



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)

DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: OLD MALDEN LANE

DIVISION: EWELL COURT, AURIOL AND CUDDINGTON

PETITIONS AND PETITION RESPONSES

DETAILS:

A petition has been received relating to Old Malden Lane, which connects Worcester Park Road to the northern boundary of Epsom & Ewell Borough. The petition has 215 signatories and reads as follows:

We the undersigned request that the Epsom and Ewell Local Committee fund a feasibility study to assess options for improving the safety of pedestrians using Old Malden Lane, including a 20mph speed limit, physical speed reduction measures, improved signage and the potential for extending the existing footway.

Lead petitioner: Graham Jones (Cuddington Residents' Association)

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council have already been working for a number of years to achieve a continuous footway along Old Malden Lane. The limiting factor is that there is no space within the Public Highway boundary to be able to build a new footway. This means that we need to acquire private land. Compulsory purchase is not an option in this situation, and therefore we are reliant on favourable landowners. To this end we have been proactively negotiating with developers as planning applications have come forward relating to land on the northern side of Old Malden Lane.

As part of their Riverside Mill development Taylor Wimpey will be providing a safe pedestrian route along the entire length of their Old Malden Lane frontage. This has taken a number of years' negotiation as this development worked its way through the planning process. We have also already agreed with the developer of the adjacent Mill House Villas to provide a new (much shorter) section of footway along their Old Malden Lane frontage – this shorter section has already been constructed.

A new planning application has recently been submitted to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council relating to land adjacent to The Lodge (ref 20/00675/FUL). We have been working with this developer in the build-up their planning application, and as a result the developer has included

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another length of footway in Old Malden Lane. Surrey County Council is a consultee for planning applications – in our response to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council we have requested that the provision of the new footway be conditioned as part of any planning permission. If this were to be granted planning permission and implemented, this would leave a gap in footway provision of a little less than 80m.

We had planned to start to engage with the other landowners once the new footway along the Riverside Mill development had been constructed. The rationale for this is that at this point, the local community would see that a fair length of continuous footway – linking to Worcester Park Road – was already implemented, and so any approach to the remaining landowners would be seen as a natural extension to this, rather than speculative. At this point we may need the support of Surrey County Council's Local Committee to provide funding to implement further new sections of footway, and to this end the scheme is included on the Local Committee's prioritisation list of future improvement schemes.

The earliest that the Local Committee could allocate funding for to engage with landowners in relation to the final 80m or so section would be next Financial Year 2022-23. Naturally if any further plots were to come forwards for development we would endeavour to secure new sections of footway through the planning process.

In terms of quick wins, we have requested that our Highways Maintenance team arrange for the road markings to be refreshed. This is a weather-dependent activity but should be completed by the end of the Financial Year 2021-22. We have also requested that Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's street cleansing team arranges for Old Malden Lane to be swept. This should deal with any verge that is creeping onto the carriageway – making it narrower than it should be.

In terms of sign improvements, the standard sign for this kind of situation is a warning sign highlighting that there is no footway – making it clear to drivers to expect pedestrians walking in the road. This sign can be provided with an appropriate information supplementary plate – like in this image:



These could be implemented early next Financial Year 2022-23, subject to the Divisional Member allocating funding. This Financial Year's funding is already fully committed.

At the present time it would take significant traffic calming to achieve a reduction to a 20mph speed limit. This would be very expensive for Committee – in the range £200k to £250k for Old Malden Lane. Another factor is that from next year the government has suggested that it will be mandatory for new cars to be fitted with automatic speed limiting devices. If this change were to take place, and the automatic speed limiters were to be effective then over the coming years the UK car population would become gradually more and more compliant with speed limits. Once we get to a tipping point where most cars obey speed limits automatically, we could then review the speed limit again with confidence that we could make the change without the need for expensive traffic calming.

Over the past full three year period there have been four Personal Injury Collisions in Old Malden Lane – two serious and two slight. Three of these occurred at junction with Barrow Hill – the location of the fourth is not clear from the Police record. There were two cycle casualties – one serious and one slight – both at Barrow Hill. There were no pedestrian casualties.

Officers have requested fresh speed surveys to assess the level of compliance with the existing speed limit, and also the volume and nature of traffic using Old Malden Lane. At the time of writing this response this data was not available.

The most effective intervention to mitigate the concerns of the petitioners would be the provision of a continuous footway in Old Malden Lane. Quick wins in terms of road marking renewal and sweeping are already in train. New signs could be provided early in the new Financial Year 2022-23, subject to funding being made available by the Divisional Member.

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

Contact Officer: Zena Curry

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