

LRAG News Update – 24 October 2023

Traffic Modelling

Some content of the traffic modelling report has now been brought into doubt, by briefings to various residents and local GBC councillors. It has been stated that the declared ban on a right turn from London Road into York Road is incorrect. Instead, the single carriageway replacement, of the 2 that presently exist, will allow right turns by re-phased traffic lights. Confirmation of yet another misrepresentation has been obtained from the project manager [Proposal to Ban Right Turns into York Road Now Scrapped](#).

This confusion is astounding at this point of the engagement process. The report conclusions have been shown to be flawed by this single incorrect hypothesis, and its validity is completely devalued ... apart from the declaration that the many measures of the design of the Active Travel scheme will increase congestion and associated delays, probably encouraging rat-running.

How many senior persons' desks did the Traffic Modelling report cross, before being signed off for release as accurate and valid?

Public Engagement Phase Progress

Reports have been received that some members of the public had been briefed, at a drop-in event, that the scheme would proceed irrespective of the strength of the feelings of the local community. This impression has been quashed by a reconfirmation, at the highest level, that public opinion will affect the final decision.

Stakeholder Group Design and Traffic Management Workshop

Invitations have now been issued for a workshop on 1st November, for 2 hours, to review the design and the traffic management. It seems illogical to hold such an event at this point, well into the engagement process. The purpose of the workshop has been declared “to further understand the stakeholder group members lived experience of using the London Road. The outputs from the session will be included in the final decision-making report alongside the wider public engagement work ...”

If the feedback is treated with the same disdain as that given to comments about the survey questionnaire, then little confidence exists in the value of the exercise. Expect some form of declaration that the process took place, and stakeholders provided feedback on behalf of the local community.

Contrary to previous practices, when lengthy documents for contemplation have been launched on stakeholders only hours in advance, Surrey CC have asked for queries for discussion to be submitted by close of play on 23rd October.