

Questions from members of the public (tabled)

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)



DATE: 01 MARCH 2017
LEAD OFFICER: SARAH J SMITH, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITTEE OFFICER
SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS

Question from District Councillor Irvine (Mickleham, Westhumble and Pixham)

Subway under the A24 at the Burford Bridge roundabout

Cyclists regularly cross the dual carriageway heading from Westhumble Street across the A24, round the Burford Bridge roundabout and on towards Mickleham and the Zig Zag Road. There is considerable concern among residents, not unwarranted in my view, that this is a very dangerous crossing for cyclists and that sooner or later it may result in a very serious accident.

It is not possible to prevent cyclists from crossing the dual carriageway at this point, but perhaps we could adapt the subway to be more friendly to cyclists in order to encourage them to cross under the main road rather than over it. This would of course mean that the subway is shared between cyclists and pedestrians. However one could argue that the risk of a collision between a cyclist and a pedestrian is less severe than the risk of a collision between a car and a cyclist. It should be noted that in order to enter the subway round tight corners, cyclists would have to slow considerably anyway.

Response:

Cyclists are permitted to use the existing subway and signs are present directing cyclists to do so in order to cross the A24 to access Box Hill and Westhumble, there are also signs asking cyclists to dismount before using the subway.

A review of the personal injury collisions recorded by Surrey Police, at the A24/Westhumble Street junction, shows that there have been 2 reported collisions at this junction from 1st November 2013 to the end of 31st October 2016 (the latest 3 year period for which data is available), one of which did include a cyclist.

However, whilst officers appreciate local residents' concerns that cyclists choose to cross the A24 rather than use the subway, the Local Area Highway Team also receive reports from pedestrians concerned about speeding cyclists using subways. Therefore providing signs to direct cyclists to use the subway, but to dismount, provides a safe crossing facility for cyclists.

The Local Area Highway Team receives a large number of requests for improvements to be carried out on the highway following concerns raised about road

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safety. However there is very limited funding available and extensive work to widen the existing footway in order to provide a shared but segregated footway/cycleway on the approach to and through the subway would not be prioritised over other requested improvements, for the limited funding available.

Questions from Peter Seaward on behalf of Bookham Residents' Association

1. Rectory Lane, Bookham, Footway and Carriageway Improvement

Is the scheme for the extension of the eastside footway from The Grange south to the A246, together with widening of the carriageway to a standard 6.0 metres width where it is currently as narrow as 4.0 metres, still under consideration by SCC?

This scheme is considered of utmost importance to the BRA and also to The Grange Relatives and Carers Network.

Response:

Topographical surveys and an initial design have been drawn up for a proposal to extend the footway on the eastern side of Rectory Lane to the junction with the A246. However, in order to construct this footway land from outside the highway will need to be purchased and currently no funding is available for land purchase in order to progress this scheme. Therefore no negotiations have commenced with landowners regarding the purchase of land.

However, the scheme to extend the footway on Rectory Lane remains on the Mole Valley Integrated Transport (ITS) List for consideration for future funding

2. Lower Road, Bookham, Road Markings

The road markings at The Squareabout are very faded, resulting in many drivers not realising that all arms of the junction are subject to 'Give Way' control. At BRA's request in June 2016, SCC agreed to consider whether the markings should be repainted but to date no repainting has been carried out.

BRA also asked SCC to investigate whether the 'Give Way' line at the north end of East Street, at its junction with Lower Road, could be moved slightly northwards to improve visibility eastwards towards Fetcham. In addition a sign is needed on Lower Road for westbound traffic approaching the junction.

Can we please have an update on when repainting of the road markings might be carried out?

Response:

An order has been placed for the refreshing of all the road markings at The Squareabout. It is hoped that the refresh works can be carried out by the end of this financial year. It should be noted that the delivery of road markings is weather dependent as they are best put down on a dry carriageway surface. Road markings are also adversely affected by the presence of salt on the carriageway.

The existing "Give Way" markings in East Street at the junction with Lower Road are clear. Moving these "Give Way" markings slightly further north would require the existing markings to be burnt off which could damage the existing road surface.

There have been no recorded personal injury collisions at this junction, over the most recent 3 year period for which data is available (01/11/2013 to 31/10/16). Therefore there are currently no plans to move the existing "Give Way" markings in East Street at the junction with Lower Road, Bookham.

Side road ahead warning signs are not routinely provided in advance of all junctions.

Surrey County Council is currently carrying out a programme of decluttering in line with Department of Transport guidelines. This is to ensure that road users are not distracted from important information by unnecessary signs, to reduce visual intrusion and to minimise maintenance costs. For this reason all requests for new signs are very carefully considered. The traffic calming measures on Lower Road on the approach to the junction with East Street, keep vehicle speeds low. For the reasons given above there are no plans to install a warning sign for westbound traffic on Lower Road approaching the junction as Bookham Residents Association suggests.

3. Lower Road, Bookham, Drainage between East Street and The Squareabout

This location is subject to severe flooding every time it rains and several questions regarding the drainage of the area have been considered by the Local Committee over the years. Several investigations have been carried out over the last couple of years but have yet to be finalised.

Could we please have an update as to when investigations will be completed and following this, when drainage improvements might be carried out?

Response:

The drainage investigation and repair on Lower Road between East Street and the squareabout remain on-going, as resources permit, along with other sites in the Bookham area. The work on Lower Road forms a part of the Bookham Flood Forum work and a number of investigations and repairs have been carried out and completed. Further repairs have also been identified from the work completed so far and these will need to be carried out in the new financial year subject to available revenue budgets. The Maintenance Engineer will continue to work with The Flood Forum to resolve these issues and provide updates.

4. Dorking Road, Bookham, Drainage

We understand that the scheme to improve the drainage at the Dorking Road/Polesden Access Road junction has now been finalised.

Could you please update us on the likely date for implementation?

Response:

This scheme has been difficult to progress as it is closely tied into several 3rd party issues. Previous elements of the scheme have had to be reconsidered, due to landowners being unhappy with the proposals. In order to take the scheme forward without access to this 3rd party land, it has been necessary to have drainage components specially designed for the scheme, which has taken time. These design and prototypes have now been finalised.

One of the main issues with the construction of the scheme is the need for continued public access to Polesden Lacey. The National Trust have indicated that in order for them not to suffer excessive financial burdens (possibly requiring compensation), from the restricted access the works will cause, they have indicated that the scheme needs to be carried out between November and March.

As parts of the overall Dorking Road Capital Drainage Scheme have already been constructed and this has reduced at least some of the risk, the remaining parts detailed above are now at a lower priority. However we believe that the scheme could go ahead at the National Trusts preferred dates of December 2017/January 2018 but this, as with all the schemes, is dependent on the finalised budget allocated for the Capital Highway Drainage Programme in 2017/18. We are due to hear how much budget we have been allocated later in March and will advise as soon as possible if the remaining works are able to go ahead in the coming financial year.