thanks to your input and support, Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council have now secured Local Enterprise Partnership funding that will enable the project to be delivered. The changes are now being progressed and work is due to begin in 2017.

Walnut Tree Close

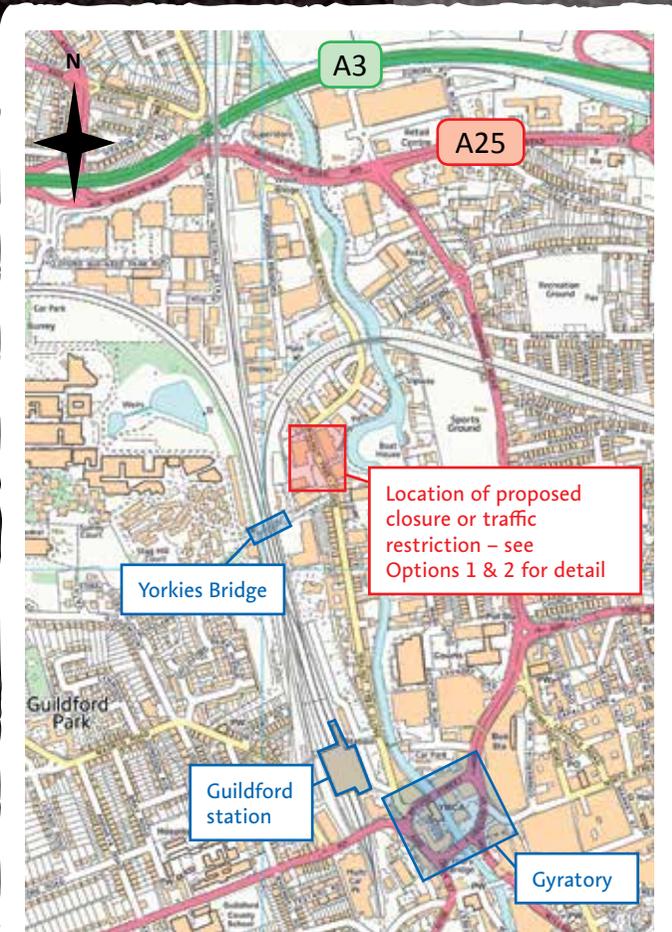
This follow-up consultation focuses on one of the seven changes within the Town Centre Transport Package, the experimental closure of Walnut Tree Close to through-traffic.

What is being proposed?

A trial closure or traffic restriction on Walnut Tree Close, for up to 18 months, to the north of Guildford Station.

In autumn 2015 when asked about the idea of closing Walnut Tree Close to through-traffic 53% of respondents agreed with the idea, 26% disagreed and 21% were neutral or didn't reply.

We have now developed two options for Walnut Tree Close and would like your input to help us decide which option to take forward. Both options will continue to allow vehicles to access the businesses and homes along Walnut Tree Close but will prevent through-traffic from travelling from one end of the road to the other (except for emergency service vehicles).



Location of Walnut Tree Close and nearby landmarks



WHY DOES TRAFFIC NEED TO BE RESTRICTED ON WALNUT TREE CLOSE?



SURREY

ITEM 10

342 residents signed a petition in 2013 asking for the road to be closed to through-traffic for reasons that included safety, congestion and the local environment.

Safety

There have been several accidents involving pedestrians and drivers along Walnut Tree Close and at the junctions with the station and gyratory.

The road is narrow in parts leading to some motorists mounting the pavement to get past oncoming traffic. Parked cars have also been damaged by passing vehicles.

Congestion

Walnut Tree Close is used as a cut-through between the A25 and the town centre gyratory. Over 40% of journeys made using Walnut Tree Close are non-stopping and do not access the homes or businesses on the road, or the rail station.

Long queues form along the southern end of Walnut Tree Close, particularly during rush hour periods when residents and businesses have problems getting to and from their premises and emergency vehicles struggle to get through.

The flow of traffic on the gyratory is slowed down as vehicles attempt to join from Walnut Tree Close and move into their required lane.

Environment

The noise and fumes from the traffic on Walnut Tree Close can make it unpleasant for anyone who lives on the road or walks or cycles along it.



