

Guildford Quality Bus Corridors October 2020 Newsletter

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Officers reviewing feedback on proposed improvements to Woodbridge Road

Surrey County Council asked for local views on a number of proposed improvements in the Woodbridge Road area. This included the proposals to extend the current bus lane and change the hours of operation and types of vehicle that can use it being developed as part of this *Guildford Quality Bus Corridors* initiative, alongside proposals to introduce a new Toucan crossing and cycle track that Surrey County Council are progressing separately¹.

These statutory consultations took place between 24 July and 24 August. They were comprehensively advertised by way of street notices, letters delivered to nearby properties, articles in the local press, advertisements on social media, Surrey County Council's main website and a webpage with the more memorable address of www.ourroads.today/guildford.

Fifty-two people responded with regards the bus lane extension, and 53 responded with regards changes to bus lane hours and vehicle restrictions. That the proposals would make it easier and more convenient to travel sustainably between Stoughton, Westborough and the town centre was noted as a particular benefit by those who supported the scheme, whilst concerns over changes to parking were chief amongst those who did not support the proposals. Additionally, a petition was received, organised by the Woodbridge Road Café, with signatories also concerned over the parking changes.

All feedback is being carefully considered by the project team. A decision on whether to go ahead with the scheme and/or to make any amendments to the proposals will be made by the Cabinet Member for Highways in the coming weeks, with a summary also to be provided to Guildford Joint Committee for information.

¹ The Toucan crossing and Cycle Track Order are associated with Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council's joint *Guildford Town Centre Transport Package* initiative



Work to make bus stops accessible underway this autumn

Work has commenced to make more bus stops across Guildford accessible this autumn, with raised kerbs that reduce the step between the bus and the pavement, and more space for buses to pull in and line up with the pavement edge with the introduction of bus stop 'clearways'.

The improvements will make the bus easier to use for everyone, and particularly those with reduced mobility, as well as those with small children or luggage.

Bus stop upgrades are planned in the Merrow, Burpham, Park Barn, Bellfields, cathedral and research park areas.

It is planned to expand upon these improvements with new shelters and electronic displays showing real-time departure information during 2021. Contracts to provide these new shelters and information displays are expected to be awarded this winter, with tender processes now underway following a pause at the beginning of the pandemic period.

Looking ahead

- The rollout of new intelligent equipment in traffic lights that can identify buses that are falling behind schedule and adapt the traffic light sequence to help them keep to time continues, and will eventually cover 20 key junctions along the main bus corridors into town. A link has now been established between the bus positioning software and the traffic light network, and this link is currently under test ahead of a formal launch next year.
- Plans for the two junction improvements in Merrow (at the junction of Epsom Road and Bushy Hill Drive, and at the Park Lane Rondabout) are now largely complete. Construction is currently expected to take place in spring or summer next year, working around the timing of other highway improvements and utility works planned in the Guildford area to avoid putting too much pressure on the town's road network at one time.
- Computer simulation work is to be undertaken on two proposed options for introducing a new bus lane or lanes in the vicinity of Merrow Park & Ride that could make the park and ride service a quicker and easier way to travel into town. The simulation will look at what impact the new bus lanes would have on bus journey times, as well as traffic flow generally. Scheme design work is nearly complete, after which we will undertake a period of consultation before a decision to proceed can be taken.

Stay up-to-date

This newsletter is correct as of 2 October 2020.

Regular updates and plans can be found on the Surrey County Council website. For further information or to report problems associated with the works please call the Surrey County Council contact centre on Tel. 0300 200 1003.