



## **SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 19 September 2011**

### **AGENDA ITEM 7**

#### **MEMBER QUESTIONS**

##### **Question 1 : Cllr Barry Fairbank – Long Ditton**

Long Ditton has a number of hedges on highway verges on Manor Road North; Rectory Lane; Church Road; Chalcott Gardens etc. Whilst action is taken from time to time to cut back the flanks of the hedges to avoid overhanging on footways and highways, no action has been or is being taken to keep top growth in check. Can you please advise me as to the policies which are applied by Surrey County Council in this context and when residents might expect action to cut back the top growth?

##### **The Chairman will give the following response:**

In this situation Surrey County Council would typically only cut back the sides of the hedges to avoid encroachment of the highway. Cutting back the top can encourage side growth increasing the need for cutting back in the future.

We will inspect and if necessary seek a quote for the cutting back. This will be in two parts, one for just doing the standard approach, ie. sides of the hedges, and one for doing the tops. If the cost of cutting back the tops is prohibitive discussion will take place with the Local Member in the first instance to ascertain if any additional funds can be found.