



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL
8 March 2010**

MEMBER QUESTIONS

Question 1

Cllr Michael Arthur

Re: Blocked Drain – Windmill Lane, Ewell

“I have raised at two previous meetings the matter of a blocked road drain in Windmill Lane, Ewell adjacent to the bridge over the railway. It was originally stated that this would be attended to in the 2008/09 fiscal year and when it was not I was told on the second occasion that it would be completed in the 2009/10 year. As of 1st March 2010 no work has been carried out which is very disappointing.

I now ask if assurance can be given that this work will be completed this month. Incidentally, the gully on the immediate opposite (south side) of the road is blocked and also causes floods.”

Officer Response:

This gully has received attention since this matter was first raised, initially with a gully cleansing unit and thence with a jetting machine. In the majority of cases gullies can be brought back into working order simply by removal of debris from the interceptor pot, which is designed to trap solids before they are able to enter the pipe connection. When this proved unsuccessful and it was established that the pipe was blocked, a jetting machine was used to attempt to clear the pipe with high-pressure water, but again this failed to work.

The findings of the jetting crew were that the pipe was clogged with roots from a nearby tree and a third attempt was made to clear the pipe with rods and the appropriate root-cutting tool. As Cllr Arthur has observed, the gully still fails to operate properly and we now plan to excavate the area to replace the defective pipe.

As most of the Councils' available workforce is engaged on urgent road repairs following damage suffered during the recent cold weather, it seems unlikely this work will be carried out before the end of March. However, an order is with our contractor and repairs will be undertaken as soon as resources become available.