Traffic exiting Walnut Tree Close onto the gyratory



Congestion and narrow roads can make it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass



Vehicles often mount the kerb to allow oncoming traffic to pass



Queues can stretch far back along Walnut Tree Close during rush hour

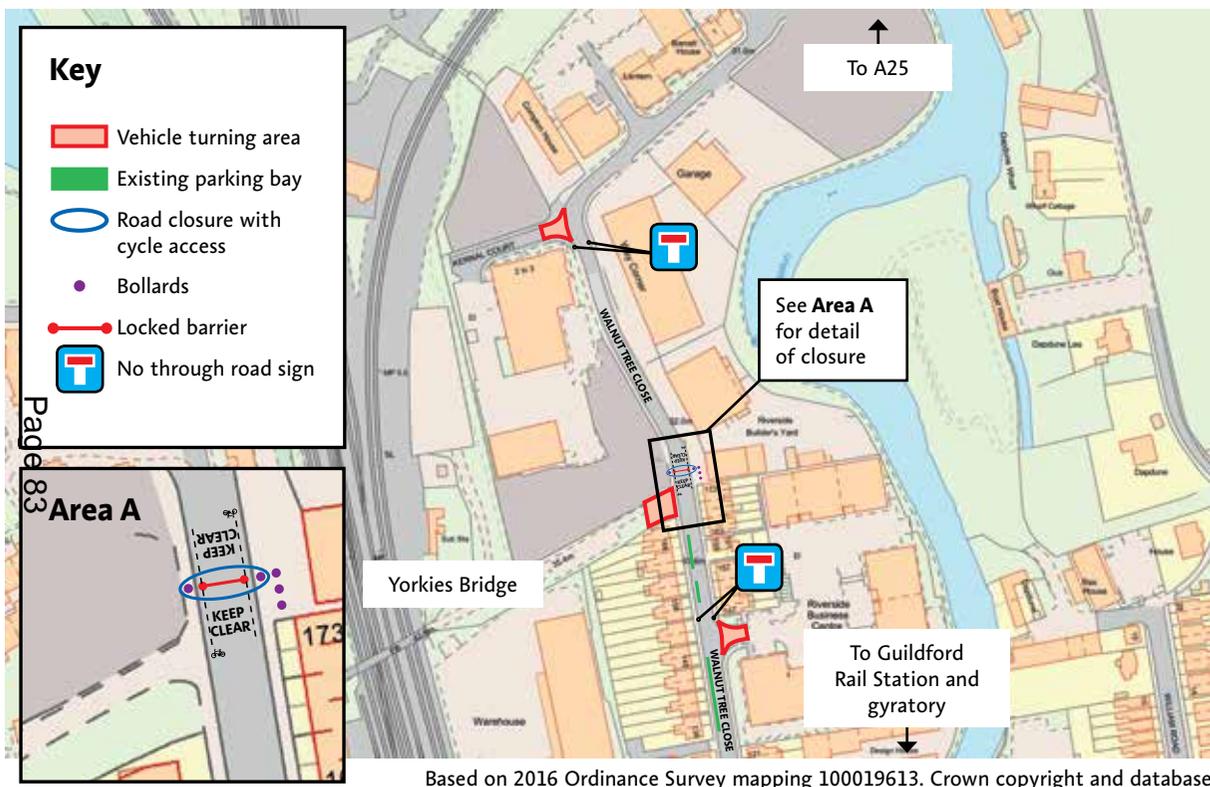
The proposed closure or traffic restriction intends to:

- Reduce the volume of traffic using Walnut Tree Close.
- Improve road safety and traffic flow on the gyratory.
- Encourage more walking and cycling.



OPTION 1

A closure to all through-traffic except cyclists and emergency vehicles using a locked barrier at a single location. The barrier would be located north of Guildford Railway station, near the junction leading to Yorkies Bridge.



Key Features of Option 1

- Removal of all through-traffic along Walnut Tree Close between the gyratory and A25.
- Fewer vehicles join the gyratory from Walnut Tree Close.
- Vehicles travelling to destinations south of the barrier would access Walnut Tree Close from the gyratory.
- Vehicles travelling to destinations north of the barrier would access Walnut Tree Close from the A25.
- All existing parking bays would remain.

