

Questions from members of the public

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)



DATE: 3 JUNE 2019
LEAD OFFICER: JESS EDMUNDSON, PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

DIVISION: ALL

Question 1: Mr Ian Thirlwall

This is a question regarding the Highways England A23 widening proposed through Hooley.

This will have a negative impact on the residents of Hooley, particularly those living and working on the Brighton Road stretch of the proposed widening. We are concerned about the development in three areas:

- Firstly, because we believe it will have a negative impact on air pollution, which will impact our health. There are already high levels of traffic exhaust fumes which are the highest in the county, and this widening could increase traffic in this location.
- Secondly, the scheme proposes to build on the verges and pavements, which will have a negative impact on pedestrians and cyclists, bringing cars within "brushing distance". This could increase accident risk to pedestrians and cyclists. It is not clear how this will be managed (in terms of adverse impacts on our livelihoods and local businesses) both during the twelve month construction programme and in the long-term.
- Thirdly, will the scheme address the traffic-accident-waiting-to-happen at the unofficial makeshift 'turnaround' on the A23 at the junction with Starbucks.
- Finally, it is unclear why this is the best option – as the benefit according to Highways England is only to the M23/ M25, rather than also providing any local benefits for the £4m cost to the taxpayer.

Surely it would be better to spend (significantly less) money on traffic management in Hooley and neighbouring Chipstead where traffic accidents are waiting to happen and reduce speeding on local roads such as Star Lane, Elmore Road, High Road and Coulsdon Lane.

In light of this:

1. Please can you confirm Surrey County Council's view on this scheme in terms of: air pollution impact, traffic impact (particularly the way the scheme

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will help Surrey's transport to become more sustainable) and the proposal to invest £4million in this way rather than on local transport improvements?

2. Please can you provide full details of the consultations with Surrey County Council to date and how the scheme has been changed to reflect local views? Please can the responses that Surrey County Council have given to Highways England on the finalised scheme also be made public?
3. How much of the £4m is being allocated to local improvements as noted above.

Response

The A23 north of the Hooley interchange with the M23, is a Highways England road. The proposed scheme is promoted and managed by Highways England. Further details of the scheme can be found on the Highways England website.

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a23-brighton-road-hooley-improvements/>

It will take some time to gather the information that you have requested in the questions above and these has been logged as a Freedom of Information request on your behalf.