

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 16 November 2020
 SUBJECT: Walton Road/ Langton Road junction petition
 DIVISION: West Molesey

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition with 93 signatures has been received relating to the junction of Walton Road and Langton Road. The lead petitioner is V Davies. The petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Review and revise the junction between Walton Road and Langton Road, West Molesey.

The junction of Langton Road onto Walton Road is a hazardous one. Walton Road is a very busy fast road, with many cars, lorries and buses.

This junction needs urgent attention before one of the many accidents which have occurred here, the most recent one being only yesterday, leads to a serious injury or death.

Anyone pulling out of Langton Road is doing so without the ability to see the oncoming traffic because their line of sight is obscured by parked cars.

We as local residents feel the review and implementation of safety measures is urgently required.

Some of the suggestions for solutions are:

1. A speed camera before you approach Langton Road (which would be the left), outside or near the existing shops
2. A sign to remind drivers on Walton Road, there is a concealed junction
3. A red line to prevent cars and particularly vans parking on or near the corner of a junction, namely Langton Road
4. A new pedestrian crossing sited outside the existing shops
5. Re positioning the existing short term parking bays

We the undersigned hope you receive this petition with a view to assist us in helping to make Molesey a safer place for all that live and travel there.

RESPONSE:

Road safety

The council currently receives funding to be used specifically to reduce road casualties. In partnership with Surrey Police road collisions are monitored across the county. There are thousands of road traffic collisions every year that result in an injury, the vast majority of which are caused by human error. We focus our road safety resources on those sites where there are patterns of casualties, because we can then be reasonably confident of identifying whether an engineering intervention might help reduce the frequency of casualties at a particular site. We then prioritise investment in those sites with the highest

ITEM 7

frequency of casualties, where we believe an engineering intervention would be beneficial. Given the number of existing sites where there are patterns of casualties, when considering investment in road safety we are obliged to prioritise those sites with the greatest frequency of casualties, ahead of those sites with a lesser frequency of casualties.

Surrey Police shares data on collisions where an injury has been recorded. The police record likely factors that may have contributed to a collision resulting in injury. Collision data may be viewed on the publicly-accessible website Crash Map.

<http://www.crashmap.co.uk/>

When monitoring road casualties it is standard practice to review data from the most recent three year period. This enables patterns to be identified and sites to be compared. Available data for the most recent three year period records the following:

- 2 January 2019; vehicle turning right from Langton Road collided with vehicle travelling on Walton Road; one casualty; slight injury; recorded factor of 'failed to judge another person's path or speed'

Recent incidents will not yet be included in the data.

The above data shows that the junction does not have a recent history of collisions causing injury where a pattern can be identified. This means that specific road safety funding could not be justified when compared with other locations.

Within Surrey safety cameras are reserved for the very worst collision hotspots where there has been a serious history of collisions causing injury. Available funding does not allow for cameras for all the roads for which they are requested, due to the high installation and maintenance costs, as well as processing of offences by the police. This also helps maintain public support for cameras being installed to reduce road casualties. There are no current plans for safety cameras on Walton Road.

Schemes promoted by Elmbridge Local Committee

As well as schemes to specifically address problems evidenced by a history of injuries, Surrey County Council does introduce other local highways improvement schemes. For example, these may be to improve traffic flow, relieve congestion, provide or improve facilities such as pedestrian crossings, or to address locations where residents have highlighted areas of concern. These are the types of schemes promoted via the local committee, with consideration of all schemes and available funding.

Elmbridge Local Committee prioritised Walton Road for the investigation of improvements. This has been undertaken by the county council's highway design team and was reported to committee in March 2020. The study provided an overview for the section of Walton Road between Weston Avenue and Esher Road/Bridge Road, and included assessment of vehicle speeds as well as collisions resulting in injury. The study focussed on pedestrian facilities but it is recognised that these measures can also have a positive influence on driver behaviour, e.g. a pedestrian crossing can have a traffic calming effect. Options were presented for improvement measures relating to pedestrian facilities. The study also noted that visibility could potentially be improved by amending parking controls, such as at the side road junctions. It was recommended to progress options to improve pedestrian facilities across Walton Road as well as the side roads. It was also

recommended that parking controls be considered, which could form part of the annual Elmbridge Parking Review.

The next step is to agree priorities for progression and then seek funding to progress and implement measures. Unfortunately the county council does not receive direct funding to allow significant measures to be constructed. Therefore the local committee has been using its limited budgets to design improvements so that external funding can be sought. This provides best value for the taxpayer investment. A recent source of funding has been from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is a contribution collected by Elmbridge Borough Council from developers, so allows for measures to be provided where development has contributed to issues experienced by residents.

Parking Review

The next Elmbridge Parking Review is currently due to begin in December, with recommendations being presented to the local committee for initial approval in March 2021. Further information about parking reviews is available on our website at: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/reviews>

As part of the parking review, the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team will consider measures at the junction, such as a reduction in the length of the parking bays and an extension of the yellow lines. It is noted that on street parking was not recorded as a contributory factor to the accident of 2 January 2019. Due consideration and analysis of any more recent accident data will be given.

“Red lines” would not be an appropriate measure to introduce at specific junctions in isolation. These would only be considered as part of an entire ‘route’ and planned at a strategic level. There are no plans for any red routes in Surrey at the current time.

Motorists understand yellow lines, and compliance with double yellow lines is generally high. If people are parking on the existing yellow lines illegally this would reduce visibility for motorists exiting Langton Road. Parking enforcement is overseen by Elmbridge Borough Council, and we have therefore asked them to monitor this location carefully.

It should be noted that – as stated in the Walton Road report mentioned above – there is an established relationship between vehicle speeds, carriageway width and forward visibility. In reducing on street parking, thereby increasing visibility and effective carriageway width, vehicle speeds may increase. This will need to be considered as part of the assessment of the location.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Consider measures at the junction of Langton Road within the Walton Road scheme, to inform a future application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding*
- (ii) *Note that the subject(s) of an application will be proposed by the Area Highways Manager, in consultation with the divisional members and the Chair/Vice-Chair of Elmbridge Local Committee*

ITEM 7

(iii) *Note that parking measures at the junction will be considered within the next Elmbridge Parking Review, which is currently due to begin in December 2020*

Contact Officer:

Nick Healey, Area Highways Manager
