

Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience

25/07/2023

TITLE: Install a toucan crossing on the A325 at the junction with Water Lane, Farnham, Surrey - so pedestrians can cross safely

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to install a toucan crossing on both sides of the dual carriageway of the A325 at the north end of Water Lane where it meets the dual carriageway.

Justification:

Pedestrians walking from Badshot Lea and Weybourne into Farnham have to cross the dual carriage. The route is used by school children heading to Heath End School and workers on the local industrial estate and at Sainsburys. It also provides the flatfish route to the hospital for many with physical disabilities.

Crossing the dual carriage way from the Sainsburys side is particularly harrowing. The speed of the cars combined with the bend of the carriage makes it difficult for pedestrians. At this time of year (summer) the vegetation also makes visibility difficult.

Trying to cross the other carriage way is a challenge as cars speeding off the Shepard and Flock Roundabout have no reason to slow as there is no traffic entering the roundabout to slow them.

The Water Lane junction with the roundabout is scheduled for refurbishment and that will include a Toucan crossing to take pedestrian across water lane. It makes sense to use this opportunity to install a crossing on the dual carriageway as well. It will save on cost and disruption.

Submitted by: Kate Austin

RESPONSE:

It is appreciated that this petition is requesting a new controlled Toucan crossing to be constructed at the A325 Farnborough Road at the same time as the B3208 Water Lane approach improvements.

The proposed scheme to the north of the A31 interchange Shepherd and Flock roundabout, Farnham, on the B3208 Water Lane approach to the Water Lane roundabout is now being progressed.

This scheme is being delivered as part of Project 1 Medium-Term Interventions within the Farnham Infrastructure Programme. The Programme's Medium-Term interventions is a list of approximately 100 projects compiled from stakeholder feedback, including the Programme's partners Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council.

To support the prioritisation of the Medium-Term Interventions, a 2-stage sifting process has been carried out on all the projects taken forward. This assessment has considered the funding requirements, environmental impact, carbon impact, potential for modal shift and impact on local businesses in Farnham of each of the projects put forward. Each of the projects taken forward as part of the Medium-Term Interventions have been assessed to ensure they conform with the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan.

Following the sifting stage, in the medium-term interventions, the B3208 Water Lane approach was prioritised as it aligned with the Farnham Optimised Infrastructure Plan objectives to enhance mobility and connectivity, prioritise health, safety and wellbeing and

Waverley Borough Councils ambitions to deliver the strategic and local community infrastructure necessary to support growth.

The Water Lane roundabout was extensively discussed with Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council officers and councillors (as project partners) and again at the Waverley Borough Council CIL Board, the A325 arm was not included as a priority as there was more concern over the capacity issues on the B3208.

Due to capacity issues and lack of lane discipline on the westbound approach on the B3208, the scheme will optimise the available carriageway space within the adopted public highway, enabling two lanes to turn left at the roundabout, and the new additional lane to go around the roundabout. Currently it has uncontrolled crossings, therefore in order to provide a safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists a toucan crossing will be installed as part of these works.

The scheme will improve air quality through less idling traffic and enhance safety for both vehicular traffic and importantly active travel modes from residential areas towards the nearby Supermarket and retail opportunities, whilst encouraging active travel and contributing to the ongoing shift to Net Zero.

The A325 Farnborough Road currently has an uncontrolled crossing point for pedestrians/cyclists to access the Badshot Lea area towards Farnham Town Centre, north of the Water Lane Roundabout. There are many more requests for new crossings and other traffic safety schemes than could be delivered. Requests are considered for different programmes of work, dependent on scope and size of the request, and are prioritised for the limited resources and budgets available.

The scheme planned for the B3208 Water Lane is being delivered using prioritised external funding as a result of a successful Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bid to Waverley Borough Council and a portion of S106 (developer funded) monies.

County Councillors can nominate a traffic engineering scheme for consideration and prioritisation on to a centrally funded programme for delivery each financial year (the Countywide Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) Programme). Each nominated scheme has a Technical Assessment to assist the prioritisation process, including assessing affordability and deliverability. This is a new process and limits the value of a scheme to £350k so that more communities have an opportunity to have a scheme progress locally to them, that no community is left behind.

