

LRAG News Update – 18 April 2023

STRG News

The official minutes of the first meeting of the Sustainable Travel Reference Group (STRG), which took place on 29th March, were forwarded to participants late this week. Although not marked as “draft”, we understand that they will not appear on the Surrey CC website until next week, allowing time for feedback. LLAG will respect this confidentiality and not publish in advance.

However, we were advised that the next proposed meeting has already slipped a couple of weeks beyond the original published timescale of 30 April. At the meeting Cllr Davidson – supported by LLAG – argued strongly that the revised design and implementation plans are essential pre-requisites to developing the engagement proposals. All STRG participants will then need sufficient time to study the revised design and plans. Without this sequence it will be impossible for STRG members to make meaningful contributions to a genuine public engagement process.

Even the slippage projected may be problematic, as we have not been formally told that the revised plans will be available in time. LLAG participants will be reluctant to attend another meeting until we have had time to review all this information. Reaching conclusions on such a complex matter, without sufficient time to study them properly, is not achievable for a 60-minute committee meeting with many diverse opinions.

Protection for Cyclists in Cycle Lanes

Last week we reported a Police Scotland interpretation of a video, showing less than the required Highway Code separation from a cyclist by an Edinburgh bus. Their original view was that the separation was not against the law if each was in a dedicated lane. A subsequent report from the same source has now indicated that this opinion had been rescinded, and an investigation of the incident is under way.

London Road Closure ePetition

Recent social media postings about the Surrey CC Cabinet Meeting on 25th April, due to decide upon the ePetition against the London Road Closure for 5 months, express concern that a lengthy closure may still be on the cards. Exasperation has also been aired that the Cabinet Meeting is being held in a non-local location, Reigate.

The petition asked: “... that Surrey County Council find a more acceptable way of carrying out this work than closing the northbound lane completely.” LLAG want to reassure everyone that repeated public statements made by Surrey CC indicate that no lengthy road closures are still planned. We presume that this Cabinet Meeting Decision is only an administrative closure of the petition, and hope that we are not proved wrong.

Out-of-Date Information

The above-mentioned concerns may be partly driven by reports that out-of-date posters, advertising a 5-month closure, are still being displayed around the area. Please feel free to remove any such posters if you come across them.