



**Surrey County Council
Local Committee In Epsom & Ewell
7 June 2010**

PETITION 1:

Mrs L Sapsed – condition of grass verges in Fendall Road

A petition has been received from residents in Fendall Road concerning the condition of the grass verges in Fendall Road, with a request to change to hard standing, as several cars have been hit due to the parking.

Officer Response:

The Council is aware of the damage that has been caused to the grass verge in this street. However, regular inspection has revealed the defect not to pose an immediate danger to highway users. Following the extreme conditions experienced during January and February the maintenance resource available within Epsom and Ewell has been directed to repair the many carriageway defects that have appeared on the network as these were deemed to present the greatest risk to the travelling public.

I am pleased to report that the majority of serious potholes have now received attention and our day works gang will be working in West Ewell during the forthcoming week (commencing 7th June) on other routine matters. The gang has been tasked to fill the worst of the depressions in the damaged verge but the work will be confined to making good with soil and seed only.

The cost of suggested proposal to harden the verge is estimated at approximately £16,000 which represents 80% of the budget currently expected for maintenance works within the West Division of Epsom and Ewell. Given the many demands likely to be made on that budget, no commitment can be made at this time for the requested works.

PETITION 2:

Mrs L Simmonds – junction of Banstead Road and Cheam Road, East Ewell

A petition has been received from the residents and regular users of Banstead Road and Cheam Road that some form of traffic control be installed [traffic lights or mini roundabout] to enable vehicles turning right onto the Cheam Road to do so safely.

Officer Response:

The Council investigated options to improve road safety at this junction at the end of 2006 following a series of four accidents within 12 months, one leading to serious personal injuries. The findings made revealed that it would not be possible to install a signal junction because of the many driveway access points within the controlled area that would compromise traffic movements (and safety). A new mini roundabout was also ruled out, as it would be impossible to achieve the required horizontal deflection without compulsory purchase of adjoining land thus putting the proposal beyond the budget available at the time.

It should be stressed that any alteration or improvement to the highway must comply with design guidance and pass a rigorous safety audit. Schemes that fail to meet the given criteria can have an adverse impact on safety, presenting hazards to highway users that may not have previously existed.

The scheme chosen, following the 2006 study, was to install a safety camera in Cheam Road, east of the Banstead Road junction and this work was carried out in 2007. The Council monitor all alterations to the public highway to determine what safety improvements have been delivered; the mechanism used is to interrogate the Police accident database which gives details of collisions, including dates times and possible causes. Only those accidents resulting in injury appear on the database as injury reduction is the recognised criteria for measuring road safety improvement.

Accident data collected since installation of the safety camera reveal there have been two accidents involving injury, both having taken place during 2008. No details have yet appeared on the database relating to the accident of April 2010 referred to in the petition and it is unknown whether it resulted in personal injury or what factors (such as speeding) may have contributed. Given the volume of traffic that uses this junction, the recent safety record is regarded as good, comparing favourably with many other locations in the County. Further, as a result of Government imposed spending restraints, no funding has been made available this year or for subsequent years to undertake highway improvements and thus, the Council have no plans to carry any alterations at this junction.

PETITION 3

Mr B Cushing – Glyn School and parking of pupils in local roads near the school

A petition has been received from local residents in Kingsway, West Gardens and Nursery Close concerning the parking problem caused by Glyn School.

Officer Response:

Construction of a sixth form building linked to Glynn School was completed in 2005, and would have been the subject of a previous planning application. This has brought the total sixth form capacity to an estimated 480 pupils. Surrey does not operate any restrictions on pupils driving to school but, together with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have adopted Government policy which sets out to discourage reliance on the car by limited parking availability and promoting sustainable means of travel such as cycling, walking and use of public transport. Accordingly the Council will not impose any condition on Glyn School to provide off street parking as it would compromise the sustainable transport policy we operate. This policy is considered to be particularly important given the young age of the group it targets as travel patterns followed early can serve to shape attitudes in later life.

The County undertakes an annual parking review within Epsom and Ewell (subject to funding) when the requests we receive for parking amendments are considered and implemented in those cases where there has been a positive response to advertisement and subsequent Committee approval. During March 2010 parking amendments were carried out in the following streets, local to Glyn School:

- Staneway - staggered single yellow line
- Glyn Close - single yellow line
- Providence Place - double yellow line on south east side

- Fennells Mead - single yellow line

These streets are where a specific request for service has been received and we have been able to act. No further local measures have been approved by Committee for advertisement during the current financial year. A new list of proposed parking amendments is currently being compiled and will be based on any fresh requests for localised parking controls. This will be put before the Local Committee in December 2010 as part of a report seeking approval to advertise with a view to carry out implementation during 2011/12.

Due to limitations on the resources at the Council's disposal, we are currently unable to offer controlled parking schemes or residents' parking schemes of the type requested. However, Surrey's Parking Team intends to release their draft strategy for parking during September in the form of a consultation. At this time Members and residents will have an opportunity to comment and shape what follows. Any scheme that derives from the consultation will be subject to funding becoming available and it is most unlikely that free permits will be offered to residents.