NOTE: Negotiations between Surrey County Council and land owners over the use of proposed vehicle turning areas will take place following final Local Committee approval of the option.

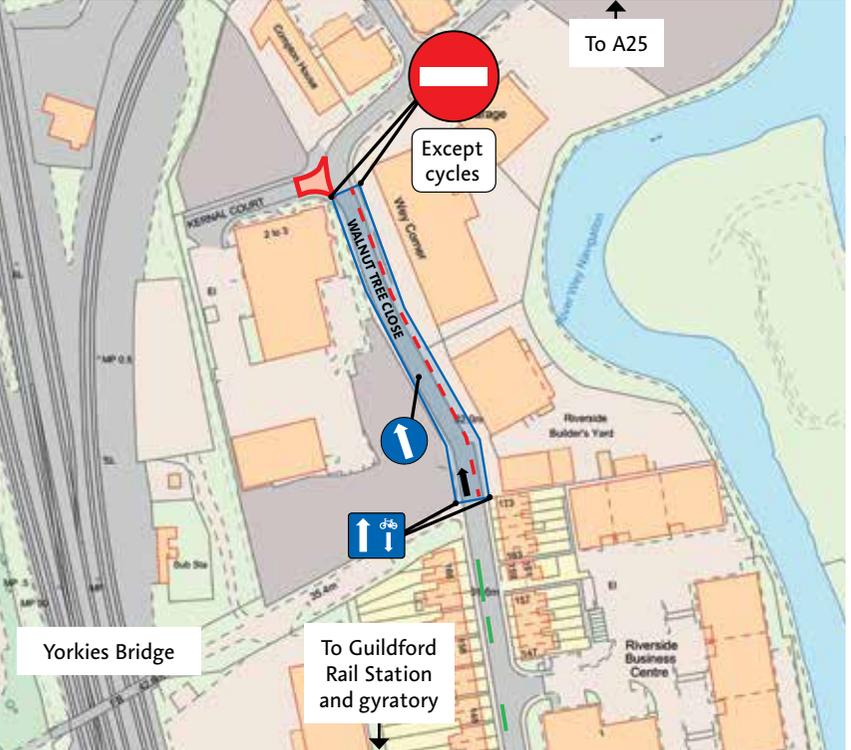


OPTION 2

A one-way traffic restriction upon southbound vehicles along a section of Walnut Tree Close, approximately 120m in length. Traffic would be permitted through this section in a northbound direction only, except cyclists and emergency vehicles which would be able to travel both ways.

Key

- Proposed vehicle turning area
- Existing parking bay
- One-way vehicle access
- Southbound cycle lane
- No entry sign
- One-way sign
- Contra-flow cycles sign



Based on 2016 Ordnance Survey mapping 100019613. Crown copyright and database

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An example of one-way vehicle access and two-way cycling

Key Features of Option 2

- Removal of all southbound through-traffic along Walnut Tree Close between the A25 and the gyratory.
- Fewer vehicles join the gyratory from Walnut Tree Close.
- Vehicles entering Walnut Tree Close from the gyratory would remain able to access the A25 and destinations north of the one-way restriction.
- All existing parking bays would remain

NOTE: Negotiations between Surrey County Council and land owners over the use of the proposed vehicle turning area will take place following final Local Committee approval of the option.



HOW WOULD THE WORK BE CARRIED OUT?

For both of the options presented, we have tried to use locations that give vehicles areas to turn around and that create an informal boundary between homes and businesses. Either option would be in place for a trial period of up to 18 months. The effects on flows of traffic on Walnut Tree Close and surrounding roads will be monitored over this period to measure the impact of the changes and account for the time it takes for people to adjust to them. This would also mean the trial could be stopped if there are any major issues with the new road layout.

Your feedback, along with economic and feasibility studies, will help us to make a decision on which option is carried out. This option will be presented to Guildford's Local Area Committee for their approval.

The work is planned for late 2017 or early 2018. The majority of funding will be provided by the Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Fund. Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council will provide a local contribution and will plan and implement the project.

Have your say

Please fill in a questionnaire online to give us your feedback on the proposals by **24 July 2016**.

surreycc.gov.uk/guildfordtransportschemes.

We understand that traffic restrictions affect different people in different ways and it is important for us to get as many opinions as possible to make the project a success.



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