

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 16 November 2020
 SUBJECT: Summer Road/ Hampton Court Way junction petition
 DIVISION: Esher & East Molesey; The Dittons

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition with 467 signatures has been received relating to the junction of Summer Road and Hampton Court Way. The lead petitioners are Karen Liddell & Julie Hennig. The petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to co-ordinate the future highway access to three proposed new development sites, the Industrial Estate, the Field Opposite and Tiffin Playing Field, on three of the four corners at the Summer Roads/ Hampton Court Way (A309) junction, East Molesey & Thames Ditton and to review the existing pedestrian and vehicular dangers and junction layout failures.. Map & images available see SRAG website <https://summer-road-action-group.co.uk/>.

We request that SCC assess the highway impact resulting from the combination of these developments and not assess them separately. We are seeking a solution to improve access to the proposed sites whilst removing the turning restrictions at the junction and reducing the speed on the Hampton Court Way.

An already dangerous junction will become even more dangerous in light of the proposed developments. Existing prohibited right turns are continually breached by traffic with the potential for serious accidents and the developments will have a further significant negative impact on the junction and surrounding roads.

Over 100 new homes proposed on the Industrial Estate and Field Opposite will increase traffic at the junction along Hampton Court Way and through Thames Ditton's narrow streets. Tiffin's proposals will also intensify traffic and bring in coaches.

Summer Road Action Group supports, among others, over 120 households that have no choice but to use this dangerous junction for all journeys and, following advice, a roundabout access solution has been suggested and shown with the petition background on website above.

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council assessment of highway impact in planning

Elmbridge Borough Council is the planning authority. SCC, as the highway authority, is a statutory consultee to Elmbridge BC in planning matters and provides advice and recommendations relating to the impact of planning proposals on the local highway network. The Planning system requires each site to be assessed on its own individual merits. Basing decisions on sites that may or may not come forward at a later date would not be considered reasonable, except in cases where committed development (sites with planning permission already in place, but not yet constructed or occupied) can be taken into account. The Planning system allows for wider consideration of multiple sites through the use of Masterplans and as part of the decision making during the Local Plan process, but these would not be applicable in the scenario provided at these three locations.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/elmbridge

Proposals – 100 new homes on industrial estate, Tiffin playing field

SCC's Transport Development Planning Team (TDP) will assess applications received, and consulted on, by Elmbridge Borough Council, in respect of their anticipated impacts on the local highway network. Recommendations including suggested appropriate mitigation measures will be made as part of the responses to Elmbridge BC, to inform its decisions. There are no current planning applications in the vicinity of the Hampton Court Way/Summer Road junction. TDP welcomes dialogue with elected members, stakeholders and interested parties in formulating responses to planning applications.

Roundabout access

There are no plans to introduce a new roundabout at this location. SCC will review any formal proposals that may be presented in future, either as part of planning applications or via other routes.

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 in Surrey 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, since 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 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:

- 15 January 2019; vehicle collided with pedestrian crossing the road; one casualty; serious injury; recorded factor of 'failed to look properly'
- 16 August 2018; southbound carriageway; two vehicle collision; vehicle turning right collided with overtaking vehicle; one casualty; serious injury; recorded factor of 'Careless/Reckless/In a hurry', 'Disobeyed double white line'
- 28 January 2018; southbound slip road; two vehicle collision; side impact; two casualties; serious injury; recorded factor of 'failed to look properly'.

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.

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 may include the investigation of measures at the junction within a future highway programme. It should be noted that any significant changes to the junction are likely to be beyond any current or anticipated budgets available to the local committee. Should a study recommend, or the future safety record suggest, that the junction should be altered then the most likely and affordable measure would be to close the central gap on Hampton Court Way, with an appropriate Traffic Regulation Order. This would result in the permitted movements for Summer Road (East Molesey) being 'left in' and 'left out' only.

The divisional members for Esher & East Molesey and The Dittons attended a site meeting with residents and a Surrey CC highways officer in February 2019. Road safety issues at the junction were discussed. Following site observations and discussions potential enhanced signing options were developed by SCC. To date, there has been no funding available to progress any measures. At the time of writing, updated costs are being investigated with a view to install additional signing, funded by the local divisional member(s).

Enforcement

It is appreciated that a minority of drivers do not behave responsibly or considerately. SCC officers have raised the issues with Surrey Police as part of the road safety partnership and the petitioners are encouraged to raise this specific concern with Surrey Police. Surrey Police is the sole agency with powers to take enforcement action against drivers who do not comply with the permitted traffic movements or those travelling in excess of the posted speed limit.

Residents may be interested in the Drive Smart initiative, which has the aims of reducing road casualties, tackling anti-social driving and making the county's roads safer and less stressful for everyone. The below websites include information on reporting concerns, enforcement, education and Community Speed Watch initiatives.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety>

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/rti/report-a-road-traffic-incident/>

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) *Decide whether to include a scheme on the prioritisation list for consideration in a future highway programme;*

Contact Officer:

Nick Healey, Area Highways Manager
