



**WEYBRIDGE SOCIETY**  
**Your Residents Association, Working to Keep**  
**Weybridge a Pleasant Place to Live**

**Transport Response to the Draft Elmbridge Core Strategy**

It is clear from the recent Weybridge Society Town Forum that Weybridge Residents consider the transport infrastructure in the town to be inadequate today. In feedback following that forum over 93% said that safety is already compromised by issues such as road congestion, speeding, inadequate cycle paths, too many HGV's and poor road maintenance. These existing shortcomings need to be addressed. Future developments, including the Weybridge share of the Elmbridge imposed target, will require further transport infrastructure improvements as well.

The Local Development Framework, of which the Core Strategy will form a major part, needs to address these important transport issues. The government promotes environmental awareness and sustainability, and has stated it intends to set stronger road safety targets. However, these 'policies' are not yet apparent in Surrey. This is particularly so in Elmbridge, even when compared to neighbouring boroughs such as Runnymede and Spelthorne which appear better served. Further there does not appear to be an effective partnership on transport issues between the County Council and Borough Council.

The Core Strategy rightly indicates that it is a key task for the Council, alongside it's housing development targets, to deliver the necessary infrastructure, and to maintain and enhance the environment and people's quality of life. Transport infrastructure is a key requirement in completing this task and yet it is not adequately addressed in the draft Core Strategy!

## The Core Strategy

- **Does not meet the tests that the Planning Inspectorate will use** in that evidence, assumptions, alternatives, preferred approaches and options are inadequate. The strategy does not adequately address how the plan will meet the objectives nor how the plans will be achieved. Measures are incomplete and there are inadequate contingency plans and processes described.
- **Has inadequate vision, objectives and plans** particularly in terms of transport infrastructure, road safety, sustainability and quality of life.
- **Needs to show that the Surrey County Council understand and are committed** (along with other transport infrastructure providers) to resolve the current transport failings and deliver transport infrastructure to meet the demand of housing and population growth over the period of the strategy.
- **Needs to show that the Council has the leadership** to ensure that the vision and objectives are achieved, particularly where delivery is not within its day to day control.

### Vision:

Our town has been shaped by the motor car and the train. Whilst the car is still essential for many trips we consider that a fundamental part of the vision for the town should be **the ability of every person to walk, cycle and take public transport safely and efficiently as part of, or for the whole of, their journey to their destination.** Deliver this vision and we would be become less reliant on the car.

To deliver this vision there need to be plans to deal with several issues:

- **Safe Pedestrian and Cycle routes** should be provided across the town - for commuters, visitors, and residents including school children.
- **Public transport** needs in the Borough should be better met – giving reliable high quality transport linking the town, station and residential areas.
- **Speeding** – we need more appropriate limits (including lower speeds e.g. 20mph outside schools and in residential areas). Motorists should be better informed, encouraged to obey speed limits and better educated as to the relationship between speed and injuries/deaths. Initiatives should be put in place to better educate professional drivers.
- **Appropriate traffic flows** – large HGVs (e.g. articulated lorries) should be prevented from using town centre roads unless delivering to the town. No further employment development should be permitted including at Brooklands unless HGV traffic restrictions are imposed.
- **Weybridge Station and its access should be radically redesigned** to meet growth, to improve safety, to make sustainable travel more attractive and enhance the area. Pedestrian and cycle access, intermodal provision (especially bus/foot/cycle<->train) and road safety should be improved. Station capacity should be increased whilst car travel should reduce.

- **Parking in the town** – needs to be improved in terms of capacity and controls; ensuring that quality of life for residents is improved whilst there is growth in population, employment and visitor numbers.
- **Highways (Roads, paths and drains) need better maintenance** – moving away from the current ‘quick fix’ solutions that are resulting in a dangerous and expensive degradation of local roads.
- **Planning needs to better consider transport issues** – the level of advice from Surrey County Council needs to be better and the Borough Council needs to ensure developers better support the transport vision through better highways design and financial contribution targeted to specific transport solutions in the local area.

The need, as part of the LDF, is for a real ‘integrated transport’ infrastructure! At present housing is developed in the town without adequate parking provision on the assumption that the town is linked to public transport or close to employment; whilst in reality most employment is not close to the town centre, the main public transport link is the station some 1 mile away up the hill, there are no cycle routes, footpaths are unsafe and public transport is limited! This flawed approach seems implicit in the approach to suggested development sites in this strategy.

Our Core Strategy should seek to address this transport (and sustainability) vision and then show how this will be delivered (including how the infrastructure providers or ‘partners’ themselves are committed to the vision and its delivery!)

Such a vision cannot be delivered by reliance on current structures and processes. The draft Core Strategy, by the absence of an adequate vision for transport (especially highways and public transport), seems to show an acceptance of the status quo rather than a desire to improve the situation that the Surrey County Council Local Transport Plan has failed to address.

**We object that none of the above has been considered properly in the Core Strategy document. Strategies to address these issues should be included in CP4 and CPA9.** We urge you to modify the Core Strategy to deal with the points we raise so that Weybridge can be a better place to live, and you achieve the task you set yourselves.

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