



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

20 February 2008

Public questions

This question was received from: Tony Branagan

QUESTION 1

At the last Local Committee meeting on 30 Oct 07, a petition was presented over residents concerns with the traffic lights on Lockfield Drive at the junction with Well Lane.

Suggestions were made, presumably by officers, to overcome the concerns. Could an update report be provided on the progress to addressing residents concerns

Paul Fishwick, Local Highways Manager responded:

Following the agreement of the Local Committee to allocate £2,500 from the 'Emerging Safety Problems' budget to carry out works to the controller to enable revised timings on the toucan crossing to be made permanent Officers of Surrey Highways (Woking) have been working with officers of Transport for Surrey (Traffic Systems) to carryout these modifications which are due to be made permanent by 31 March 2008.

In addition to the above, these alterations will also include the following:

- For traffic on Lockfield Drive, heading away from town, the junction signal head should change to red before the crossing signal (this should eliminate passing through the crossing at red).
- Pedestrians should cross during an "all-red" phase. In simple terms, this means that the traffic in Well Lane will be held in the road until pedestrians have finished crossing and then be allowed out onto Lockfield Drive.

The Local Committee requested that the westbound (out of Woking town centre) approach to this junction be reduced to one lane. This has been investigated and a single lane located within the 'centre' of the existing two lanes is considered to be the most appropriate. The cost of these proposed amendments are currently being drawn up, which include the existing loop system being replaced. However, taking into account the pressures on the Local Transport Plan and Local Allocation funding for 2008/09 (item 12), no funding has presently been allocated to these possible alterations.

This question was received from: Oliver Wells

QUESTION 2

While noting the new funding to replace section 106 funding for bus travel, can we be assured that this funding will be applied to the 34 and 35 bus routes through Knaphill, and that these will not be subject to an in-year variation?

Laurie James Service Planning Team Manager Transport for Surrey responded:

The supplementary funding announced in the Leader's Budget Statement, to replace monies for bus services previously obtained through Section 106, is welcomed. Services 34/35 are recognised as being important routes in the Woking area and have seen significant patronage growth since they were enhanced in 2002.

At present, there are no plans to fundamentally vary the level of service on routes 34/35. However, like all supported bus services they are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to provide good value for money in terms of the investment being made as there will be an ongoing need to provide support to services across the county which is sustainable and within the funding allocated by the Executive.

This question was received from: Peter Jarvis

QUESTION 3

I am writing on behalf of the Ridgeway Road Association Limited. We are concerned about the state of the public right of way which runs alongside Ridgeway in Horsell from the entrance to St Andrew's School to the junction of Ridgeway with Morton Road. The pathway, which is the responsibility of the County Council, is a major walking route to both Woking High and Horsell C of E schools as well as St Andrews School.

There is no obvious delineation between the road and path and in the past the Council has installed wooden posts to separate cars and pedestrians. Many of the posts have been knocked down. In addition, there is no street light along this part of the path making it difficult for pedestrians not only at night

but also in the late afternoons in mid winter when pupils on the way home from school.

Since May last year, the Association has been in communication about these matters with officers of SCC (West Area Highways (Woking)) and have met on site. But even though new posts have been promised, nothing has happened. We have also been informed that is unlikely that SCC would agree to install a street light along this path since it would be on a private road. This argument misses the point since the purpose of requesting the installation of a light is primarily for the benefit of pedestrians using the path not the immediate residents.

We had intended bringing this matter to the attention of the Woking Committee at your last meeting but delayed since we thought that discussions with officers would lead to action. This has been proved wrong. We would therefore like to raise the following questions.

- 1) Why has there been no progress in replacing the posts alongside the public right of way along Ridgeway? Could the committee set a date by which the posts should be installed? We believe that the posts have been delivered to a council depot so a deadline of, say, two weeks seems appropriate.
- 2) Will the committee ensure consideration is given to installing a light along the path?

For the Committee's information, we have also asked the West Area Highways (Woking) Department to look at car parking around the junction of Ridgeway and Morton Road since this often makes access into Ridgeway from Meadway or Morton Road difficult if not impossible and, more importantly, dangerous. This problem occurs not just when pupils are being dropped off and collected from school but at all times of the day. At times the parking is such as to make access by emergency vehicles impossible.

John Masson Principal Engineer responded:

Several posts delineating the Right of Way have been damaged or knocked down on a number of occasions during the last few months. New posts have been ordered, and are now in our contractor's yard. These will be erected by the end of February.

Funding for new street lighting is limited, and in general terms the County Council is unable to provide and maintain new street lighting on private roads. Priority is given to maintaining and improving street lighting on the public highway network, for which the Council is responsible.

However, the County Council is investigating Walking and Cycling Routes as part of its Walking & Cycling Strategy for Woking and this right of way may feature in future improvements.

The level of parking at the junction of Ridgeway/Morton Road/Meadway Drive will be monitored. If additional waiting restrictions are considered necessary, then a report will be brought to the Committee in June.

This question was received from: Cllr McCrum

QUESTION 4

“The drainage ditch which runs around the South Woking flood plain, from Moor Lane to Old Woking, is clogged with vegetation which restricts any appreciable flow and is smelly and unsightly. As Riparian Owner, Surrey County Council cleared the ditch in 2000. Now the company building 22 houses on Newlands Avenue, Westfield, has agreed to remove all rubbish and debris from their section, as surface water from the site will be entering the watercourse.

Will SCC please attend to the rest of the ditch, which has not been managed for 7 years?

Steve Evans Valuations Manager Corporate Services responded:

Surrey County Council owns the adjoining land as part of its smallholding estate managed by Estate Planning and Management. The County Council are aware of problem and, despite not being directly responsible for the whole of the ditch, have already given instructions to our retained consultants to carry out regular inspections and to ensure debris and rubbish is removed from the ditch where appropriate.