



MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

23 APRIL 2004

Question 1. from Councillor Susan Bruce:

Road safety at the junction of Crown Street and Hummer Road, Egham

Having been approached by local residents with concerns regarding road safety at the junction of Crown Street and Hummer Road and problems associated with speeding traffic and drivers contravening the one-way system, I would ask Officers from the Local Transportation Service:

Please could you report on the situation and advise on any appropriate action that could be taken?

Response from Runnymede Local Transportation Service

Local residents have reported a series of accidents at the junction of Crown Street and Hummer Road and have requested that preventative action be taken to address the problem.

Officers are fully aware of the resident's concerns, however provision of funding for safety schemes must be prioritised to ensure resources are allocated in a consistent and sustainable manner. In accordance with Surrey County Council's policies funding will be directed into those schemes that have the greatest potential to reduce injury accident rates or those schemes that have the most benefit in achieving the objectives and priorities set out in the Local Transportation Plan.

Accident reports indicate that the majority of accidents occurring at the junction are damage only accidents and there have been only two personal injury accidents at the junction in the last three years.

To address this low cost measures, including improved signing and additional "Slow" road markings, have been completed at the junction.

However residents continue to raise their concerns and have approached the Local Transportation Service and offered to pay for further traffic calming measures themselves. However this is not an approach that Surrey County Council would be willing to adopt because it could lead to an inconsistent approach to road safety.

Due to the continuing concerns of local residents it is proposed that the site be included in the next Member's review of the transportation programme in September, when consideration of any additional measures will be examined in further detail.

Question 2. from Councillor Elise Whiteley:

Station Approach, Virginia Water

Has Surrey County Council found the best solution to traffic problems in Station Approach, Virginia Water?

Response from Runnymede Local Transportation Service

In July 2003 an Accident Working Group scheme was completed at the western end of Station Approach. The low cost accident remedial measure involved prohibiting entry by vehicles to the western end of Station Approach from Christchurch Road. The measures were proposed to address an accident pattern involving vehicles turning right into Station Approach from Christchurch Road.

It has been observed that since the introduction of the no-entry the majority of traffic in Station Approach flows from east to west. The local residents' association have suggested that formalising a one-way system in Station Approach would help to avoid potential accidents by eliminating confusion. We understand that the local member is in favour of these proposals.

However the Local Transportation Service have reservations about introducing new one-way systems, for instance the associated increase in traffic speeds and the likely inconvenience for some local residents and traders.

It is proposed that local residents and local traders be consulted as to whether they would be in favour of making Station Approach one-way.

The proposed method of consultation would be a letter highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of a one-way system and outlining other measures that could be taken to minimise confusion if a one-way system was not implemented.

Question 3. from Councillor Moira James:**Question regarding Central Railway**

Following the recent statement from Central Railway that they are not giving up their plans for a Liverpool -to-Lille Freight Railway Line routed through Surrey, and the unacceptable environmental consequences which would accrue for Surrey including Runnymede, of their present proposals, may I ask the Chairman of the Local Committee to seek assurance that Surrey County Council :

- continues to be vigilant and oppose the present Central Railway proposal
- advocates a more practical route, possibly to the Eastern side of London?

Response by Steven Styles, Senior Transport Manager, Sustainable Development, Surrey County Council:

Surrey County Council strongly opposes Central Railway's plans to construct part of the proposed rail freight line through Surrey and has held that view since the company announced their intentions in July 2000. While supporting the concept of moving more freight by rail, the Authority has always had grave reservations about Central Railway's plans to by-pass central London and construct part of its line along the inner rim of the M25. Furthermore, along with the South East England Regional Assembly, Surrey County Council had always advocated the benefits of constructing a dedicated north-south freight line to the east of London along the Thames Gateway – where considerable regeneration is already under way. Central Railway, on the other hand, is of a different view.

After three years of waiting the Government's recent decision not support the company's efforts to submit before Parliament a hybrid Bill to garner support for this project, the company appears to be unwilling to accept the Government's decision and want to press ahead. Their only option now is to return to the normal planning rules for such project of this magnitude and that is via a Transport & Works Act application to Government. This is a process the company is familiar with and one they attempted in 1996 for a similar proposal. This application was defeated by 276 votes to 6.

Question 4. from Councillor Moira James:

Question regarding Woodham Lane, New Haw

Following concerns expressed locally on the subject, I would ask for an update on the situation and progress as regards the road works at the Central Veterinary Laboratories site on Woodham Lane, New Haw.

Response by Will Ward, Local Transport Director, Surrey County Council:

Works started again on site on Monday 19th April 2004. The contractor's programme is 9-10 weeks to complete works. During that time there will be a period of traffic light control on an off peak and 24 hour basis.

The final details of the traffic control and programme will be agreed on the 27th April 2004 with the contractor. We will be monitoring progress on a daily basis. Our highway lighting engineer is resolving the problems with illuminated bollards on the refuge islands.