SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR A CONTROLLED CROSSING ON CHALKPIT LANE, DORKING

DIVISION: DORKING HILLS

PETITION DETAILS:

Mole Valley Local Committee Petition (9 Dec) Summary:

We, the concerned parents, residents, business owners, and community partners of Dorking Safe Streets, understand that in the last year, a proposed scheme has been added to the draft Mole Valley "Infrastructure Delivery Plan" and there have been two major nearby residential developments at Vine Court, Chalkpit Lane and The Pilgrim, Station Road which has resulted in Mole Valley District Council receiving Community Infrastructure Levy payments to spend on local infrastructure.

Dorking Safe Streets proposes that the funds be used to construct a safe, controlled pedestrian crossing to make Dorking Streets Safe, for everyone.

RESPONSE:

Chalkpit Lane in Dorking is a section of the A2003 which links the A25 with the A24. It is a single carriageway road through a residential area with a 30mph speed limit. There is currently an informal crossing point on Chalkpit Lane in the vicinity of the Triangle Stores, in the form of a pedestrian refuge island in the centre of the road with dropped kerbs at the edge of the footway on both sides. This informal pedestrian crossing point is well used by children walking to local schools in this area as well as other pedestrians. Therefore, requests for a controlled pedestrian crossing point have been received previously.

A review of the reported personal injury collisions shows that there have been no reported personal injury collisions in Chalkpit Lane, during the most recent 3-year period for which data is available (from 01/06/2017 to 31/05/2020). However, it is appreciated that parents, residents, business owners and community partners of Dorking Safe Streets would like a controlled pedestrian crossing to be installed.

The provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing facility on Chalkpit Lane, in the vicinity of the Triangle Stores, has been assessed on a number of occasions by officers over the years. Unfortunately, there are a number of factors which make the construction of a controlled pedestrian crossing at this location difficult to install. The factors are as follows;

1. Existing safety regulations do not permit the installation of a push button pedestrian crossing where the existing pedestrian island is located. Existing safety regulations state that crossings should be located away from conflict points at uncontrolled junctions (the uncontrolled junction in this instance being Station Road). This will give drivers an adequate opportunity to appreciate the existence of

a crossing and to brake safely, in order not to hit a pedestrian using the crossing. A minimum distance of 20m is suggested for a control pedestrian crossing.

2. This 20m distance means that the crossing would need to be installed at the vehicle access to the private car park in front of the shops, so that it is far enough away from the junction with Station Road whilst ensuring that it is still close enough to where pedestrians want to cross.
3. Installing the crossing between the private vehicle access to the shops and the private access to Vine Court would move the crossing further away from where pedestrians wish to cross. It would also put the pedestrian crossing in close proximity to the private access to the shops and the private access to Vine Court, and would again not give drivers adequate opportunity to appreciate the existence of the crossing and whether they have a red light.
4. As a result, the vehicle access to the private car park would need to be closed, in order to provide a safe controlled crossing point and to ensure that the crossing is located where people want to cross and away from conflict points. A new vehicle access to the shops would need to be located on Station Road. However, this access may not be safe due to visibility of traffic approaching from the south around the bend on Station Road.
5. The existing pedestrian island would need to be removed and the footway widened on both sides to install pedestrian guard rail to ensure that pedestrians use the controlled crossing.

Due to the above factors the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing point that can be used safely is unfortunately not straight forward. As a result, the cost of the design and construction of such a crossing would be greater than similar crossings installed elsewhere, with an estimated cost of £220,000.

Recent discussions have been carried out with Mole Valley District Council officers regarding the possibility of using CIL funding to construct a controlled pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane, Dorking. The construction of a controlled pedestrian crossing would come under Neighbourhood CIL rather than Strategic CIL, because this is a local scheme benefiting those in the local community. Mole Valley District Council have confirmed that the current funds available within the Neighbourhood CIL budget for the Dorking area is £162,000, which is insufficient funding for the construction of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane.

Surrey County Council are aware of the ongoing concerns regarding the safety of crossing Chalkpit Lane. As a result, the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing facility at this location is on Surrey County Council's Integrated Transport Scheme list for possible future funding as well as Mole Valley's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Officers will continue to try to find opportunities for funding a controlled pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to note:

i. The continued requests for a controlled pedestrian crossing to be installed on Chalkpit Lane, Dorking.

ii. The factors that have an impact on the opportunity to provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point which would be safe to use.

iii.	That officers will continue to look for other sources of funding to construct a controlled crossing point in Chalkpit Lane that would be safe for pedestrians to use.

Contact Officer:

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