

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)****DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2017****LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA TEAM MANAGER****SUBJECT: LONG DITTON SCHOOLS
SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS****RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION****DIVISION: THE DITTONS****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Concerns have been raised by residents and road users regarding the existing highway conditions in Long Ditton, in the vicinity of Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School and Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School.

Following discussions with the divisional member and borough members, it was agreed to consult on proposals to amend the road layout at these locations to improve facilities for pedestrians. Public consultation has been carried out on the proposals. The consultation also invited any other comments to be raised.

This report presents the results of the public consultation. The Local Committee is asked to note the results of the consultation and the recommendations made. The Local Committee is also asked to note the next steps, in that the scheme will progress to detailed design and construction, informed by the public consultation that is the subject of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:**

- (i) Note the results of the public consultation as set out in this report, particularly that there is overwhelming level of support for the proposals presented for public consultation;
- (ii) Note that the results and feedback will be used to inform the detailed design.
- (iii) Delegate authority to the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Member to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the works, including advertisement of statutory notices.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To inform the Local Committee of the results of the public consultation and the next steps in progressing the scheme.

To provide the necessary authorisation to deliver the programme of works in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member

without the need to revert to the Committee as a whole.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School is located on Sugden Road and Ewell Road. Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School is located on Ditton Hill Road. Sugden Road, Ewell Road and Ditton Hill Road are of predominantly residential use.
- 1.2 A location plan is attached as **Annex 1**.
- 1.3 Sugden Road/Ewell Road and Ditton Hill Road are linked by Fleece Road with mini-roundabouts to the east and west. Fleece Road forms part of an east-west route running parallel to the railway line, including Sugden Road and linking west to Manor Road North. There is a shopping parade with marked parking bays on the south side of Fleece Road. There are footways on each side of Sugden Road, Ewell Road, Fleece Road and Ditton Hill Road.
- 1.4 At Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School on Sugden Road, close to the school access and bus stops, there is an existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing with a raised table and tactile paving. On Ewell Road there is a similar crossing point. See **Photos 1 and 2** below.



Image (c) Google

Photo 1
Existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on Sugden Road



Image (c) Google

Photo 2
Existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on Ewell Road

- 1.5 At Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School on Ditton Hill Road, there is an existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing with a raised table and tactile paving. See **Photo 3** below.



Image (c) Google

Photo 3
Existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on Ditton Hill Road

- 1.6 There are additional uncontrolled pedestrian crossings in the immediate area:

- Rectory Lane, at its junction with Sugden Road – dropped kerbs, tactile paving and central refuge island at the junction mouth

- Mini-roundabout junction of Sugden Road, Ewell Road and Fleece Road – tactile paving and raised table to the west of the roundabout; dropped kerbs to the east of the roundabout
 - Ditton Hill Road, at its junction with Kings Road – dropped kerbs and tactile paving at the junction mouth
- 1.7 The current layout can lead to potential difficulty for pedestrians crossing both Sugden Road and Ditton Hill Road near the schools. This is partially due to the traffic flows and also the traffic speeds. Both Sugden Road and Ditton Hill Road are on relatively straight alignments which can lead to higher speeds.
- 1.8 Surrey County Council works with Surrey Police to assess road safety. Collision data collated by Surrey Police is shared and analysed. It is fortunate that there are no recorded collisions causing injury to pedestrians at either of the schools, but the concerns are recognised. Improved facilities can promote and encourage sustainable travel methods as well as manage traffic flow and driver behaviour.
- 1.9 Surrey Highways undertook feasibility studies, including site visits and liaison with county and borough members and Surrey Police's Road Safety and Traffic Management Team. This led to an outline design for proposed improvements, comprising:
- Narrowing of the carriageway at a point on Sugden Road to provide an entry point approaching Long Ditton St Mary's School. This is to highlight to drivers the change in environment and two-way traffic would be maintained.
 - A zebra crossing on the existing raised table on Sugden Road near Long Ditton St Mary's School.
 - Narrowing of the carriageway at a point on Ditton Hill Road to provide an entry point approaching Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School. This is to highlight to drivers the change in environment and two-way traffic would be maintained.
 - A zebra crossing on the existing raised table near Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School.
 - Improved road markings to formalise the parking area outside the shopping parade on Fleece Road.
 - A build out at the roundabout junction of Fleece Road and Ditton Hill Road to increase the deflection and reduce vehicle speeds.
- 1.10 A consultation letter and a drawing of the proposed measures were delivered in November 2016 to residents and businesses in the immediate area. A questionnaire was also included to invite feedback.
- 1.11 Elmbridge Borough Councillors for the area and the Long Ditton Residents' Association were also consulted.
- 1.12 Copies of the consultation drawing and letter plus questionnaire are attached as **Annexes 2 and 3** respectively. A plan showing the consultation area and details of additional consultees are attached as **Annex 4**.
- 1.13 This report presents the results of the public consultation.

