

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)

DATE: 5TH OCTOBER 2020



LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER (NE)

SUBJECT: ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FEASIBILITY REPORT

DIVISION: TOWN AND DOWNS

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

St Joseph's School was the subject of a Road Safety Outside Schools report, which was reported to Committee in June 2019. In response to this Committee decided to commission a feasibility report to investigate a number of different options for improvements on the approaches to St Joseph's School. This feasibility report is included as Annex A to this report, and outlines a number of options for improvements for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists in Rosebank and Whitehorse Drive.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to:

- (i) By reference to Annex A, prioritise options 2, 5 and 6 for implementation in a future Financial Year, at an estimated cost of £42,000.
- (ii) Authorise the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and relevant Divisional Member(s) to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed programmes.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Options 2, 5, and 6 are improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, and are therefore in keeping with our objectives relating to climate change and sustainable transport.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The access arrangements to St Joseph's School changed in October 2018. Previously part of the school community accessed the school via St Margaret's Drive, a private road across Abelea Green, and the car park at St Joseph's Church. This access route was closed to the school community in October 2018, which means the only approach routes to St Joseph's School are now via Rosebank and Whitehorse Drive. The reasons for this change are outside the scope of this report.
- 1.2 Since this change, road safety concerns have been raised in both Rosebank and Whitehorse Drive. In response officers have met the head teachers of both

St Joseph's and Rosebery Schools, and arranged site audits in accordance with the County Council's "Road Safety Outside Schools" policy. This Road Safety Outside Schools audit report was presented to Committee in June 2019. In response to this report, Committee decided to commission a feasibility report to investigate a number of options for improvements on Rosebank and Whitehorse Drive. This feasibility report is included as Annex A.

- 1.3 The school run in Rosebank and Whitehorse Drive is quite typical for Surrey schools and works significantly better than for a fair number of other schools. The only observed safety concerns are to do with the operation of the pick up and drop off system in the school's car park, which is accessible from Rosebank.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The feasibility report included in Annex A describes a number of options for improvements in Rosebank and Whitehorse Drive. These include improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, and also parking changes that would ease congestion in the immediate vicinity of the school.
- 2.2 The options for improvements for pedestrians and cyclists would be in keeping with Surrey County Council's climate change and sustainable transport objectives.
- 2.3 The options for parking changes would make it easier for families to drive their children to school and would therefore tend to encourage families to use their cars for the school run. This would be contrary to our climate change and sustainable transport objectives, and may compound observed safety concerns with the operation of the school's pick up and drop off system that operates in the school's car park.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The following options are described in the feasibility study in Annex A:

Option 1	Do nothing	Zero cost
Option 2	Pedestrian improvements in Rosebank	£16,000
Option 3	Parking alteration near the school gates	£42,000
Option 4	Parking alteration near Dalmeny Way	£32,000
Option 5	Cycle improvement in Dalmeny Way	£6,000
Option 6	Pedestrian improvements in Whitehorse Drive	£20,000

Two alternative options for pedestrian improvements in Whitehorse Drive are also described under Option 7, for costs of £8,000 and £3,000.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Officers have met the head teachers of both St Joseph's and Rosebery Schools to understand their concerns.
- 4.2 Site visits were undertaken in April and June 2019. These included representatives from Surrey police, local highways, road safety team, and sustainable travel team.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The total cost of the recommend package would be £42,000. This funding would need to be funded using the Local Committee's delegated Highways budgets in a future Financial Year. Committee's 2020-21 budgets are fully allocated.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The feasibility report in response to a Road Safety Outside Schools audit report presented to Committee in June 2019. The council's Road Safety Outside Schools Policy been subject to Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment. Highway improvements are subject to independent road safety audit which takes into account the needs of all road users including those with mobility impairment. The recommended package would create a positive improvement for people with mobility impairment.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The recommended package has been developed following consultation with the school community and Divisional Member.
- 7.2 The recommended package would benefit those choosing sustainable mores of transport. If these were to be implemented they might encourage more walking, cycling and scooting to school and help reduce car journeys, anti-social parking and congestion which have a negative impact on the local community.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	The recommended package has the potential to encourage more sustainable travel choices. If there were to be a reduction in the number of car journeys to this school, we would expect a reduction in anti-social driving, anti-social parking and potential confrontations between parents, other road users and residents.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	The recommended package has the potential to encourage more sustainable travel choices. This would result in fewer carbon emissions and less air pollution.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	The recommended package has the potential to encourage more

	sustainable travel choices. This could in turn reduce the risk of road collisions. Active travel tends to improve the health of the participants.
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9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 By reference to Annex A, it is recommended to prioritise options 2, 5 and 6 for implementation in a future Financial Year, at an estimated cost of £42,000

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 It is anticipated that Committee will decide its 2021-22 budget allocations at its meeting in December. At this point Committee would need to decide whether to proceed with the recommended package in 2021-22, or defer the implementation until a later Financial Year.

Contact Officer: Nick Healey

Consulted:

Annexes: One

Sources/background papers: None
