

Annex A

Surrey Heath Local Area Committee

13 March 2014

Open Public Question Time

Public questions were audio recorded by Paul Deach

1. Tina Carney, Bagshot resident

I refer to the ongoing roadworks on the A30, which have been handled well and which have led to a positive outcome as Church Road has been closed for a few weeks to the delight of the residents. We have undertaken a straw poll of approx 30 residents, of whom 28 would like the road to remain restricted (one way up the hill) and we would like this to be considered by this Committee.

Reply from the Chair

The Committee are aware of the issues in this area, and could possibly look at this again. I do know that Pennyhill Park Hotel and Spa use this road to access their warehouse, so they would also need to be consulted.

Reply from Mike Goodman

This question came up approximately nine months ago and the Highways team looked at it. Unfortunately, it will not be easy and cheap to make this one way, and the scheme would need agreement of all residents and access users.

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

This type of scheme would involve consultation, as the closure of Church Road may mean more traffic in other residential areas. I would suggest a more detailed report on this be brought to a future meeting.

2. Rev Bruce Nicole, local resident

I refer to my petition on the A30 London Road slipway, and wonder if the two councils present at this Committee meeting could reach agreement on the issue of refunds to residents

Reply from the Chair

Thank you for this – we will cover this under petitions on the agenda, when, as petitioner, you will be given the opportunity to speak for up to three minutes on this subject.

3. Murray Rowlands, Camberley resident

I refer to the Government policy on apprenticeships. In my role with the Camberley Job Club, a young man went for interview to train as a plumber, but the Government has now closed the course! What we need is a technical training institute locally for young people – could Surrey County Council look at this?

Reply from the Chair

This is something that councillors would support – but unfortunately, funding is not available at present. We need to provide additional primary school places in Surrey and funding is being directed towards this. We would love to provide this type of skills centre, but just don't have the money, however, Surrey does have a commitment to employ apprentices.

Reply from Josephine Hawkins, SHBC

Tomlinscote school do some wonderful work with young people, teaching practical skills.

4. Andrew Payne, Bagshot resident

The two laybys on the A322 appears to have become a full time truck stop. I counted 13 trucks, all with generators running, parked up there overnight. This amount of vehicles is noisy and they often leave urine and excrement behind. Why are we providing this facility and paying to clear up after them? The laybys are adjacent to Windlesham Golf Club. If they are allowed to continue parking there, could a sound proof fence be installed as this is causing a nuisance to residents?

Reply from the Chair

We will need to liaise with the Police on this. Trucks are able to stop in the lay-by but we do need to control numbers and littering.

Reply from Mike Goodman

Valerie White and I attended a meeting on this and Valerie got SHBC to clean up the area. We also met with the Police, who are keeping an eye on the situation. There have also been a number of thefts of diesel from parked trucks. The trucks can park there legally but we are monitoring the issue and cleaning up the site regularly.

Reply from Bill Chapman

This may be an issue that is spreading as there is a lay-by at Diamond Ridge that is causing similar problems.

Reply from Valerie White, SHBC

The Highways team do need to look at this. Truck drivers do need places to stop to meet the requirements for rest on their tachographs – but they would benefit from appropriate places with facilities.

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

We will look at this lay-by.

5. Helene Hart, Upper Chobham Road resident

I refer to the issue of Parking charges on the A30. As I am not the petitioner, I need to raise this now and would like an answer as to why SHBC has not been told to allow challenges to fines. The whole situation feels like entrapment.

DRAFT MINUTES – to be formally agreed at the next meeting**Reply from the Chair**

The Surrey County Council Local Area Committee is made up of County and Borough Councillors, but we don't have the remit to tell SHBC what to do. They are a separate Council, but they do have an appeals system in place and policies that they follow.

Reply from David Curl, Parking Team

Surrey County Council are responsible for Parking changes – but the issue of parking tickets fall to the remit of SHBC. Parking charges regulations are set out and SHBC have a process for this. This is a two stage process with an in-house appeal system first, leading to an appeal with an independent adjudicator. Each appeal is looked at on its own merits.

6. Peter Seabrook-Harris, Camberley resident

I also refer to the A30 parking issue. I received a parking ticket on Nov 13th when the new restrictions were first introduced. I have written to SHBC on several occasions, pointing out the issues, stating that the changes and new signage were not clear enough and suggesting action to help residents, but I got no reply and my suggested signage was ignored. I am disgusted that I received no reply – especially as the situation escalated and led to lots of residents being treated so poorly.

Reply from Josephine Hawkins, SHBC

Unfortunately, our Chief Executives' husband is very ill and she is on compassionate leave. However, her team should have answered your letter.

6. Jennifer Edwards, Frimley resident

I support Bruce Nicoles' petition on the A30 parking issue. Innocent residents have been treated like law breakers. I do understand that there is a process, which has been followed, but I do feel caught out and strongly believe that residents should receive refunds in this area. I have written to the Parking department, the Chief Executive, and the Mayor but I have only received a reply from the parking team. All letters should get a response on point of principal and it is disgusting that letters are being ignored. Could someone please explain how residents get an independent adjudication, as SHBC has not provided this information and the Chief Executive does not respond to letters?

Reply from the Chair

This issue is not within the remit of this Committee, however, we have got the message here at the Local Area Committee and can pass this on to SHBC, who are aware of the concerns of residents.

7. Cyril Pavey, Camberley Resident

I would like to raise an issue with an item on the agenda (Page 67), regarding Southall Park Road.

ITEM 2

DRAFT MINUTES – to be formally agreed at the next meeting

Reply from the Chair

Thank you for raising this, I will allow the public to speak under that agenda item