

Questions from members of the public

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)



DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

LEAD OFFICER: SARAH J SMITH, PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

DIVISION: REDHILL WEST AND MEADVALE/REIGATE

Question received from Borough Councillor Anna Tarrant:

Would the committee consider funding a refuge / crossing island at the junction of The Chase and Ringley Park Avenue in Reigate?

This is an extremely wide junction where cars regularly cut the corner when turning right into The Chase. They are then driving both into oncoming traffic but more importantly at speed towards pedestrians crossing The Chase to continue up towards Dunottar School and Redhill Common.

Now that Dunottar School has increased in pupil numbers, there are even more children having to negotiate this junction. Children walk on the other side of the Ringley Park Avenue but the pavement there is very narrow and also requires them to cross another busy junction. Either way this junction really does need to be made safer.

Response:

The Chase in Reigate is a wide residential road linking Ringley Park Avenue and Blackborough Road. There is that a wide bellmouth at the junction of The Chase and Ringley Park Avenue, and it is acknowledged that this is a considerable distance for pedestrians to cross.

As part of a scheme to provide a pedestrian refuge island in the bellmouth it is likely that it would be necessary to widen the footway on the south side of The Chase. This would provide enough room for pedestrians to wait to cross and also avoid the utility company equipment that is in the existing footway. Widening the footway would considerably increase the cost of the scheme.

A review has been carried out of personal injury collisions that have occurred at the junction of The Chase and Ringley Park Avenue between July 2015 and the end of June 2018 (the most recent period for which data is available). During this period there have been no collisions resulting in personal injury at this location.

The South East Area Highway Team receives large numbers of requests for road safety measures on the public highway network, and has very limited funding for

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such measures. Such requests are prioritised according to whether they meet Surrey County Council's Transport Plan objectives for example reducing personal injury collisions, improving journey time reliability by reducing congestion and encouraging the use of sustainable transport.

It is acknowledged that the request for a pedestrian refuge in The Chase may encourage the use of sustainable transport. However it would neither reduce collisions, nor improve journey time reliability by reducing congestion and would therefore be unlikely to be prioritised against other requests for schemes in the Reigate & Banstead area given the limited funding available.

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