

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 8 March 2021

SUBJECT: Petition to: Provide Pegasus Crossing- Arbrook to Esher Common (across the A244)

DIVISION: East Molesey and Esher

PETITION DETAILS:

Petition to: Provide Pegasus Crossing – Arbrook to Esher Common (across A244)

Lead petitioner: Nicola Foster No. signatures: 1,615

“Arbrook and Esher Common are heavily utilised green spaces providing a natural sanctuary for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Given the pandemic this area has been used to a greater extent with local residents appreciating the benefits it provides for physical activity and mental well-being.

“However there is currently no safe crossing over the A244 from Arbrook to Esher Common. This is an exceptionally busy road with traffic coming in both directions. There is low visibility for vehicles seeing pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to cross the road and poses a danger to the safety of everyone involved. The proposal is to have a Pegasus Crossing erected which will be well-utilised by the diverse groups using this green space.”

Representations of support have been received from:

- The British Horse Society
- Chessington Equestrian Centre
- Claygate Parish Council
- Cycling UK
- Esher Residents' Association
- Kingston Ramblers
- Kingston Riding Centre
- Slough Farm Livery, Claygate
- Surrey Countryside Access Forum
- Local residents

RESPONSE:

Surrey Police records incidents of collisions resulting in injury; these are shared with the council and form a basis for road safety discussions. In the last three year period, which is a standard length of time used to monitor collisions and identify patterns, there has been one recorded collision at this location which resulted in slight injury (i.e. no hospital admission). This was in May 2020, where a goods vehicle collided with a lamp post. The police recorded a likely contributory factor of 'Defective steering or suspension'. There was a further recorded incident in April 2016 which resulted in slight injury, where a vehicle involved in a police pursuit collided with traffic. The police recorded likely contributory factors of 'Stolen vehicle', 'Vehicle in course of crime', 'Travelling too fast for conditions', and 'Poor turn or manoeuvre'. The police do not record 'damage-only' incidents.

ITEM 5

A traffic signal controlled crossing at this location has been suggested in the past and preliminary design work was completed in 2008. To progress a scheme now, the earlier design work would need to be reviewed and revised as necessary, for example to consider any changes in design standards as well as changes in conditions at the site such as traffic volumes and speeds. Design work would also need to consider impact on the common land which bounds the A244 to both the east and west.

From a financial point of view, a Pegasus crossing is likely to cost in the region of £125k to £150k. Committee's established model for promoting this kind of scheme is for Committee to pay for the feasibility / design work using monies from the parking surplus, and then apply to Elmbridge Borough Council for CIL funding for implementation. At the present time the local CIL board for Esher could not afford this scheme. Separately on Committee's agenda for this afternoon's meeting it is reported that Committee will be allocated new capital funding for this kind of scheme for the next three Financial Years 2021-22 to 2023-24, which could be used to top up any CIL funding that were to be available.

From a resource point of view, Committee agreed its highways programme for 2021-22 in November 2020. New works would usually be promoted and included in the next available programme, which would likely be 2022-23. To be able to move ahead with the requested Pegasus crossing scheme before 2022-23 another scheme, which is already in Committee's programme, would need to be deferred.

The recommendations below are intended to invite Committee to decide whether to promote the requested Pegasus crossing scheme, and if so the level of priority that this scheme should be afforded in the context of Committees existing programme of work.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Add the requested Pegasus crossing scheme to Committee's prioritisation list of Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS Schemes);

[If Committee approved only this recommendation, the requested crossing would be considered annually by Committee for inclusion in the following Financial Year's programme of work.]

- (ii) Promote the requested Pegasus crossing scheme as part of Committee's 2021-22 programme of feasibility / design work;

AND

Delegate authority to the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and affected Divisional Members to defer a scheme that is already part of Committee's 2021-22 programme of work;

AND

Agree that an application for CIL be made to Elmbridge Borough Council's Local CIL Board for Esher for £40k in the 2021 application round.

AND

Authorise the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and relevant Divisional Member to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the requested scheme.

Contact Officer:

Nick Healey, Area Highways Manager