



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

PUBLIC WRITTEN QUESTIONS (WITHDRAWN)

07 DECEMBER 2010

The following question was submitted in accordance with Standing Order 66.

1. Question from Mr Ron Billard, Chairman of Mole Valley Cycling Forum

SCC is in receipt of a formal complaint concerning the work carried out at Knoll Roundabout between Ashted and Leatherhead. In addition to the serious issues of wild overspending and misuse of Section 106 funding, there are equally serious questions concerning the scope of studies carried out during both the planning phase and the safety audits carried out after the work.

Would members please explain what steps they intend to take to ensure that Section 106 money is properly applied to relevant infrastructure projects?

Would members also explain what steps they intend to take to ensure that all potential users of highway features are taken into consideration when planning and reviewing schemes. In particular, when government is encouraging low CO2, healthy and sustainable transport options, how can the members ensure that proper consultation takes place in advance of such projects, between officers and recognised bodies of expertise within the voluntary sector?

Response from SCC Highways Team

Use of Section 106 money by the County Council must be in accordance with agreements secured with developers and with approval of the appropriate Committee. Expenditure of some Section 106 money has recently been considered by the Local Committee for Mole Valley and draft minutes of the meeting include the following :

- recommend that the internal audit team review should address how s106 expenditure could be integrated into general highway schemes and to clarify where monitoring, control and accountability within those schemes lie. If this is outside the scope of the Internal Audit report, a further officer report should be brought to the local committee to make recommendations accordingly.
- that following committee approval of spending plans for section 106 monies across mole valley, any material change in scheme or cost greater than 10% is taken back to committee for consideration or, when time constraints do not permit, the chairman, vice chairman and local member.
- that a fuller report will be taken to the local committee setting out options for spending the remaining money within leatherhead

The final paragraph of Question 2 asks about ensuring that all potential users of highway features are taken into consideration when planning and reviewing schemes. The consultation process mentioned in the answer to Question 1 above should provide the necessary considerations. Reports to the Local Committee on specific projects give a further opportunity for issues to be raised.

2. **Question from Mr Ron Billard, Chairman of Mole Valley Cycling Forum**

Dorking – Westcott Off Highway link.

SCC Cycling officer reports that the long awaited Environmental Report has been produced, In essence it identifies a viable solution. There is RoW funding available to tackle the flooding problem. Sustrans have withdrawn their matched funding but if money is available next year or the year after then Sustrans may be prepared to make this available. Meanwhile discussions continue to solve the actual route.

So that when funding becomes available this project is ready to be undertaken without delay, would members please state how they are going about identifying the best value route? What are the timescales? What consultation is planned? What issues exist with the route defined by Mole Valley Cycling Forum in consultation with local residents and land owners?

Response from SCC Highways Team

A report on the Westcott to Dorking cycling/pedestrian route proposals has been considered by the Local Committee and the meeting minutes state :

- Further consultation to be carried out with local residents, councillors, emergency services and between St Johns Road and Milton Court Farm regarding the proposed cycleway.
- Consultation is carried out with local residents and the emergency services regarding the widening and conversion of the Westcott Road footway between Milton Court Lane and Vincent Lane.
- Subject to consultation, detailed design and safety approval, the shared footway along Westcott Road, dropped kerbs and associated signing be approved for construction

Discussions with the local County Councillor have continued and the flooding problem has been a key issue. An appropriate scheme to address the flooding will be pursued in the short term and progression of the cycle/pedestrian route will need to be reconsidered. Whilst it is desirable to develop plans and progress consultation for the cycle/pedestrian route, this would commit resources and could raise expectations when funding may not be made available. It will be helpful to have the good support from local people and the Mole Valley Cycle Forum if the project is to be progressed.

MVLC 07 DECEMBER 2010