

Cabinet Member for Transport & Infrastructure

7 December 2021

PETITION: PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLISTS CROSSING POINT ON A23 BETWEEN EARLSWOOD LAKES AND ASYLUM ARCH ROAD AND DEFINED CYCLE ROUTE INTO HEART OF EARLSWOOD STATEMENT:

Statement:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Create a pedestrian/cyclist crossing over the A23 between Earlswood Lakes and Asylum Arch Road and define a clear cycle path between the Earlswood Lakes and into the heart of Earlswood around Brambletye Park Road/Emlyn Road.

Justification:

Earlswood Lakes is a place many people enjoy. You can walk your dog, play football, have a picnic, feed the ducks, run, build dens and much more. However, by the A23/Asylum Arch Road it is hard to cross because there are no lights nor a Zebra Crossing. There is one crossing further up on A23, but that takes a while to walk to. Many people therefore drive to Earlswood Lakes from Earlswood and that isn't good for the planet or the local area. Also, if there was a crossing, more people might walk or cycle into work and school in Earlswood, which would also help for cleaner air and safer roads. If you would like to petition the council for a crossing and cycle route into Earlswood from the lakes, across the A23, then please sign this petition.

Submitted by: NIALL MacGregor

Signatures: 176

Response:

The A23 is a principal road that runs in a north/south direction through Surrey. Asylum Arch Road is a private road that runs in an east/west direction from Princes Road to the A23 Horley Road, going under the London to Brighton railway line. There is a public footpath over that part of Asylum Arch Road between Princes Road and a point approximately 20m west of the railway bridge, at this point the footpath goes north across Earlswood Common and does not extend further along Asylum Arch Road to the junction with the A23.

The land to the east of Horley Road between Horley Road and the railway line is common land known as Earlswood Common and is managed by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. The common land does not extend over the carriageway of Asylum Arch Road but goes up to the edge of the road on both sides. There are no recorded public rights on that section of Asylum Arch Road from the public footpath which turns to the north and goes across Earlswood Common approximately 20m west of the railway bridge and the A23 Horley Road, however it is acknowledged that the public use this. There is a pavement on the west side of Horley Road at the junction with Asylum Arch Road, but not on the east side.

The petitioner is requesting either a zebra crossing, or a traffic light-controlled crossing is provided on the A23 Horley Road to make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the A23 Horley Road between Asylum Arch Road and Earlswood Common.

The speed limit on the A23 Horley Road is 40mph. Department of Transport guidelines on the construction of zebra crossings are that such crossings should not be installed on roads

with a 40mph speed limit and above. This is because the vehicle approach speeds to the zebra crossing are too high for drivers to safely anticipate a pedestrian stepping on to the crossing and to be able to safely stop.

In order to provide a traffic light-controlled push button crossing, it would be necessary to provide an area of pavement on the east side of the A23 Horley Road for people to wait in order to cross the road. There is no highway land to construct this pavement, which would need to be constructed on the common land managed by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. It would be necessary for Reigate & Banstead Borough Council to dedicate land as highway for a pavement. In addition, in line with common land regulations it may be necessary to provide land in exchange for the common land where the pavement is constructed, and unfortunately there is no available land that could be used as exchange land. Therefore, there are complex land and legal issues to be resolved before a crossing could be constructed, and it may well not be possible to overcome.

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There are existing “pedestrians in the road” warning signs on the A23 Horley Road to the north and south of Asylum Arch Road. The sign to the south is obscured by vegetation and arrangements are being made for this to be cut back.

There is a National Cycle Network route that runs over the section of Asylum Arch Road between the junction of Princes Road and the railway bridge, at this point the route turns to the south and runs along the eastern edge of the railway embankment. Cyclists currently do not have a right to use Asylum Arch Road between the railway line and the A23 Horley Road. It is assumed that Reigate & Banstead Borough Council own this section of Asylum Arch Road as they own the land on either side.

There is not currently a route that cyclists have a right to use between the A23 Horley Road and Earlswood Lakes. There is a byelaw on Earlswood Common which prohibits cycling, Earlswood Common is managed by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. If Reigate & Banstead Borough Council revoked the byelaw and dedicated land across the Earlswood Common to allow cycling there would still be issues constructing a cycle route. This is due to common land regulations, which may still require land to be provided in exchange for the common land over which the cycle route would run.

Therefore, Surrey County Council are unfortunately not in a position to provide a cycle route across Earlswood Common as is requested, as the necessary land is not within the control of the County Council. Officers will contact Reigate & Banstead Borough Council to request that they consider the viability of permitting cyclists to use the land they manage at this location.

Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport & Infrastructure
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