The County Councillor for Farnham North, Cllr Catherine Powell, nominated a scheme for the 23/24 Countywide ITS Programme: "a new Toucan or Pedestrian Crossing on the north exit of the A325 Water Lane roundabout adjacent to Farnham Mill Lane". This proposed crossing is to the north of the Water Lane Roundabout on the A325 Farnborough Road, as requested in this petition. There are two County Councillors for the A325 Farnborough Road, with a boundary between Farnham Central and Farnham North divisions dividing the two directions of dual carriageway.

The Technical Assessment showed that there could be many potential benefits to this proposed scheme, as suggested in this petition, however there could be many challenges in deliverability of a crossing that would require the temporary and costly closure (including lane rental charges) of the A325 link to the A31 Shepherd and Flock roundabout to construct the works.

The Technical Assessment is carried out before any detailed design and before the position of any underground utility company services are known. However, the whole scheme budget

envelope, the amount of funding that could be needed to carry out feasibility/design/delivery/risk/contingency etc, was estimated at approximately £600k. As the scheme is likely to cost considerably more than the upper limit for this programme of work, £350k per scheme, this scheme was not prioritised for the 23/24 Countywide ITS Programme.

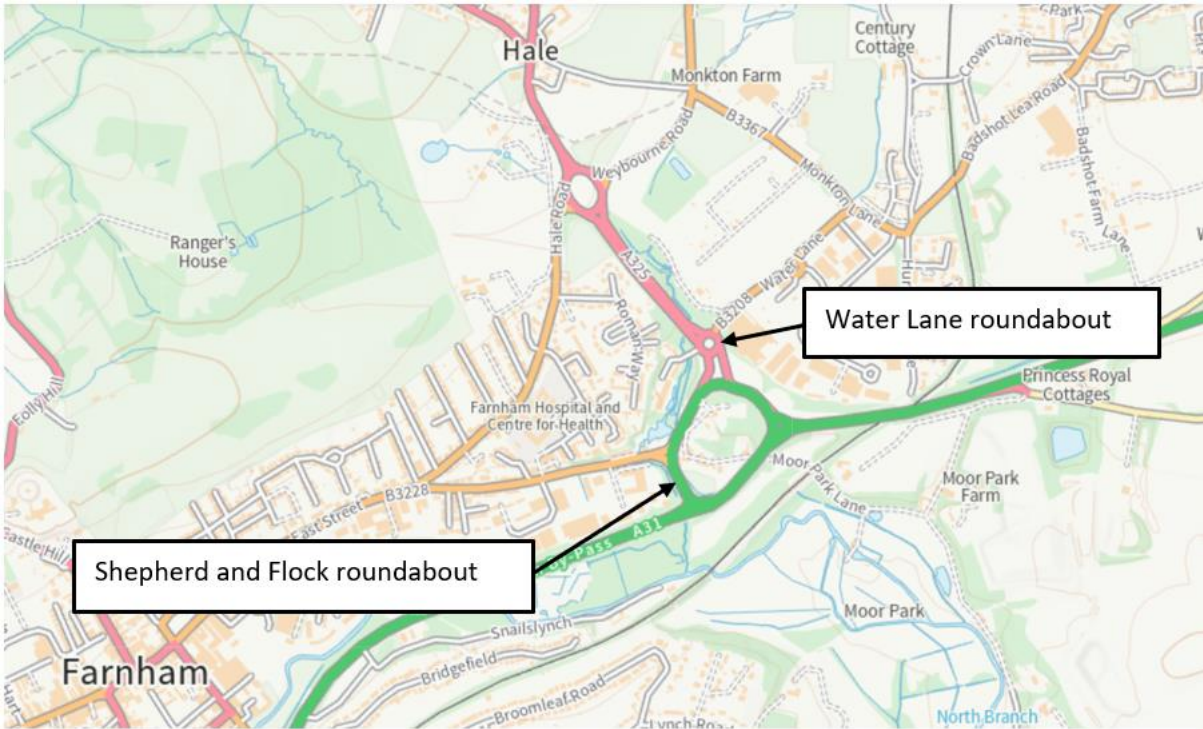
Therefore it is not possible to prioritise this requested second crossing, on the A325 Farnborough Road to the north of the Water Lane roundabout, above other requests received, at this time through the 23/24 Countywide ITS Programme, however larger schemes like this one could be prioritised and progress through other programmes of work, including if prioritised for the Surrey Infrastructure Plan programme of works.

