



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL
COMMITTEE
WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS
September 22nd 2006**

1. Question from Councillor Tony Davis, Runnymede Borough Council

“What precisely is meant by a "licence to cultivate" where residents take on responsibility for a stretch of verge or green space adjoining a highway? What obligations and liabilities would residents be taking on, and if the expectation is that they would fund and maintain any future planting, is 'seedcorn' funding available in recognition of future revenue savings?”

Answer from Surrey County Council's Local Transportation Team

Licenses to cultivate have been issued to residents for many years, normally by an exchange of letters. This is a practice first adopted by Runnymede Borough Council when they were responsible for highways under the agency agreement. The County Council undertakes verge maintenance to a standard suitable to ensure highway safety. These licenses permit residents to maintain the highway to their own standard, although safeguards are in place to ensure that it does not fall below a minimum standard. There is a need to maintain public liability insurance, and for the resident to ensure that the section of highway is returned to its previous condition if either party chooses to end the agreement. Residents are not obliged to enter into these agreements and are at liberty to let the highway be maintained by the County Council. These agreements give no formal claim on the land, which remains as public highway. The financial saving achieved to the County by issuing these licenses is minimal, and there is no scope to provide any County funds to license holders. To ensure consistency, a standard license agreement has been introduced across the county for any new applications.

2. Question from Ms Harriet Manning-Grant, of Almnors Road, Lyne

“I keep being told that it is matter of cost to reduce the speed of Almnors Road, but what does it actually cost? Do we have to wait until it is a child or an adult that is hurt or even killed on Almnors Road? Myself and other neighbours are extremely concerned about the road, especially as there are many children living here. Cars drive at high speed because the road is long and this goes completely unsupervised. Even a few slow signs could help”.

Answer from Surrey County Council’s Local Transportation Team

The residential section of Almnors Road is a link between Lyne Lane and Hardwick Lane. It is a wide road, with a footway running along the entire length of the road (it does switch sides approximately half way along the road). The residential properties are generously set back from the carriageway. The speed limit is 40mph, and there is a full system of street lighting.

The road has an excellent safety record, with only three recorded injury accidents along its length since modern records began (1987). These three accidents all have extenuating circumstances and two cannot be attributed to speed.

We receive a great many requests for minor improvements (including traffic calming) throughout Runnymede. It is not feasible or practical to satisfy all requests made. There is no real justification for undertaking any measures on Almnors Road. It is not possible to give a simplistic cost figure to reduce the speed, as it depends on what measures are introduced.

“SLOW” signs should be reserved for hazardous situations, eg on the approach to a bend at the end of a straight section of high-speed road. Proliferation of the marking will reduce its impact in situations where it is needed. Such markings are not appropriate on Almnors Road.

Surrey Police do not regard the road as a problem site. Nevertheless they have agreed to undertake a speed survey and if this reveals that there is a widespread speeding problem will consider undertaking targeted enforcement.