



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

MEMBER QUESTIONS

3rd March 2010

The following seven questions were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 46.

Question from County Councillor Stephen Cooksey, Dorking and Holmwoods

Bollards on the high pavement in Dorking High Street

'In May 2009 a metal bar joining two bollards on the high pavement in Dorking High Street was broken. An unsightly temporary plastic barrier was erected in its place. This is a sensitive site in a conservation area and the bar acted as a safety barrier-protecting people from the steep drop onto the A25. Despite continued requests during the course of the last 9 months no action to replace the bar has been taken.

Would the Local Highways Manager or the appropriate officer:

1. Explain why this bar has not been replaced during the course of the last 4 months?
2. Indicate when action will be taken in the immediate future to replace the bar?
3. Indicate when it is expected that the bar will be replaced?'

Response from Highways

A bespoke metal bar is required to replace the broken section that was removed last year. Surrey Highways has sought to achieve this and has kept County Councillor Stephen Cooksey informed.

1. The bar has not been replaced during the course of the last 4 months due to difficulties with the supply of a suitable replacement metal bar. The work must be commissioned through Surrey Highway's partner, Carillion, since it is

maintenance work on the public highway. A specialist sub-contractor capable of supplying the required metal bar was identified but the company was not on Carillion's list of preferred suppliers. The process for commissioning work from the sub-contractor was commenced but the company's terms and conditions were not acceptable to Carillion.

2. Action is being taken to replace the bar. Colleagues in Mole Valley District Council have provided details of an alternative specialist sub-contractor to supply a bespoke metal bar and details have been passed to Carillion. The Operations Manager at Carillion has acknowledged that the requirement to replace the bar has been going on for an extended period and is seeking to arrange the works as soon as possible.

3. A timescale has not yet been provided for replacement of the metal bar. However, Carillion is seeking to arrange the works as soon as possible and officers will endeavour to keep the Chairman of the Local Committee and County Councillor Stephen Cooksey fully informed.

Question from County Councillor Hazel Cooksey, Dorking Hills

Potholes on the A25

Given that many pothole repairs particularly on the A25 at Westcott and in Dorking near the junction with Station Road have not lasted even one month since the repairs were carried out in January, what action is taken by Highways to check the quality of the repairs to ensure that they last a reasonable period of time?

Response from Highways

The unprecedented number of potholes in our road carriageways following the period of snow and ice is being dealt with by Quick Fill. This repair method is being effective to address the many deep potholes in order to try to keep our roads safe, although some Quick Fills have not lasted. Continuing bad weather has caused further deterioration to the network, sometimes to the initial repair and often to the section of road adjacent to the original repair. Continual water flow from adjacent saturated land is just one example of why this deterioration occurs. The action of traffic, combined with the recent conditions has meant that some sites have needed repeat visits to keep them safe for the time being.

Roads are monitored by Surrey Highways officers. However, we are receiving many urgent pothole defect notifications each day and this helps to ensure our highways are kept safe. Anyone can report defects needing urgent repair on Surrey County Council's website www.surreycc.gov.uk or phone number 0300 200 1003.

The County Council's partner constructor is required to supervise work to ensure compliance with specifications required under the contract. Surrey Highways officers also carry out quality checks on a sample of the work completed each

month as a part of the contract performance monitoring. Quality issues are raised with the constructor in order to continually improve the service provided.

Permanent repairs are being undertaken on roads in Mole Valley including 'A' roads and priority routes throughout the district. Work on the A25, including the section from Abinger through Westcott to Dorking, is currently in progress. Permanent repairs on the A25 near the junction with Station Road are scheduled for night working on 4th and 5th March 2010.

Pixham Annexe

Has the County Council or St Martin's School in Dorking done any research to test the viability of building on the Pixham Annexe site before deciding whether or not to fund additional buildings on the Ranmore Road site of the school?

Response from Surrey County Council

The schools preference was very much driven by the educational benefits of bringing the school together on one site, however Surrey CC Estates and Planning investigated the implications of accommodating the additional children at both Pixham and Ranmore Road.

Surrey CC Estates and Planning found that the Pixham Annexe is an inefficient building to run and has cost the school some lost days in education due to the boiler breaking down etc. It is not really fit for purpose for 21st Century education without a lot of investment. The site is small and there is hardly any room to build onto it. Staff and visitors have to park on the front playground and the entrance is very difficult to manoeuvre into. There would be insufficient outdoor learning and play areas for additional children, were the site to be expanded.

There are different planning constraints for both Pixham and Ranmore Road sites. However, Pixham is in a conservation area and adjacent to several listed buildings. The design of any development on the Pixham site would need to reflect the existing and surrounding buildings. This would make any development on this site significantly more expensive and much more difficult to achieve a suitable 21st century teaching and learning environment.

The results on their investigations were reported at both the public meetings we held and were covered in the paper which we prepared and made available to attendees at the meetings and on our website.

Children's Centres

Why has the catchment area for the Dorking Children's Centre been drawn to exclude Westcott so that Westcott residents will have to pass the Dorking Children's Centre to reach the Children's Centre at the St John's site which they are supposed to attend?

Response from Surrey County Council

Westcott does fall in the catchment for area 72 which is served by St Johns, however Dorking Nursery School have the management responsibility for both Area 23 (Dorking Children Centre) and area 72 based at St Johns. Families living in Westcott can access services at both sites whichever is the most appropriate for them.

Westcott has also been identified as a potential venue for the rural bus, and we are currently looking for a venue to park the bus. The Children Centre will be looking at delivering outreach to these families.

Question from District Councillor David Howell, Ashted

Knoll Roundabout

The works at Knoll Roundabout appear to be completed but the contractor, Conway, still seems to have exclusive use of the car park adjacent to the roundabout as a free storage area. Why is this so, and when will it return to a car park?

Response from Highways

The car park area off Leatherhead By-pass Road, just south of Knoll roundabout, has been closed to the public during the works period for Knoll Roundabout and Epsom Road. Conway under contract to Surrey County Council has used the car park and is intending to vacate the area before the end of next week. Removal of equipment should start this week. Reinstatement of the area including grass seeding and bollard replacement is scheduled for next week.