2. ANALYSIS:

Responses

- 2.1 Letters, the consultation drawing and questionnaire were delivered to residents and business addresses in the area shown in Annex 4. This included properties in Sugden Road, Ditton Hill Road, Fleece Road, Ewell Road, Betts Way, Church Road, Highfield Close, Kings Road, Rectory Close, Rectory Lane and Scott Farm Close. In total, the consultation material was sent by post to 524 addresses.
- 2.2 There was a total of 186 responses received from residents and businesses (a response rate of 35%), plus a response from Surrey Police.
- 2.3 Further details on the responses received are attached as **Annex 5**.

Summary of responses and feedback, plus comment from Surrey Highways

- 2.4 The view expressed by respondents is that they support the proposed improvement measures (86%).
- 2.5 Of the responses received, a number of common issues emerged, which are summarised below, along with officer comments:

- Concerns that existing speeds and inconsiderate parking cause problems
- Comments that drivers do not slow down at the existing roundabout near the shops

Comment: The proposals aim to address these concerns.

- Concerns regarding loss of parking

Comment: The detailed design would include assessment of the likely impact on parking. The council's highways and parking teams will work closely to address concerns.

- Concerns regarding access to properties

Comment: The detailed design would carefully consider access to properties and seek to minimise any impact.

- Comments that a crossing on the raised table in Ewell Road would be useful

Comment: It is recognised that pedestrians cross here, but the traffic speeds are lower as it is near the roundabout junction. A third formal crossing was considered excessive for the area at this time.

- Comments that pedestrians will continue to cross near the shops

Comment: It is recognised that pedestrians cross here, but the traffic speeds are lower as it is near the roundabout junction. The proposed

measures are intended to slow the traffic on the eastbound Sugden Road approach to this location.

- Comments that measures should be considered for Rectory Lane

Comment: It is not anticipated that Rectory Lane will become a rat-run as there are no additional road tables or calming features proposed on Sugden Road or Ditton Hill Road. The proposed crossings are on existing tables and the narrowing of the roads will maintain two-way traffic. Should traffic problems be experienced on surrounding roads these could be assessed in the future.

- Support expressed for 20mph limit

Comment: The proposed measures are intended to reduce vehicle speeds. A 20mph limit could potentially be considered at a later date, in line with the county council policy.

- Support expressed for a crossing to Long Ditton Recreation Ground

Comment: Improvements at the junction of Ewell Road and Rushett Road, including a crossing to the recreation ground are currently in progress (February 2017).

Other consultees

- 2.6 Additional individuals and organisations were also consulted (see Annex 4).

Emergency services

- 2.7 Surrey Police responded to state they support the proposals.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 A number of options, together with Surrey Highways comments, are given below, based on the results of the consultation.

- 3.2 **Option A:** Proceed with detailed design and implementation of measures, based on the proposals presented for public consultation.

Comment: There is strong support for the proposals presented for public consultation.

- 3.3 **Option B:** Do not proceed with detailed design and implementation of measures or further investigation and assessment, i.e. 'do nothing'.

Comment: The existing road layout would remain.

- 3.4 As there is strong support for the proposals presented for public consultation, Option A as outlined above (para 3.2) will be progressed, i.e. **proceed with detailed design and implementation of measures, based on the proposals presented for public consultation** The comments and feedback from the public consultation will be considered in the detailed design of the scheme. Further consultation will also be undertaken with stakeholders including Surrey Police.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Proposals to provide improvements at, and in the vicinity of, Long Ditton St Mary's School and Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School have been the subject of public consultation, the results of which are presented in this report.
- 4.2 Elmbridge Borough Councillors for the area and the emergency services have also been consulted.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There is funding from planning contributions collected from developers.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 It is an objective of Surrey Highways to treat all users of the public highway equally and with understanding.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The Highway Service is mindful of the localism agenda and engages with the local community as appropriate before proceeding with the construction of any highway scheme.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

A well-managed highway network can contribute to reduction in crime and disorder.

8.2 Sustainability implications

The use of sustainable materials and the recycling of materials is carried out wherever possible and appropriate.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 Concerns have been raised by residents and road users regarding the existing highway conditions in Long Ditton, in the vicinity of Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School and Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School.
- 9.2 Public consultation has been carried out on proposals to amend the road layout at these locations to improve facilities for pedestrians. There is strong support for the proposals presented for public consultation.
- 9.3 The Local Committee is asked to note the results of the public consultation as set out in this report.
- 9.4 The proposals presented for public consultation will be progressed, thus proceeding with detailed design and implementation of measures. The comments and feedback from the public consultation will be considered in the detailed design of the scheme.
- 9.5 The Local Committee is asked to delegate authority to the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Member to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the works, including advertisement of statutory notices.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Detailed design of the scheme will be progressed, leading to implementation.
- 10.2 It is anticipated that implementation will be in the financial year 2017-18.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

As detailed in the report

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Location plan
- Annex 2: Plan of proposals
- Annex 3: Consultation letter and questionnaire
- Annex 4: Consultation delivery area and consultees
- Annex 5: Responses received

Sources/background papers:

- Responses to public consultation
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