

Item 14 Written Public Questions

Question from Mrs Mary Kearney JP

How are pedestrians to be protected from cyclists riding illegally on pavements and other pedestrian areas?

It is not possible to frame a question, which takes in the whole range of problems raised by cyclists for pedestrians. It is an offence to ride on the pavements, but cyclists not only ride on the pavement but treat pedestrians as if it is they who have no right to walk on pavements. They are threatening and rude. In any case, enforcement is not possible because without a system of licensing cyclists, they cannot be identified. They cause problems for motorists by refusing to abide by the rules of the road. I am personally familiar with problems caused by aggressive cyclists.

Can notices be used? Cyclists are legitimate road users, as are pedestrians and motorists. All have the right to travel safely and all have obligations to other road users, but cyclists are claiming rights to do what they please without the obligation to comply the rules of the road, which are there to keep all of us safe. Action is needed to regulate cycling so that the rights and obligations of all users can be put on an equal footing.

Reply from Ian Haller, Local Highways Manager

Cycling on the pavement is an offence under Section 72 of the Highways Act 1835 and the enforcement is an operational matter for the police. Because this legislation is applicable to all it is not appropriate to sign the offence. The Police are best placed to determine the level of priority given to enforcement against their other Policing priorities but issues such as this can generally be discussed at the locally held Police Neighbourhood Panel meetings. Residents' can raise issues of local concern and influence, by agreement, the policing priorities of their areas.

There are currently no plans to license cyclists and this would be an issue for central Government to address.

Reply from Inspector James Norbury, Surrey Police

As with other offences, members of the public should inform the Police, perhaps through their Neighbourhood Police officer or PCSO's of such instances. This should include times and locations of the incidents. Only with this information can the true level of concern be realised and longer-term solutions can be sought in partnership with Surrey Highways.

The contact details for local Police officers are detailed on the next page. Local Police officers will be able to advise of future Neighbourhood Panel meetings.

**(Neighbourhood Specialist officers
& Police Community support officers)**

Bisley, Chobham

PC 2889 Ed Griffiths 07967 98 8309 E-mail: 2889@surrey.pnn.police.uk
PCSO 11710 Maria Budd 07967 988390 E-mail : 11710@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Bagshot, Windlesham

PC – to be confirmed
PCSO 11520 Anthony Walker 07967 986264 E-mail: 11520@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Lightwater & West End

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PCSO 10513 Mike Mann 07967 986823 E-mail 10513@surrey.pnn.police.uk

St. Michael's, Watchetts

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Camberley Town & St. Paul's

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Heatherside, Parkside

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