

LRAG News Update - 16 February 2024

A brief, if slightly later than usual, newsletter this week. The reason for the delay was that Surrey CC had called a meeting of stakeholders on Thursday 15th February to reveal the results of their Commonplace survey. This will form the basis of the report to go forward to support a decision on how to proceed with the London Road Active Travel Scheme.

The meeting was chaired by council leader, Tim Oliver, supported by Katie Stewart, Executive Director for Environment, Transport & Infrastructure, and Roger Williams, Active Travel Programme Manager. Present were representatives from Guildford BC, G-BUG, Guildford Residents' Association, 2 local councillors, Surrey Coalition of Disabled People and LRAG.

In his introduction Tim Oliver expressed his displeasure that discussions at earlier confidential meetings had been leaked by some participants, resulting in a barrage of further inputs. He did not identify the source of the leak, and repeated his instruction that the evening's participants should not disclose details of the briefing.

I can only surmise that the rapid reaction by the local online press, Surrey Live, to produce the following article within 10 hours of the meeting finishing, may have required a little pre-preparation. [Young girl nearly hit by car on busy Guildford junction calls for safer cycling and walking routes.](#)

I don't think I am overstepping the bounds of confidentiality to remark that the tone of the meeting was at times aggressive and discourteous. I also think it is fair to report that, despite assurances that SCC "*welcome views on the scheme in any form that respondents feel enables them to have their say*", the council officers dismissed consideration of inputs from the [London Road Active Travel Survey](#) on the grounds that the results were not verifiable. Councillor Oliver, however, did acknowledge that he had met the instigators and studied the results.

The official report should be available for public scrutiny 7 days in advance of the cabinet meeting on 27 February, though it is understood that the final decision will be an executive one, taken by the leader alone. Watch this space!