

LRAG News Update – 15 August 2023

Sustainable Travel Reference Group (STRG)

The day following the publication of our last newsletter Surrey CC published their minutes of the meeting on 26th July. This was together with notification of the next gathering on 6th September, and a meeting to present the Traffic Modelling earlier on the same day.

Minutes: As anticipated, the minutes present a rather different perspective to that which LRAG has previously reported. We have taken issue with a number of reported points, for accuracy, chronology and contradiction to previous minutes. We await a response, though previous experience has indicated there is a reluctance to amend minutes until publicly challenged at subsequent meetings.

Next Meeting: There had been no final resolution, at the 26th July meeting, of the process by which stakeholders would agree the questions and answers to be presented during the forthcoming public engagement events. To date there has still been no follow-up action.

However, the objective stated for the next meeting is “the workshop for the design, Traffic management and questions”. This is in contradiction to all previous plans, which have clearly indicated that 2 workshops would be held, one for design, one for traffic management, and assumed that questions and answers had been finalised at an earlier stage.

LRAG has written to the STRG chair and council leader, expressing that this unconsulted timescale compression was not acceptable.

Traffic Modelling Meeting: Surrey CC’s conclusion, that all of the proposed alterations to London Road would be neutral in effect on traffic flow, is presumably based on modelling. An understanding, of how conclusions have been reached, is important for stakeholders to be able to report to the public that all will indeed be well. This, therefore, should be a topic for the proposed questions and answers.

However, the timing of the discussion meeting, only hours before plans to finalise questions and answers, is yet another example of inappropriate timescale compression, leaving inadequate time for contemplation.

Facebook Report

A report in the Burpham & Merrow (Guildford East) Community Group Facebook page has suggested that there will be different options for the design of the Active Travel Scheme, to allow people to say which option they’d prefer. In a clarification Surrey CC have issued a clear statement that they will only be “engaging with the community on a single design”.