

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND  
RESPONSES****18 MARCH 2011****1. From Ms Lesley Sandiford (Bramley)**

I am very concerned about the B2128 road – linking Bramley to Wonersh. I regularly take my baby from Eastwood Road in Bramley to the Wonersh Surgery for the baby clinics. I travel by foot and push a normal sized pushchair. The road is fairly safe until you reach the bend up to Wonersh, where upon you have to cross the road to stay on the pavement. The pavement then becomes very narrow and the road bendy.

The width of the pavement should not really be a problem if vehicles were driving with care and at a suitable speed. However, I recently walked this route on a Monday afternoon at about 1515 and vowed never to go at this time again ! I was very concerned that one of the cars or buses would hit us, as I know has happened in the past in Chilworth. It seems at this time there are lots of cars on the school run, with drivers all in a rush, together with school buses and public buses, all going too fast and happy to mount the kerb so that they can shave off a few seconds.

Would the Committee be able to work with the Police and consider a slower speed limit or traffic calming measures ?

**Committee response**

At Item 7 on the agenda for this meeting the Committee will consider the forward programme of improvement schemes for 2011/12. This includes a proposed scheme for speed regulation measures in Station Road towards Wonersh (from Bramley). If the programme is approved, officers will

discuss possible options with Surrey Police and the Parish Councils for Womersley and Bramley.

**2. From Mr P J Doyle (Badshot Lea)**

My question relates to the ever-increasing levels and speed of traffic in Low Lane, Badshot Lea which is in effect a country lane, almost single track.

In order to clarify the issues, I will detail them as follows:

1. Sheer volume of traffic, especially during rush hour times. One resident has counted the number of vehicles between 8am and 8.45am on a weekday morning: total 225.
2. Speed of traffic (some reach 50 – 60 miles per hour)
3. The design of the junction at which Low Lane joins Badshot Lea Road is one of the worst junctions I have ever encountered and many accidents have occurred in the years I have lived in the road.
4. No pavement for pedestrians: parents walk their children down Low Lane at great risk.
5. Only one street light on Low Lane.
6. Noise of traffic and levels of exhaust fumes.
7. Litter thrown from cars and building up in the gully/ditch that runs along Low Lane. (This gully is very rarely cleared and is now attracting rats that are running in our gardens).
8. Damage to our vehicles and loss of pets run down by motorists.
9. Verbal abuse received from other motorists when trying to park our vehicles. This happens all the time, along with road rage and gestures when using the Low Lane and Badshot Lea junction.
10. There have been numerous accidents at the junction of Low Lane and Badshot Lea Road.

It has been suggested that calming islands would slow traffic down, but I do not believe that it will impact on the volume of traffic or address the appalling junction from Low Lane into Badshot Lea Road. The junction, I believe, is the key to the whole issue: Low Lane is used as a cut-through/rat-run for traffic avoiding the Badshot Lea traffic lights and the Shepherd and Flock roundabout. They use the road in both directions and we the residents have had enough.

Will the Local Committee lend its support to residents' requests to address the inappropriate use of Low Lane by through traffic by changing the flow of traffic in both directions? This, I believe, would be the most cost-effective and successful way of dealing with the inordinate amount of traffic using the Lane: the erection of signs to prevent left turns off Badshot Lea Road and right turns from St Georges Road would eliminate this long-running problem.

**Committee response**

At Item 7 on the agenda for this meeting the Committee will consider the forward programme of improvement schemes for 2011/12. This includes measures to deter rat-running in Low Lane. Officers have recently met residents to discuss how this could be best achieved.

**3. From Dr Jenny Masding (Alfold Parish Council)**

Over the last five to ten years there has been a dramatic increase in both the number and size of HGVs using this minor road which passes through Alfold and Loxwood to join the 'A' roads around Billingshurst in West Sussex. Freight transporters, local, national and international, are using the B2133 as a 'rat run' between Alfold Crossways and Adversane to and from the south coast – a practice no doubt encouraged by satellite navigation equipment, financial considerations of the transport owners and for speed to avoid the congestion round the M25, M23, A23 and other major roads in the south. This 'B' road is totally unsuitable for the weights of these vehicles or their size. In the centre of the village the road is basically one way only and narrow, causing these vehicles to mount the pavements and elsewhere the HGVs cannot pass each other when travelling in opposite directions. Alfold residents are becoming increasingly concerned. Recently Loxwood Parish Council has been making representations to West Sussex County Council and this council has indicated that it would like to discuss this with Surrey County Council. I gave copies of their communications to our County Councillor, Dr Andrew Povey, last November. Alfold Parish Council has a copy of a petition signed by 109 residents. Their fundamental request is for a weight restriction to be imposed on this road. This may or may not be the best or possible solution. Would the County Council consider this issue very seriously and enter into discussion with West Sussex Highways as to whether there are any viable remedial actions that can be taken by either Council ?

**Committee response**

Bearing in mind that the B2133 is classified as a 'B' road, ranking second only to 'A' roads in the national hierarchy, officers are willing to discuss how HGVs might be encouraged to remain on the 'A' road network between Alfold Crossways and Billingshurst with their West Sussex Highways counterparts. Alfold Parish Council and the divisional member will be advised of any conclusions.

**4. From Mr John Dodd (Heath End)**

There has long been a problem with traffic speeding along Farnborough Road, Heath End and, given the proximity of the three local schools (Heath End, William Cobbett Junior School and Weybourne Infants School) I feel

## ITEM 5

more needs to be done to prevent more accidents. There is a shortage of educational signs (warning of crossing pedestrians) when compared to similar roads surrounding other schools in Surrey and the ones we do have are not maintained.

It is a fact that parents with small children together with secondary school children need to cross this busy road. When considering this fact, in conjunction with the Surrey County Council Road Casualty Reduction Report for 2009, I would suggest that tackling the road safety issue would be a high priority, particularly in light of the report stating priority areas include children (0-15) and young people (15-24)

My question to the Committee is as follows:

What actions can we expect to improve the road signage (short term) and if possible get a crossing or road island near to the shops to assist all ages to cross what is a fast road in a residential location ?

We are setting up a local community speed watch and improved signage would help us educate motorists in the area and hopefully lead to a reduction in speed over a sustained period. I accept that no single measure has the answer but maybe by working together we can make a change.

### **Committee response**

At Item 7 on the agenda for this meeting the Committee will consider the forward programme of improvement schemes for 2011/12. This includes a new pedestrian crossing on the A325 Farnborough Road at Brooklands Road, opposite the small parade of shops. The Committee is pleased to note that the local community is taking up community speedwatch with Surrey Police, which has proved effective elsewhere in Waverley.