



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL  
COMMITTEE  
WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS  
June 26th 2009**

**1. Questions from Mr Chris Norman**

"Pubs, shops and cafes in Chertsey have received a letter from Surrey County Council informing them that they must apply for a licence regarding chairs and tables outside their premises. They are requested to pay a fee of £434.00 plus the cost of a planning application and the necessary drawing up of plans - costs probably totalling £1000.00. In some cases there is doubt over the ownership of the land where equipment is placed, and whether the Council can enforce rules on land owned by others.

- a) Can the committee propose that the current rules are waived in light of the current recession and, in my opinion, common sense? Such furniture, two tables and chairs generally, adds to make a vibrant streetscene. Is such action being taken in our other Towns?
- b) Secondly, is it the intention of the Council to take action against shopkeepers who display goods outside their properties? (This was tried several years ago and was abandoned without success).

**Response from Surrey County Council's Local Highways Manager**

It is the policy of the County Council to license tables and chairs on the public highway. We will only issue a licence for a site where it is safe to do so, the holder has adequate public liability insurance and importantly there is sufficient space for all highway users to pass. We issue licences for the public highway, not private land.

During a recent street scene audit, it was apparent that there are a number of businesses across the County who extend the floor area of their business by using the public highway but do not hold a licence. It is for this reason that a

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number of traders were recently contacted. The Local Highway Manager met with a number of the Chertsey traders in May 2009 and explained the reasoning behind the letters that they received.

The fees and charges for a table and chairs licence are reviewed on an annual basis and approved by the Portfolio holder.

Businesses should not store merchandise on the public highway. In the first instance issues are frequently resolved by speaking to the business. If a problem persists which is causing a nuisance or danger, the County Council may take formal action if required.