

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****PUBLIC QUESTION AND RESPONSE****22 OCTOBER 2010****From Mrs Celia Sandars (Farnham)**

Committee Members may recall that a meeting of Surrey, Farnham and Waverley Councillors and Officers and interested residents was held at The Maltings, Farnham on 26 February 2010 to discuss Farnham's longstanding problems with traffic congestion and sub-standard air quality.

Undertakings were given that the meeting would be followed up with further discussions to decide what action might be taken to mitigate those problems but, as one of the participants in that meeting, I have not been informed of any progress or outcomes resulting from any follow-up discussions.

I think that everyone would agree that less use of the car for journeys into the town centre would help and that greater use of public transport could be the way forward for the many residents who are not able to walk any great distance. Bus services from South Farnham and The Bourne appear to be far less frequent than those from the north of the town and this may well dissuade residents from making regular use of the buses. With buses timed at only one an hour during most of the day and the service ending in the late afternoon, people will obviously be reluctant to swap a short round trip by car for a bus journey that may involve impossibly long waiting times.

Please will the County Council engage with the local bus companies to make better provision for residents living on the south side of Farnham, as a measure to improve air quality and to reduce congestion ?

Committee Response

A report on the 'Farnham Air Quality Improvements Project' was presented to the 17 September 2010 meeting of the Local Committee as Item 9. The report and minutes of the meeting are available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley .

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The Committee resolved to agree the transport-based strategy comprising the proposed measures and implementation timetable. This strategy will 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. The air quality workshop held on 26 January 2010 was part of this process, as described in section 1 of the report. As stated in paragraph 2.15, the bus review currently being undertaken by the County Council may have an impact on bus service provision in Waverley. Through this review, and as part of its regular work, the County Council continually works with local bus companies to improve services and facilities throughout Surrey. That said, the bus review is unlikely to provide additional services in and around Farnham. However, there is also an opportunity to promote the Community Buses offered by Waverley Community Transport, who provide demand-responsive services in and around Farnham. It should also be noted that bus waiting facilities and real time passenger information measures are included in the strategy, as part of the East Street Section 278 agreement. The implementation date for these improvements is dependent on the commencement of the East Street development.