

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND
RESPONSES****17 SEPTEMBER 2010****1. From Mr David Munro**

Some residents in Great Austins and Little Austins Road in the Bourne, Farnham are increasingly concerned about parking by commuters and parents of South Farnham School pupils in the area. At a site meeting on 6 September attended by Mrs Pat Frost and myself, the County Council's central parking team, the Highways Service, the Police, the Headteacher of South Farnham School and of course by residents themselves, some forthright but nevertheless constructive views were expressed on how to deal with this acknowledged issue.

1. All-day Commuter Parking: Recognising that an area solution perhaps similar to that adopted last year in adjoining localities is required, could the Highways Service please outline their plans to progress the second stage of their promised review of parking in South Farnham?
2. 'School Run' Parking: Acknowledging that some short-term parking is inevitable and that the school tries hard to educate parents to park sensibly, there is nevertheless a particular safety issue at two junctions (Great Austins/Little Austins and Great Austins/Mavins Road) caused by short-term parking too close to the junction itself. Could measures to prohibit irresponsible parking such as yellow lines please be investigated as a matter of urgency, and could the Highways Service give an indication of when safety measures could be implemented, how much it would cost and from what potential funding sources ?

Committee Response

Following completion of the parking restrictions in the South Farnham area earlier this year, we will be assessing the displacement of commuters and school visitors to roads outside this restricted area, as part of the next Waverley Parking Review. This review is currently scheduled to take place during April and May 2011, with a report presented to this committee in September 2011. If we feel as though additional restrictions are required, and that there will be sufficient funding to proceed with such changes, then they will be progressed as part of this forthcoming review.

With regards to school run parking being a particular concern on the junctions of Great Austins with Little Austins and Mavins Road, if we were to progress with parking restrictions on these junctions as part of the Waverley Parking Review, the cost would be relatively minimal. However, to formally advertise and implement these restrictions in isolation, separate to the borough wide review, the costs involved would be significantly higher; up to £3,000. Introducing restrictions in isolation is rarely adopted by the County Council, as it does not tend to be a good 'value for money' approach.

As with all junction parking deemed to be of a hazardous nature, immediate action can be carried out by Surrey Police, until such time when parking restrictions are applied, so that enforcement can then be undertaken by local Civil Enforcement Officers.

2. From Mr David Munro

The provision of salt bins and the problems of keeping them filled was one of the main issues arising from the bad weather last winter. Since then, I (and no doubt other County Councillors) have received several requests from residents for additional salt bins and I have passed these on to the Highways Service for consideration.

Could I please be informed as a matter of urgency (given that these bins may well be needed in less than two months' time):

- Has the provision of salt bins been reviewed and, if so, with what result ?
- Have the many requests for additional bins been properly considered and, if not, when will this be done ?
- When will we know what additional bins have been approved ?
- Has there been a thorough audit of existing bins to check that they are in the right places and are in good repair ? If not, when will this be done ?
- What member participation in the process has happened or is envisaged ?
- Have orders for additional, and replacements for damaged, bins been submitted and, if so, when will they be installed ?

- What arrangements have been made for all bins to be filled at the start of winter and then monitored and replenished at regular intervals ?

Committee Response

The Committee notes the concerns set out in the question. A member task group has been reviewing winter maintenance arrangements countywide and members of the Local Committee will shortly be consulted on the initial findings and recommendations of this group. Mr Munro's questions will be considered at that point and a detailed response provided subsequently. The recommendations of the Task Group will be submitted to the Transportation Select Committee for discussion, prior to any decisions being made by the Cabinet, towards the end of this month.

3. From Mr Alan Lovell

I am pleased to see that there are two items on today's agenda which address certain aspects of the many traffic issues afflicting Farnham town centre (Items 9 and 10). This has enabled me to abbreviate the more extensive list of questions that I had prepared for the Committee. Nevertheless, there are still a number of related matters that I would like to raise:

1. The joint Surrey County Council/Waverley Borough Council meeting in September 2009 included a proposal for "*an overall transport strategy for the sub-regional area*" and "*a specific strategy for the Farnham area*". Both of these are important, both in their own right and so that infrastructure needs (particularly transport) can be related to the new Local Development Framework (LDF) which Waverley Borough Council is developing. Whilst the two reports later on today's agenda address certain aspects of the current problems, they do not constitute a "strategy" as such. So when may we expect all of the elements of a strategy to be put together in such a way that meaningful consultation can be carried out ?
2. What is being done to investigate the feasibility of a new Wrecclesham Bypass/Farnham Relief Road, following the petition submitted last year, and could such a scheme be included in the new Local Transport Plan (LTP3) in replacement of the Hickleys Corner scheme ?
3. The April Surrey County Council/Waverley Borough Council meeting confirmed the principle that, whilst the developer is under no obligation to accept changes, it is possible to negotiate changes to the agreed S106 agreement for East Street. With this in mind I wish to ask whether alternatives to the traffic management scheme submitted by the developer and accepted by Surrey County Council could now be re-considered by the joint parties with a view to

devising proposals which would complement a new strategy for the town.

4. In developing these new proposals can Farnham Town Council be involved at all stages and not just the Farnham Transportation Task Group as currently envisaged ?. This would allow the work to have proper public scrutiny and permit the involvement of a wider range of elected members' views for the benefit of the town.

Committee Response

1. The officer report to the Local Committee dated 17 September 2010 entitled 'Farnham Air Quality Improvements Project' (Item 9) sets out a transport based strategy to help mitigate air pollution in the Farnham Air Quality Management Area and to respond to a number of transport problems in and around the town. This report summarises progress since the September 2009 meeting referred to and sets out the recommended strategy for Farnham. As is stated in paragraph 1.11, an officer-level meeting with Hampshire County Council has been held at which the potential impacts of the Whitehall Bordon Eco-town on Farnham were discussed. A member-level meeting has been arranged for November 2010. The present funding position, as reported in section 3 of the report, should be noted. Strategy development has taken place in this context.
2. Paragraph 2.3 of the officer report (Item 9) sets out the present position in relation to these proposed major schemes. It is not considered appropriate to commit resources to further development of these schemes at the present time.
3. As described in paragraph 2.1 of the report at Item 9, the traffic model is to be updated and used to test options for alternative traffic routing in and around the town. The Section 106 agreement forms the basis of the planning consent and it is unlikely that Waverley Borough Council and the developer would want to renegotiate this. However, any changes would be for Waverley Borough Council as the planning authority to agree with the developer. In this situation, Surrey County Council as the local highway authority would provide advice to Waverley Borough Council.
4. Farnham Town Council is represented on the Farnham Traffic and Transport Task Group. The views of the Town Council can therefore be expressed. The Local Committee (Waverley) meets in public and is therefore subject to public scrutiny. It brings together elected members from Waverley Borough Council, the planning authority, and Surrey County Council, the highway authority. It is considered to be the appropriate committee to consider the officer report.