

County Council Meeting – 16 October 2012

STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Unannounced road closures in Cranleigh and Ewhurst

Last week, the Prime Minister, David Cameron, urged all tiers of government to do everything they can to support the **strivers** in our society - those people who leave home before dawn, work hard all day, and only return late at night to find their children fast asleep in bed.

These are the people I represent in Surrey; those earning between £12,000 and £30,000 a year and still struggling to make ends meet.

And I welcome everything this Council is doing to support the hard working families of Surrey, not least the Leader's initiative to award the majority of the Council's contracts to local firms, often small and medium-sized enterprises.

But there is one area where I know we could do more for our people and that is in the management of our highways. Too often, in Cranleigh and Ewhurst, in my Division, we suffer from unannounced road closures, catching everyone unaware and causing traffic chaos - preventing people from getting to work on time and mothers from getting their children to school.

The impact on the local economy and on the lives of my residents is both incalculable and unacceptable in equal measure.

I welcome the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment's initiative to introduce a permit scheme for roadworks by utilities companies, but I can not help wondering if he might do just as well to extend the scheme to include the Council's own roadworks.

And, as a further incentive, why don't we establish a fund to compensate the residents of Surrey for the stress and inconvenience they suffer when we make avoidable mistakes on the highways?

That way, we shall truly be able to look the people of this County in the eye and tell them that we feel their pain as much as they do.

Alan Young
Local Member for Cranleigh and Ewhurst
16 October 2012