The A325 Farnborough Road is also likely to be used as the diversion for when the crossing on B3208 Water Lane is constructed. It is unlikely that these two schemes can be delivered in this financial year (as the funding for the A325 arm has not been identified or allocated) along with significant disruption to the network during construction. Additionally, it is not currently prioritised on any available programme of work.

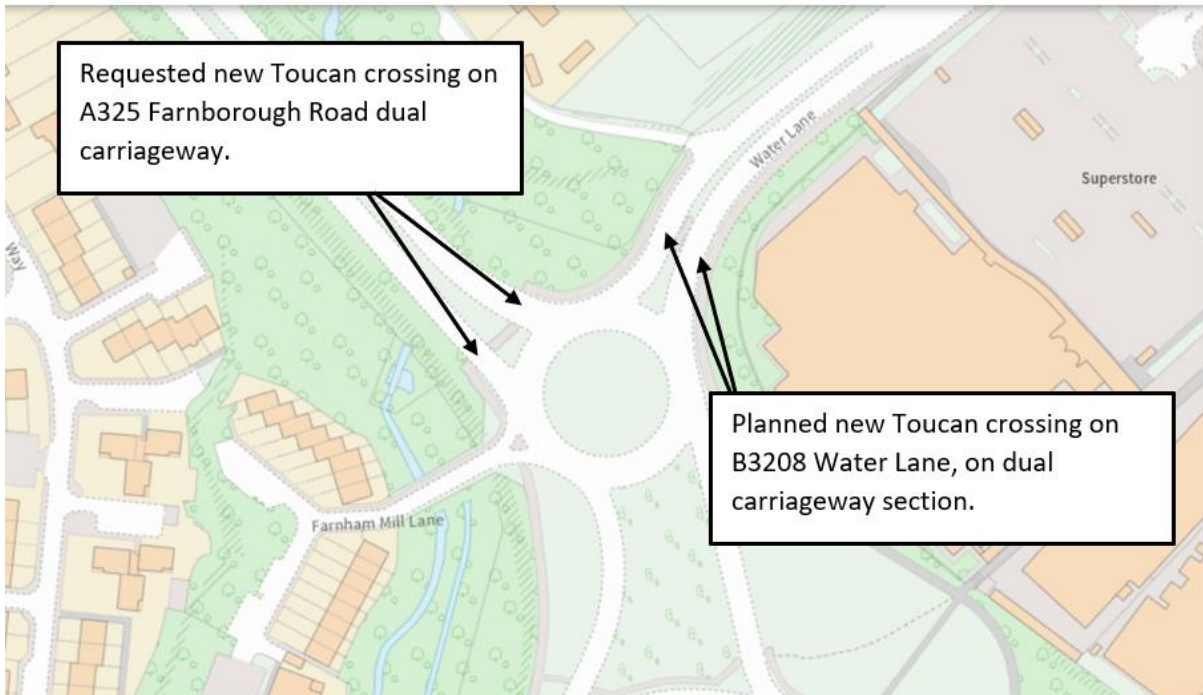
However, one programme of work available within the Surrey Infrastructure Plan is the Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP). This includes developing the LCWIP for Farnham and the wider Waverley Borough. LCWIPs are 10+ year strategic plan that sets out the conceptual plans and priorities for cycling and walking infrastructure to encourage more people to choose 'active travel' by cycling and walking more regularly and use the car less often. More information on our plans to improve cycling and walking can be found here on the Surrey County Council website [Plans to improve walking and cycling - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/plans-to-improve-walking-and-cycling)

The LCWIP for Farnham has recently been completed. The A325 route is identified within this plan (route 37) to provide improved facilities for cyclists travelling between the Six Bells roundabout and Water Lane roundabout. Work is now underway to determine the prioritisation of routes from within the Farnham LCWIP for taking forward for further development over the long-term planning timeframe. The next stage of design and development of priority routes in this local area will include public consultation as we progress towards completing scheme designs and working to secure funding to deliver the infrastructure improvements.

In the meantime, requests for vegetation cut back are being programmed and the existing informal crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists can continue to be used.



Location of Water Lane roundabout to the north of the A31 interchange Shepherd and Flock roundabout.



Location of the requested Toucan crossing on the A325 Farnborough Road to the north of the Water Lane roundabout. Location of the planned new Toucan crossing on B3208 Water Lane on the eastern arm of the Water Lane roundabout.

Kevin Deanus
Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience
25 July 2023