



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE

DATE: 16 September 2016

A question has been received from Mr Christopher Peck

The Godalming Cycle Campaign are pleased to note the plans on page 11 of the Waverley Local Plan Infrastructure Delivery Plan (published August 2016) for 'quality cycle routes' from Milford to Godalming, and from Godalming to Guildford, to be delivered between 2016-2020. Currently 3,840 people either commute from Godalming to Guildford (30% of Godalming's commuters), or from Guildford to Godalming (Census 2011). Despite good bus and rail connections and a short distance, 77% travel by car, and just 50 people cycle, in part due to the lack of suitable routes. Well designed cycle routes could help relieve congestion, improve public health and provide valuable leisure and transport infrastructure for the area.

My question to the committee is this:

When will plans for these routes be published and will the Waverley Local Committee ensure there is dialogue and consultation with local stakeholders and interested parties on alignment and design?

Response:

In summary, the Local Committee is developing a Cycling Plan and will decide its priorities and a programme. The Cycling Plan will have regard for the needs identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The Local Committee is resolved to develop cycle facilities in Waverley as part of the Surrey Cycling Strategy. To this end, a members' cycling task group has been formed. The Local Area Task Groups are developing specific ideas with the assistance of local stakeholders, including members of the Waverley Cycle Forum, with a report back to the Local Committee planned for December 2016. Consultation with local stakeholders will be an integral part of an ongoing process.

To answer the question more fully - and in terms of the Local Committee's role - it is helpful to set out three processes that will each inform each other: the Waverley Local Plan, the Cycling Plan being developed by the Local Committee and Local Transport Strategy that will need to be developed after adoption of the Local Plan.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is produced by Waverley Borough Council and is part of the evidence base to support the Local Plan. The IDP states, "The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be a living document and will be updated on a regular basis to reflect any changes to the delivery of infrastructure". The IDP published by the Borough identifies numerous infrastructure improvements, including cycling facilities. The proposed infrastructure will provide a basis for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Much of its implementation will depend on the funds arising from CIL and, in this way, infrastructure implementation and timing is conditional; hence the need for the IDP to be a 'living' document.

Cycling Plan

As described above, the Cycling Plan will identify a network of proposed cycle facilities. It will be for the Local Committee to decide how it wants to prioritise and programme the proposals.

The Local Committee may decide to fund cycle facilities from its own budget. However, due to budget limitations, these are more likely to be localised improvements. Larger schemes will require external funding – CIL or other sources if they become available.

Local Transport Strategy

The county council is producing Local Transport Strategies and Forward Programmes for each district and borough in the county. The purpose of these strategies is to support the growth set out within district and borough local plans and provide a programme of transport infrastructure required to deliver this growth. They also provide an evidence base for future funding bids. The Waverley Local Transport Strategy will be developed after the adoption of the Local Plan and be informed by the Local Plan including the IDP. It will need to be approved by the Local Committee. A Local Transport Strategy is accompanied by a Forward Programme that contains a list of infrastructure schemes with implementation dates.

Cycling Plan and Local Transport Strategy

It is anticipated that the Cycling Plan would form part of the Local Transport Strategy.

Cycling Plan and Local Plan including IDP

It is anticipated that the Cycling Plan will be incorporated into the Local Plan. The document "Waverley Borough Pre-Submission Local Plan Part 1: Strategic Policies and Sites" currently out for consultation states (paragraph 7.9): "A number of preferred cycle routes have already been identified in the Waverley Cycling Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which was adopted in April 2005 and the proposed list of routes is being updated." The 'update' is the Cycling Plan currently being developed. The SPD in turn informs the IDP.

Conclusion

The implementation of much of the infrastructure will be dependent upon available funding, which is likely to have to come from a number of sources. The level of funding required will be determined once the detailed designs are drawn up, agreed and costed.

The Local Committee can set its priorities and programme through its commitment to a Cycling Plan, which in turn may become part of a Local Transport Strategy.

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