

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND  
RESPONSES****22 OCTOBER 2010****From Mr Bryn Morgan**

Some concern has been expressed by the Parish Council, and local residents, about the condition of Sailors' Lane in the parish of Thursley. In part, the road appears to have collapsed and has become dangerous. Beyond closing that part of the road that is most severely affected, may I ask what measures are proposed to (a) ensure access and egress for the residents and businesses in the lane; (b) what temporary measures will be taken to ensure that no further deterioration in the condition of the lane will take place; and (c) what permanent steps can be taken, and when will they be applied, to remedy the situation and ensure the safety of the public highway ?

In view of the sand and spoil being washed down onto the Thursley Road at Pitch Place south of Sailors' Lane, from an unmade-up byway during heavy rainfall, and the dangerous conditions created at the blind bend in the Thursley Road at that point, will the highway authority indicate what steps will be taken to remedy the cause of these conditions and ensure the safety of vehicles, cyclists, horseriders and pedestrians on the public highway ?

**Committee response**

Sailors' Lane was formally closed to through traffic by emergency Traffic Order on Friday 24 September following the collapse of part of the carriageway just to the south of the junction with Thursley Lane, due to scour following heavy rain. The closure will remain in place while Surrey Highways assess the damage and arrange permanent repairs. Realistically, it will be several months before the road is re-opened to through traffic, given funding can be found to effect repairs.

In answer to the points raised:

## ITEM 6

- (a) The closure is to through traffic only, and vehicles may legally use the lane in either direction up to the point of collapse to access properties and premises. A diversion route is signed via Thursley Lane, Tilford Road and Hyde Lane.
- (b) Sailors' Lane is a sunken road, and the collapse was caused by surface water running down the road, discharging through the bank, and washing out the road foundation. To reduce the volume of water reaching the point where the road has collapsed, grips will be cut through the banks going uphill towards Hyde Lane. Since the collapse, Highways officers have met with residents and adjacent landowners in Sailors' Lane and Hyde Lane to discuss how drainage in the area can be improved by landowners clearing ditches for which they are responsible.
- (c) The specification for the permanent repair has not been finalised, but will obviously involve rebuilding the embankment and road, with provision to deal with the run-off that originally caused the damage, and so prevent a similar occurrence

Sand washing onto the road at this location is a long-standing phenomenon, due to the natural drainage paths and the local sandstone geology. This sand is not considered a hazard to motorists, since the 90 degree blind bend and single track nature of Sailors' Lane mean vehicle speeds are extremely low. Pedestrians, cyclists and riders are accustomed to using the adjacent sand bridleways and footways. However, Surrey County Council Rights of Way team intends to install railway sleeper grips in the surface of Byway 103 just north of Hyde Lane to deflect water flowing towards the road into an adjacent hollow.

**The following set of questions was presented by Mr David Munro at the 17 September 2010 meeting of the Local Committee; a holding response was provided at the time and full responses are now set out below (in bold):**

- Has the provision of salt bins been reviewed and, if so, with what result ?

**The provision of grit bins was reviewed as part of the work of the Winter Performance Task Group which was reported to Cabinet on 28 September 2010. The grit bin asset has now been substantially surveyed and plotted and details are available on-line.**

- Have the many requests for additional bins been properly considered and, if not, when will this be done ?

**The County Council provides grit bins at locations which meet its criteria and requests are assessed to ensure that those provided by Highways meet the approved criteria and service the highest priorities. Members and other stakeholders may purchase a grit bin and, through a commuted sum, its maintenance for a ten-year period.**

- When will we know what additional bins have been approved ?

**Within the winter service no budget provision has been made for new grit bins on the network. We are establishing a scheme where councillors, parish councils etc can buy a grit bin for £2500 one off payment. This will cover installation, repair and maintenance and 1 fill a year for 10 years.**

- 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 ?

**The grit bin asset has been substantially surveyed; it is expected that a full inventory, together with a criteria check and condition assessment, will be completed for use next winter season with the new contractor.**

**Grit bins not meeting the criteria referred to in Annex E of the Cabinet report (20%) will be removed from the highway network at the end of the 2010/11 winter season for use at other locations, which do meet the criteria. An assessment of all Highway grit bins will be provide each Local Committee with a list of those that do not meet the location criteria prior to their removal by 31 March 2011.**

- What member participation in the process has happened or is envisaged ?

**Members have had the opportunity to contribute through the joint Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2010 and two members' seminars in September. In addition members of the Local Committee (Waverley) had a briefing and discussion session on 17 September 2010. The Local Committee (Waverley) will be consulted in the spring on those grit bins that have been identified for removal.**

- Have orders for additional, and replacements for damaged, bins been submitted and, if so, when will they be installed ?

**Where bins are damaged to the extent that water ingress and leaching of the contents may occur, they have been replaced.**

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

**For the 2010/11 season, all existing bins that are not damaged have be filled in advance of the winter season. An audit of the operation is currently in progress. The management/budget for the grit bins includes for the preseason fill plus a single mid season restock.**