



SURREY

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 3 October 2016

AGENDA ITEM 7

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Dominic Batstone who works in Walton

Please will the local committee consider converting the wide pavement outside Cleves school on Oatlands Chase into a shared use path (to allow cycles) and optionally add a zebra crossing?

I would see the benefits to be:

Reduce driving to Cleves School so making it easier for people to cross

Increase visibility at the T-junction onto Oatlands Chase from Cleves School

Easier to get to Cleves by foot/bike from Walton

Less car use at the school will reduce congestion and pollution in the vicinity as well as increasing activity levels with all associated health benefits.'

Officer's response:

Surrey County Council is keen to encourage cycling as an alternative mode of transport to the private car for short journeys. We are also keen to encourage parents and children to choose sustainable modes of transport for the school run. We recognise that to encourage take up of sustainable modes of transport that engineering schemes are frequently needed to provide the necessary infrastructure, and to overcome perceived barriers.

The Elmbridge Local Committee is developing a Cycling Strategy, with the objective of translating Surrey County Council's broad ambitions into an aspirational network of specific routes linking key destinations. These could then be implemented as funding allows. The Elmbridge Cycling Strategy is focussed on Weybridge in the first instance, as with one of the busiest stations in Surrey, the large commercial area at Brooklands, significant education providers, and busy town centre, it was considered to offer the greatest potential for modal shift. It may be that as this strategy develops, that cycle routes to Cleves School might be identified. However with the Local Committee's focus currently being on Weybridge, it is likely to be a number of years before any new cycle routes to Cleves School are identified and implemented.

Experience shows that cycle routes are only attractive when a complete route is provided from a useful origin to a useful destination. For example from a residential area into the centre of a Town, or to a station, or to a school. Any single missing link can be a barrier to people using a route. The suggestion for a new cycle route along a section of Oatlands Chase, in isolation, would be of limited value. To be able to access the suggested route, cyclists would need to approach either along the north-western section of Oatlands Chase, which currently has no specific cycle facility, or from Ashley Road, which again has no specific cycle facility. The suggested cycle route would be an isolated fragment, and therefore would be unlikely to encourage any modal shift from private car to cycle.

As part of a project to expand Cleves School a Zebra Crossing to enable pedestrians more easily to cross Oatlands Chase already is being considered, together with improved pedestrian crossing facilities in Ashley Road.

2. Question from Councillor Barry Fairbank

Long Ditton Trust Fund (LDTF)

At the end of 2015 and at the request of SCC Highways, Elmbridge Councillors for Long Ditton were asked to provide proposals (on highway related projects) for spending the remainder of the money in the LDTF amounting to c£22,000.

In response information on 5 possible projects was provided in February 2016 with a request to SCC Highways to provide estimated costs for each so that we could determine which if not all of the projects could be taken forward.

Can the Highways Officer please advise when the estimates will be available and the projects started?

Officer's response:

Officers are aware of Members' aspirations for investing the £22,000 capital arising out of the Long Ditton Trust Fund. A number of suggestions were made earlier this year - including capital and revenue works - which officers need to review and calculate cost estimates. A number of the suggestions (vegetation clearance and renewal) cannot be funded from the Trust Fund capital sum as these are revenue activities. There has been a delay in calculating the costs of the suggestions - officers have been prioritising works promoted from the Local Committee's budgets, as these budgets are tied to the Financial Year.