

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 3 DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: BLETCHINGLEY ROAD, MERSTHAM – MINI ROUNDABOUTS AT ALBURY ROAD AND PORTLAND DRIVE

DIVISION: MERSTHAM AND BANSTEAD SOUTH

PETITION DETAILS:

The petition's details read:

Portland Drive - cars coming out of Portland Drive onto the mini roundabout with Bletchingley Road do not give way to the cars coming from the right, they just pull out.

Albury Road – to see a clear view of cars coming from the right on Bletchingley Road you have to go onto the mini roundabout, due to parked cars.

At the moment there is a risk of injuries/fatalities

The petitioner is requesting:

1. Re-introduction of the T-junctions at these locations
2. Putting up signs saying "Give way to the right"
3. Mirrors so that drivers have a clear view of cars coming from the right
4. Relaying the road surfaces in Merstham

RESPONSE:

Bletchingley Road joins School Hill at the junction of Nutfield Road in Merstham and continues in an easterly direction to the Reigate & Banstead Borough/Tandridge District Boundary close to the M23 motorway. There are existing mini roundabouts at the junctions of both Albury Road and Portland Drive with Bletchingley Road. These roundabouts have been in place for many years. There has been recent development adjacent to the Bletchingley Road/Portland Road mini-roundabout junction. This will have affected the traffic using this junction, whilst construction work was being carried out, this construction work is now complete.

A review has been carried out of personal injury collisions that have occurred on Bletchingley Road at the junction with both Albury Road and Portland Drive between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2018 (the most recent 3 year period for which data is available). During this period there have been 2 collisions resulting in slight personal injury at the mini roundabout junction of Bletchingley Road and Albury Road. However poor visibility at the junction was not a contributory factor in either of these collisions. The review of personal injury collisions that have occurred on the Bletchingley Road at the mini-roundabout junction with Portland Drive, show that no personal injury collisions have occurred at this junction over the most recent 3 year period for which data is available.

Surrey County Council receives a vast number of requests for changes to be carried out on the public highway, such as changing existing mini-roundabout junctions to T-junctions

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due to resident's concerns about road safety however there is very limited funding available for such changes. Changing the existing roundabout junctions to T-junctions would not be prioritised against other requests for schemes in the Reigate and Banstead area given the limited funding available.

Surrey County Council are only permitted to install signs on the public highway if they are contained within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. There is no sign stating "Give way to the right" in the regulations and therefore Surrey County Council are not able to arrange for such a sign to be installed. There are roundabout signs on all approaches to the Bletchingley Road/Portland Drive mini roundabout junction and also on all the approaches to the Bletchingley Road/Albury Road mini roundabout junction. These signs convey to drivers that they must give priority to vehicles coming from the right.

Surrey County Council does not allow new mirrors to be installed on the highway. This is because experience shows that rather than improving safety, a mirror could increase safety risks, which include;

- Reflect light and interfere with a driver's vision.
- Reduce the ability to judge an oncoming vehicle's speed
- Create an unreasonable dependence on the mirror
- If dirty, distorts or restricts the view
- Be an easy target for vandals.

Surrey County Council is working against a backdrop of increased demand and reductions in funding. To maximise funding from central government Surrey prioritises schemes on its planned maintenance programme in accordance with best practice guidance on asset management.

All roads on the planned maintenance programme have been prioritised in accordance with the cabinet approved process. This process takes account of criteria including: condition; network priority; risk and network management.

C69 Bletchingley Road was assessed for planned maintenance works by officers and unfortunately did not prioritise when compared with other roads county wide which are on Horizon 2 programme. Albury Road and Portland Drive did not show significant signs of deterioration in condition surveys to warrant further assessment.

Full list of schemes is published on our website

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/horizon-highway-maintenance-investment-programme>

We will continue to inspect these roads for individual Safety Defects, and arrange repairs as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Note the officer's comment.*

Contact Officer:

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