

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: DEATHLY JUNCTION PETITION

**DIVISION/
WARD(S) GUILDFORD WEST, ONSLOW
AFFECTED:**

PETITION DETAILS:

We the undersigned petition Guildford Borough Council to remove the dangerous junction between A3 and Beechcroft Drive and provide a safe alternative access

Justification:

1. The dangerous A3/Beechcroft Drive junction slows the A3 and congests our town.
2. The authorities have wasted public money on: warning signs, red road surface, cutting hedgerows and numerous studies.
3. Only a new access will solve this problem
4. The authorities have failed to deal with this for over 40 years.

RESPONSE:

The Committee would like to thank the lead petitioner (Mark Payne) for presenting the petition on behalf of the local residents of Beechcroft Drive.

The petition focuses on closing the A3 and Beechcroft Drive junction and providing an alternative access route to Beechcroft Drive. Highways England (HE) is responsible for any changes or closure of the junction as the A3 is a trunk road and the junction does not come under Surrey County Council (SCC) jurisdiction.

However, the safety issue of entering and exiting Beechcroft Drive onto the A3 is well known to SCC and Guildford Borough Council (GBC). GBC has been looking into this issue and has been trying to come up with an effective solution that could work for all parties. To this end, in granting planning permission for the University of Surrey to expand into Manor Park (back in 2004) the Borough Council safeguarded a route for an alternative access road to serve Beechcroft Drive, which would thereby enable HE to close the existing A3 access should a suitable scheme for doing so come forward. More recently, earlier this year, GBC commissioned a feasibility study with an initial design, specification and outline

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costing for an alternative access road through the Manor Park campus. This has been shared with HE. Unfortunately, HE have not been able to secure sufficient funding from the Department for Transport to deliver and maintain this alternative access road for residents, in addition to the works that are necessary to permanently close the existing junction and associated gap in the central reservation.

There has already been a great deal of consultation from HE, the University of Surrey, SCC and GBC with people living in Beechcroft Drive through their Residents' Association, who are well aware of the current situation.

SCC, GBC and HE will continue to work closely together to identify a feasible solution within the current financial constraints.

RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Committee is asked to:

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

Contact Officer: Frank Apicella, Area Highways Manager, Tel: 03456 009 009