



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE EPSOM & EWELL
14 September 2009**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1

Mr Colin Wing - Re: Bus Route 470

Route 470 passes quite close to NESCOLT, yet the nearest stops are in Ewell Village or in Cheam Road. Is there any way that this bus could stop closer to the college?

Officer Response:

There are no suitable locations to site additional bus stops in Cheam Road closer to the junction with the Ewell by-pass. A stop in Reigate Road could be a possibility but only at the High Street end of Reigate Road. As this would be within approximately 50 metres of the current Green Man bus stop the cost for this could not be justified. As a County Council we aim to provide bus stops at 300-meter intervals but each location is unique and we have to consider residential premises, the road layout and health & safety requirements.

Question 2

Mr. Brian Angus - Re: Ewell High Street Parking

Seeing that the road markings in Ewell High Street now need refreshing, may I repeat a proposal that I believe is the best answer to the problem of parking and congestion? Having thought about this long and hard I do not propose reducing the area where parking is currently permitted. The present boundary between parking and yellow line is precisely at the point where the road width permits cars to pass. Reduce it and business would be affected by reducing the available short-term parking. Increase it and busses are delayed. Frequent illegal parking has this (second) effect. My minimum-cost solution is to refresh the white dashes and yellow lines but also to add hatching as per my attached drawing. This would have the effect of drawing attention to the boundary I mention above - just down from Greenfields Estate Agents. When I was a Councillor I proposed this but was told there was no precedent for hatching alongside yellow lines. I have recently spotted this in other locations in Epsom, including the junctions of side roads with Hook Road.

Officer Response

This request has previously been made of Surrey Highways via the Operations manager of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and, accordingly, the site was included as part of a programme of works to be undertaken when a road marking gang is next available in Epsom and Ewell to visit ad hoc locations.

However, in the interim, Epsom and Ewell Environmental Services have identified a potential air pollution issue in Ewell village center, which is thought to be exacerbated by traffic delays along High Street. In accordance with Government directives, the County and Borough Councils are obliged to seek possible solutions to addressing the pollution problem and this will include a survey of existing parking practice in High

Street to determine what impact this has on congestion within the immediate vicinity. It would therefore be prudent to postpone any amendments or additions to the present road markings until such time as the survey has been completed and the results analysed.

Question 3

Cllr Stephen Pontin Re: Ruxley Lane/Chessington Road junction & traffic light system

Back in March 2008 I presented a petition on behalf of residents calling for a review of the design of the Ruxley Lane/Chessington Road junction and traffic light system. The previous Chairman 'Cllr Chris Frost promised that the Local Committee would discuss funding for a review outlining options for improvements to this junction, when the committee met in July 2009. Please could you confirm that this issue was discussed, and could the chairman please explain the decision?

Officer Response:

This matter was discussed at the Committee meeting held 13th July 2009. it was stated by the Local Highway Manager that::

- A review would be expensive, costing approximately £6,000 and no budget for this had been identified
- It was the view of the County's traffic engineers that no major improvement could be made to the current layout and that no alternative layout could be envisaged that would offer traffic flow efficiencies whilst maintaining the current high standard of facilities for pedestrians
- In the unlikely event of a review recommending an alternative layout no funding source would be available for the foreseeable future.

Question 4

Mr. Colin Wing [2nd question] - Re: Bus Timetables

We are fortunate that there are still several routes between Epsom and Ewell Village and, to a lesser extent, between Epsom and West Ewell. But there are two problems:
(i) Several timetables have to be consulted to see the times of all the routes.
(ii) The 418 and E5 both leave Epsom at about the same time, as do the 293 and 406 at certain times. Can anything be done about these problems?

Officer Response

(i) To make it easier for passengers to see all buses serving Ewell Village the Passenger Transport Group will compile a summary sheet showing services between Epsom and Ewell. This will be posted on the display board at Epsom Clock Tower and also on the Internet.

(ii) Services between Epsom and Ewell Villages are frequent with 10 buses per hour leaving Epsom at the following minutes past the hour 00, 06, 15, 19, 30, 39, 39, 44, 45 and 59. With so many operations per hour it is difficult not to overlap especially when services offer different frequencies such as 293, which operates every 20 minutes and 406, which operates half hourly. Overall the coverage per hour between these locations is very good.

The timetable for service E5 was last amended in January 2008. This service caters for school movements in Epsom as well as The Wells, Langley Vale, Watersedge and Longmead. The current timetable was designed to accommodate school

movements from all these areas and to make any alterations will upset and inconvenience many scholars

Question 5

Cllr Stephen Pontin [2nd question] **Re: Chessington Close/Chessington Rd road markings**

In response to previous requests, can this committee please confirm its' previous promise to modify the road markings at the junction of Chessington Close/Chessington Road. This is to enable residents of Chessington Close to emerge safely onto Chessington Road. Will members of this Committee make the decision this evening to instruct officers to carry out this request as soon as possible?

Officer Response:

Modest modifications to the markings at this junction have already been carried out. It is the view of the Local Highway Manager and Surrey Police that the existing arrangement is not unsafe and this is justified by the unblemished safety record since the dual carriageway was developed. Further modification may offer difficulties for drivers that are not be immediately apparent and officers will not undertake any works on the highway that they view as compromising safety.

Question 6

Mr. Colin Wing [3rd question] - **Re: Bus Shelters**

Not all the stops in Ewell Village have seats under shelters. Is it possible to provide these?

Officer Response:

The Epsom & Ewell Borough Council maintains two of the bus shelters in Ewell Village and these have seats under the shelters. The other shelters are provided and maintained by the bus company, Clear Channel [01730 231115] and this matter would need to be taken up with them.