



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL
COMMITTEE
WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS
February 13th 2009**

1. Question from Councillor Mrs Linda Gillham

“Can you advise the Thorpe councillors who is responsible for the fencing along the bridge over the Medlake ditch and footpath 36? This runs between Wavendene Ave and Ayebridges Ave.

We are concerned about the vandalised fencing, litter and poor state of repair of this area and I have attached some photos. Cllr. Margaret Harnden has approached Anne Woods who in turn has written to the Environment Agency but we have not seen a reply.”

Response from Surrey County Council’s Countryside Access Officer, Anne Woods:

“I have now received a reply from the Environment Agency, and unsurprisingly they deny responsibility for the fencing. I am not prepared to supply new chain link fencing from the rights of way maintenance budget, but would be concerned for public safety if the fencing were simply removed. I am therefore prepared to replace the fencing with railings similar to those on the bridge, but will not be able to do so until the next financial year (2009/10)”.

2. Questions from Mrs Elise Whiteley

“As a follow up to the presentation to the Committee on June 6th 2008, by Mr Ian Boast, on Waste Management and Energy from Waste (EFW), I request a reply to the following questions:

“1. Please state the present situation regarding a planning application for Trumps Farm EFW.

2. Please state if any other applications or any permission has been given to other sites in Surrey for Household Waste Treatment and please name the sites. Please also list sites for composting and treatment of food waste.”

Response from Surrey County Council’s Environment and Infrastructure directorate:

“1. The planning application for Trumps Farm EFW is due to be determined by the Planning and Regulatory Committee in March/April 2009. This timetable is dependent on the timely submission of further information by the applicant, which will then have to be publicised.

As the local divisional member you will be notified of the date when confirmed and sent details.

2. There are planning applications for two in vessel composters at Wisley that are currently with the County Planning Authority. These applications have not yet been determined.

Potential sites for composting and treatment of food waste are listed in the Waste Plan under policy WD2.”

3. Question from Mrs Elise Whiteley

“The wigwag lights for Christ Church Infant School, Virginia Water are still out of action. The road passing the school has a 40 mph speed limit so the lights are very important. When will the restoration be effected, what is the reason for the delay and could urgent priority be implemented?”

Response from Surrey Highways:

Most of the wig wag signs in the County were installed many years ago, and now develop intermittent faults. There is no specific budget allocation for the maintenance of these signs.

Earlier this week the Street Lighting Engineer attended Christchurch Road and has confirmed that the lights function, but a problem remains with the programmable timer. Spare parts are being sourced, and when available the repair will be completed.

Transport for Surrey (TfS) have undertaken a survey of wig-wags across the County and identified all in need of replacement. This includes those on Christchurch Road. At present a formal budget has not been agreed, but this is something which is being progressed by TfS. The wig-wags cost approximately £600 each, so Countywide this is a significant sum.

4. Question from Mrs Elise Whiteley

“Residents are very concerned about safety of foot paths during the icy conditions at present. Please may we have a clear indication as to the responsibility for clearing footpaths in all weathers and the priority given during snow conditions.

Does Runnymede Borough Council look after footpaths year round or is precipitation a County responsibility?"

Response from Surrey Highways:

This season has seen a high level of demand upon our winter maintenance service, with the snow last week generating real concerns.

Surrey County Council is responsible for the footpaths (pavements) if they form part of the public highway (are not private) although the various District Councils often help us out, including Runnymede Borough Council. In many locations residents and business owners also choose to assist by clearing the pavements outside of their property.

We do not have sufficient resources both in available staff and rock salt supplies to treat all pavements. In the last week our priority has been on the principal road network to ensure essential services can still get through. There has been some pavement clearance with priority given to those in town centre locations, near hospitals or large schools.

People have to accept that in adverse weather conditions you need to exercise additional caution.