

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****MEMBER'S QUESTIONS AND
RESPONSES****30 JANUARY 2009****1. From Mr Alan Lovell**

On 12th September 2008 this Committee received a report on Waverley Borough Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). The report rightly concentrated on the situation in Farnham town centre, which has the worst air pollution levels in the Borough. The Committee resolved to focus its work on a package of actions outlined in the report, even though the report itself acknowledged that "many of these options would have small impact on air quality".

The Committee will be aware that a number of WBC Councillors have previously expressed their concerns about the lack of substance in the AQAP and I understand that an annual progress report to DEFRA is due by the end of April 2009. This report should set out the dates by which the air quality targets are expected to be achieved.

It is widely recognised that the major impact in improving air quality can only be achieved through traffic measures which are the responsibility of the County Council. So far we have had no indication of any progress in developing the new approach which Farnham needs. We also know that the recently approved East Street development, which is expected to fund a number of traffic alterations and the modelling of other potential proposals, is unlikely to proceed for a number of years.

In these circumstances can the Committee now tell me when we can expect some substantive action by the County Council to address the significant air quality issues in Farnham within the context of both traffic management proposals for the town centre and a broader transport strategy for the surrounding area?

Response

The questioner's point linking air quality in town centre roads and the volume of traffic using those roads is well made. The Committee has yet to consider traffic management strategies for the town centre, and broader transport strategies for the surrounding area, and arrangements will be made for the matter to be included in the agenda for the next meeting of the Farnham Transportation Task Group, which has yet to be scheduled.

2. From Mr Robert Knowles

Does the Local Committee agree that the on street parking in the vicinity of Haslemere Railway Station is generated by commuter parking ?

Response

Undoubtedly there is a significant element of commuter parking associated with Haslemere Station on the surrounding road network, indicated by the difference in parking patterns on weekdays compared with weekends.

It is understood that transport consultants acting on behalf of the South West Trains intend to undertake surveys in an attempt to quantify the degree of commuter parking in the town.

3. From Mr David Munro

In view of the two separate serious accidents on Wrecclesham Hill in the last week which has rightly caused a great deal of concern locally, could the Local Committee ask highways officers to investigate the causes urgently and put in hand any measures necessary to prevent further accidents of this kind.

Response

Such an investigation is already underway, both into local circumstances pertaining at Wrecclesham Hill, and the wider issue of winter maintenance across Surrey.

In Wrecclesham Hill, officers are taking all practicable steps to prevent similar accidents to those that occurred over the past few days.