

GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 17 MARCH 2021

ITEM 5b PETITIONS AND PETITION RESPONSES

LEAD OFFICER: BAHRAM ASSADI, TRAFFIC ENGINEER, SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: MAKE THE GUILDOWN ROAD/ PORTSMOUTH ROAD JUNCTION SAFER.

DIVISION: GUILDFORD SOUTHWEST

PETITION DETAILS:

Turning right out of Guildown Road onto the Portsmouth Road carries significant risk. The junction is obscured to oncoming traffic and the only warning is a single sign which is not adequately maintained. Despite protestations by local residents, it remains filthy and hidden by foliage.

As a resident of Guildown Road, a former Accident Specialist for the RAC and a mother of two young children, it is my firm belief that the current road layout presents a danger to traffic. From speaking to local residents, I understand that a number of accidents and multiple near misses have occurred as a result. I myself narrowly avoided a collision recently with a speeding van as I tried to exit the junction with my two and four-year-old in the back of the car.

I believe that a full review of the safety of the junction with a view to implementing additional traffic calming measures is long overdue. Such a review should consider, but not be limited to, the installation of a mini roundabout.

I would be grateful for your support.

Lead petitioner: Rachel Christie

Number of signatures collected: 154

RESPONSE:

The Committee would like to thank the lead petitioner Ms Christie for taking an interest in road safety and organising and presenting the petition on behalf of the local residents.

A site meeting was held on Wednesday 13 January between the county councillor and the SCC highway officer. The current traffic issues in the vicinity of the Guildown Road and Portsmouth Road junction were investigated and assessed. While on site, it was noted that the "Side road ahead" warning sign on Portsmouth Road, just before its junction with Guildown Road, had been cleaned and vegetation around it

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cleared. The Committee would also like to thank the residents for arranging this work that has been carried out.

The personal injury collisions (PIC) data has been examined, for the last three years, in the vicinity of the Guildown Road and Portsmouth Road junction. Fortunately, there have been no recorded PICs during that period.

Drivers travelling in a northerly direction on Portsmouth Road towards its junction with Guildown Road, should be aware of the side road ahead and its junction and the need to slow down. There are already SLOW road markings on the approach to the junction and a warning sign. However, it was concluded that putting up a vehicle activated sign (VAS), in advance of the junction, should improve road safety and warn drivers.

To that end, a request has been placed on the Guildford current running list for a VAS on Portsmouth Road. Every autumn the running list is taken to a Joint Committee meeting for further investigation. The schemes that are approved by the Committee will then be presented in a formal report and taken forward to a Guildford Joint Committee meeting to secure funding. Only the schemes that are approved and funded by the Guildford Joint Committee will be progressed.

However, if funding for the VAS becomes available through a developer or other resources, it is feasible to proceed with the installation of the VAS prior to the Guildford Joint Committee decision and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Joint Committee is asked to note the officer's response.

Contact Officer:

Bahram Assadi, Traffic Engineer, Surrey County Council, 0300 200 1003.