

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE EPSOM & EWELL
24 September 2012**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Question 1 – Mr Stephen Dyke
Re: Road Closures**

Question:

Could the Committee please investigate whether everything possible was done to ease traffic congestion for the 3 week period at the end of April during the closure of Waterloo Road. This closure caused massive congestion to the West of Epsom on Hook Road and surrounding roads disrupting local bus services and adversely affecting local businesses.

Could this Committee ensure that it has a role in forward planning in the event of other planned road closures in Epsom Town Centre.

Officer Response:

As part of the redevelopment of Epsom Station it was necessary for a new drainage connection to be made to an existing drain in the centre of the Waterloo Road / Station Approach junction. A new manhole and chamber were required and a deep excavation with heavy plant was needed to facilitate the works.

The Traffic Management arrangements to carry out the work were proposed by the contractor. Then following discussions with the SCC Traffic Systems experts, the Contractor and the Police, the Traffic Management was agreed.

It was felt that a road closure was the most effective method of carrying out the work. Any arrangements other than a full closure would have meant the use of 4 way temporary traffic signals which would have caused unacceptable levels of congestion. The use of 4 way signals would also have resulted in no provision for pedestrians coming and going from the station and the town centre.

By closing the road traffic was diverted away from the junction and pedestrians were able to cross all arms of the junction with greater safety. Inevitably when a major junction in a town centre is closed for any length of time there is an impact on congestion in other parts of the town. However by using a full road closure the construction was able to progress far more quickly and the works could be completed in the shortest time. As it happens, the extreme rainfall that occurred in April meant that the work over ran by one week as the excavation was flooded but this was beyond the control of the contractor.