



**OFFICER RESPONSE TO PETITIONER
LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

**TREE MAINTENANCE ON PARK RISE, LEATHERHEAD
PETITION**

9 DECEMBER 2009

A petition of 17 signatures was received from Sally Edwards on behalf of residents at Park Rise, Leatherhead, as follows:

We demand that all trees on Park Rise, Leatherhead, are pollarded and regularly maintained. They are currently so overgrown they now present the following problems:

- A safety risk for road users and pedestrians due to excessive leaf fall*
- Road drain blockages*
- A risk to residential buildings' roofs, guttering and windows*
- A risk to telecommunication lines*
- Reduced amenity to light inside residents' homes*
- Reduced heat in residents' homes*
- Noise nuisance to residents, especially sleeping children*

We demand that Park Rise is prioritised for this work and that a tree maintenance schedule is put into place.

The Local Highways Manager responds:

Surrey Highways operates a policy to maintain existing highway trees and hedges in a safe condition for as long as they remain healthy unless public safety or significant damage to the highway requires removal. The highway trees in Park Rise have recently been inspected and are not considered to be dangerous. Whilst maintenance operations such as pollarding are desirable on many of our highway trees, works may be undertaken only when funding is available. The 2009/10 budget for highway trees works in the whole of the east of the County is about £200,000. Expenditure on this budget is being carefully managed to ensure that funds will be available throughout the year to undertake essential works such as removal of dead and dangerous trees. However, the desirable pollarding in Park Rise will be undertaken towards the end of the financial year if sufficient funds are available for the work. In the meantime, an estimate for the cost of the pollarding work will be obtained.