

LRAG Update 6 Feb 23

Although there have been no further updates to the Surrey CC website page since 25 Jan, there has been some progress made in establishing improved communications with Surrey CC, and in obtaining more perspectives on the Active Travel Scheme.

At this point it is probably worthwhile quickly reviewing the range of attitudes towards the scheme and restating where LLAG sit. Without wanting it to sound like a Trip Advisor survey, it may be possible to say that:

- There are some people who can see no benefit to this scheme and want it cancelled.
- There are some people who can see benefit in a scheme but the location chosen is not viable.
- There are some people who can see benefit in this scheme, acknowledge that the design has many flaws that need ironing out, but the ramifications of implementing its construction are too great for it to be viable.
- There are some people who can see benefit in this scheme but the design has many flaws that need ironing out, as well as the ramifications of implementing its construction being made acceptable.
- There are some people who can see only the benefits of this scheme, that the designers are specialists who know what they are doing, and think that any ramifications of implementing its construction are long-term worthwhile.

LRAG wish to be firmly positioned as representing bullet point 4, although its members comprise a range of different opinions from the above list. We haven't managed to incorporate anyone holding views from bullet point 5, but we did reach out to those elements this week. Regrettably it would appear that the impression given by certain areas of publicity has created the impression that LLAG is representative of the views of bullet point 1, and as they have an apparent direct line to Surrey CC, those with views from bullet point 5 would prefer not to engage with us.

Where we have made progress is in persuading Surrey CC to clear the air by getting an agreement to arrange a tight-knit meeting with LLAG to review concerns, to hopefully see if some issues have indeed been addressed, and to try to move forward in parallel rather than the ping-pong of back and forth responses to website updates. This was achieved by a successful approach at the highest level, and gaining an understanding and agreement that the time pressure for the retention of funding is unlikely to be able to be met by the traditional consultation methods, and Surrey CC will not commit to going ahead without knowing of support at a local level.

The effect of needing to have a successful plan for Phases 2 and 3 also comes into the equation and decisions about dealing with the pinch-point around Guildford High School have a kick back on London Road, as it is seen there is no point in the scheme if it is not able to be implemented for the whole route.