

LRAG News Update – 5 September 2023

Progress of Public Engagement Arrangements

Last week's newsletter explained that members of the Stakeholder Reference Group were awaiting the receipt of the final details of the design, traffic management during the construction, and the list of questions and answers for the public during the engagement period. This was in advance of a meeting to be held on 6th September.

Group members were instructed that they were not allowed to share these details, even with the committees that they represented. The chair of LRAG advised the chair of the STRG that this was not acceptable.

As a result, in order to allow the requested level of access, the circulation of information has been postponed by a week, as has the meeting of the STRG to 13th September, although the start of the public engagement phase remains on 18th September. The reason given by Cllr Matt Furniss, chair of the STRG, was:

“The risk with this wider sharing outside the group membership is that others who were not party to early sight of the material could at some point in the engagement process raise an objection and the whole process would be null and void.”

Media Involvement

The Guildford Dragon editorial about the adequacy of the revised public engagement has been published, and has prompted several replies, including a letter from the LRAG Chair: [Impression Has Been Reinforced That London Road Scheme Will Be a Fait Accompli](#).

Modelling of Traffic Flow for London Road

SCC are holding a presentation on 6th September for invited parties, about how computer modelling predicts the outcome of significant changes to road design. This is intended to allay concerns that congestion would become worse, post the installation of cycle lanes and a Dutch-style roundabout at Boxgrove (where pedestrian and cyclists are given priority).

Whether there is to be a simplified presentation at public drop-in events is not known, because, as has been repeatedly reported, stakeholders have not yet been given access to details. It is anticipated that a report of the meeting will be part of next week's newsletter, but it is thought unlikely that any feedback will be adopted at this late stage.