

Title: Walnut Tree Close

Statement:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Return Walnut Tree Close to two way traffic and stop the one way system that forces all traffic going to the railway station through the town centre.

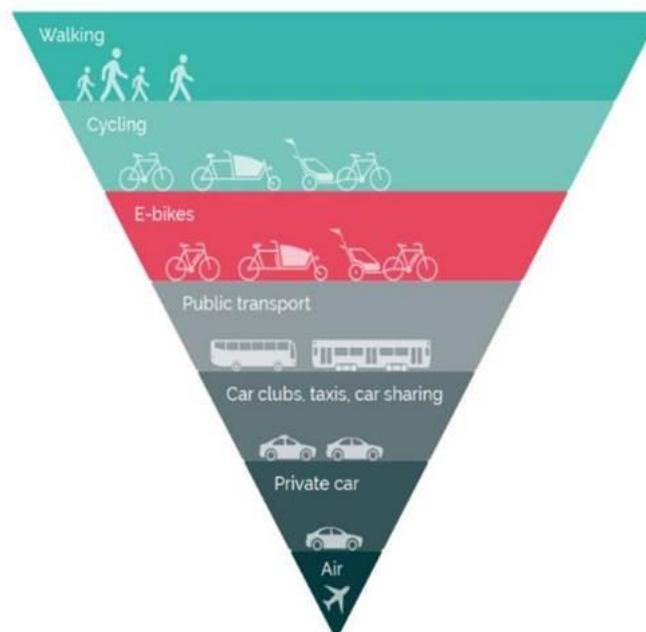
Justification:

The Council is trialling a one way system through Walnut Tree Close. This is causing all traffic coming to the railway station from Bellfields and Stoughton, and the A3 Wooden Bridge direction through the town centre instead. It's adding considerably to many people's journeys and causing congestion and inconvenience. The supposed intention is to increase cycling. The Council's method of evaluation is seriously flawed and biased towards gathering opinions of those living in the Walnut Tree Close area, which largely consists of student flats - and not the working population of Guildford who need to commute via the train station. (And who are trying to use the train as a means of sustainable travel). Please help stop this poorly thought out and punitive system.

Submitted by: Joan Donnelly
Signatures: 284 (as of 20 March 2023)

Response:

The trialled one-way & cycle lane changes contribute positively to the original aims of the scheme and both the County Council's and Borough Council's future aspirations on air quality reduction. The scheme supports Surrey's Sustainable Travel Hierarchy as set out in Surrey's LTP4 which provides a decision-making framework to prioritise active travel measures to increase levels of walking and cycling.



The trial has led to an increase in walking and cycling activity along Walnut Tree Close and is supported by G-BUG. (Refer to Traffic Analysis Report – Annex A, of the Cabinet Member

report published for the Cabinet Member Meeting on 28/03/23 for more details).

Surrey County Council have been monitoring traffic and air quality impacts of the trial and have determined that there has been no detrimental impact on adjacent roads as a result of the one-way scheme.

(Refer to Traffic Analysis Report – Annex A, of the Cabinet Member report published for the Cabinet Member Meeting on 28/03/23 for more details).

Walnut Tree Close is classified as a D class road that serves as a local road for residents. The road was not designed to cope with the current levels of traffic that is generated by Guildford Station. This has created an increase in road safety risk and worsening in air quality for residents, pedestrians and cyclists who use this road. Other roads around Guildford, i.e., Woodbridge Road and Stoke Road have been designed and have greater capacity to cope with higher traffic volumes. It is the intention of Surrey County Council that making the one-way permanent will return Walnut Tree Close to its intended use as a D class road.

Surrey County Council have obtained online feedback from all users of Walnut Tree Close via a dedicated email address set up for this project and also through face to face and online surveys. During the trial, feedback has been received from a wide range of affected users including residents, businesses and those using Walnut Tree Close to access the station and/or the town centre.

The decision-making process to make the scheme permanent was made on the balance of the feedback from the trial and the outcomes meeting Surrey County Council's LTP4 objectives. This includes consideration of the traffic impacts and impacts on air quality, in addition to enabling increased sustainable travel.

Matt Furniss

Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth

Date of meeting – 28 March 2023