

LRAG News Update – 30 May 2023

An element of confusion has developed this week, as Surrey CC now suggest the earliest date for the next Sustainable Travel Reference Group (STRG) is not until the third week of June. A series of 3 meetings is suggested to take place by the end of July, the first to concentrate on the design, the second meeting for the delivery of the scheme and the third meeting to focus on engagement.

The attendance at the first meeting of the STRG had several notable absentees from the list of stakeholders identified by Surrey CC, as well as not appearing to include organisations nominated in the Statutory Guidance for community consultation. To date only one of these absentees has offered available dates for the next meeting. A question has been put to the organiser to confirm that the canvassing programme, “Doodle”, would show availabilities of all participants.

It has still not been made clear how much advance time will be offered for STRG participants to study the details of the revised design, before gathering to discuss. Subsequently, a mere 90-minute debate may afford very little time to develop a series of extensive questions to be put to the public, on a topic involving significant safety and congestion matters.

Originally it was only a case of fitting suitable cycle lanes between Aldi and Boxgrove. Now contemplation of a Dutch-style roundabout at Boxgrove, and squeezing bus stops and cycling facilities past Guildford High School and London Road Station have to be undertaken. Somehow it seems that a rapid set of conclusions will be difficult to achieve in just 3 90-minute meetings, if the STRG is not to be treated as merely a rubber-stamping justification.

More stories continue to appear in national media about the safety of some cycle schemes, and these are available from the LRAg website [OTHER ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES](#).

